c. FERPA permits the non-consensual disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records in connection with a health or safety emergency.

d. FERPA permits the non-consensual disclosure of education records in compliance with a lawfully issued subpoena or court order.

e. Another exception that permits disclosure without consent is the disclosure of directory information, which the law and Fairfield University define to include the following: a student’s name, home address including e-mail address, telephone number, date and place of birth, visual image (photographs); dates of attendance, major and minor, enrollment status, class year, degrees/awards received, other institutions attended, and weight and height information for members of athletic teams.

This exception related to directory information is subject to the right of the student to object to the designation of any or all of the types of information listed above as directory information in his or her case, by giving notice to the Office of the Dean of Students on or before September 15 of any year. If such an objection is not received, Fairfield University will release directory information when appropriate.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

   Family Policy Compliance Office
   U.S. Department of Education
   400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
   Washington, DC 20202-4605

The Title II Higher Education Reauthorization Act Report is available online at www.fairfield.edu titlereport.

School of Nursing
A Message from the Dean

On behalf of the faculty and staff it is my pleasure to welcome you as a member of our School of Nursing community where excellence, innovation and creativity are ideas we put into practice daily. In the Jesuit tradition, the School of Nursing strives to educate the next great generation of advanced health care professionals - morally reflective health care leaders and scholars who strive to improve the health and well-being of all people, with sensitivity to cultural differences and issues of justice.

The challenge before graduate education in nursing today is to be interdisciplinary, transformative and committed to improving the health care system. We, in the School, take this challenge seriously by providing every student with an educational experience that is both individualize and empowering, and provides opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to be successful leaders.

You have chosen Fairfield for your graduate education because of the excellence of our programs and our outstanding faculty. As you gain new knowledge and skills, you will experience the dedication our faculty members have to your development. I encourage you to get to know them - they are leaders not only of the School, but of the entire nursing profession. As members of our faculty and scholars, they contribute internationally recognized research and life-saving knowledge for the benefit of society.

The School of Nursing offers cutting edge graduate programs leading to a Masters in Science in Nursing (MSN) or a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP). The DNP is a clinical doctorate in an advanced specialty of nursing practice. Graduates are clinical experts who have the knowledge and skills to be effective and practical change agents. Advanced coursework in leadership, systems management, research translation, population health, informatics and health policy provide the foundation for skill development. Our goal is to prepare the next generation of nurse leaders with a sufficient breadth of expertise to effectively collaborate as partners with other health care providers to enhance quality and safety. The DNP program has two entry options - BSN to DNP or MSN to DNP; and three tracks - family nurse practitioner, psychiatric nurse practitioner and nurse anesthesia. The MSN program offers three tracks - clinical nurse specialist, family nurse practitioner and psychiatric nurse practitioner.

We are delighted to provide you with the educational foundation necessary to support your personal objectives toward your lifelong journey of professional development and urge you to take advantage of all that the School offers!

Lynn Babington, Ph.D., RN
Dean and Professor, School of Nursing

The School of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

The School of Nursing Graduate Program offers degrees at the master’s and doctoral levels. The Doctor of Nursing Practice is a practice-focused doctorate comparable to advanced clinical degrees in other health disciplines such as Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). The degree represents the highest academic preparation for nursing practice, focusing on expanded scientific knowledge related to providing comprehensive direct care across all settings. Grounded in clinical practice, the DNP moves the focus of advanced practice nursing from the level of the individual patient to the population level by using a cross-population perspective to assess, manage, and evaluate common problems. The DNP is the preferred degree for advanced practice nursing (AACN, 2004). The DNP is expected to become the standard in advanced nursing practice by 2015.

The practitioner tracks prepare candidates to provide quality healthcare services to all members of the community, with an emphasis on meeting the unique healthcare needs of culturally diverse and underserved populations. Clinical experiences in a variety of hospitals and agencies in surrounding communities allow for synthesis of clinical judgment, assessment, diagnostic skills, and theory.

The School of Nursing has long been recognized for its commitment to individualizing instruction and educational experiences. Each student is assigned to a faculty advisor who works closely with students to mentor progression through the program. Academic counseling, individualized advising and career planning are integral to the advisement process. Faculty members in the School of Nursing are exceptionally qualified by academic and clinical preparation. Many faculty are currently practicing in advanced practice roles.

For BSN-DNP students, we currently offer advanced practice specialties in family and psychiatric nurse practitioner and nurse anesthesia. The BSN-DNP program requires 72-75 course credits for completion, depending on the selected track students enter. Students entering with a MSN are required to complete a minimum of 31 credits.

SCHOOL OF NURSING OVERVIEW

The DNP Family Nurse Practitioner Track

The Family Nurse Practitioner track prepares advanced practice nurses to provide holistic care to individuals of all ages from newborn babies to older adults. Students work in all care settings with a focus on delivering health promotion and disease prevention to people with acute and chronic disease. Graduates of this program are eligible to diagnose and manage the care of patients across the life span and in all settings except critical care. Students have clinical practica in nearby city rural clinics, private practices, hospitals, and settings that employ advanced practice nurses or MDs. The DNP Family Nurse Practitioner track requires 72 credits of coursework and completion of a clinical portfolio.

The DNP Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Track

The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner track prepares advanced practice nurses to provide care in a wide variety of settings - institutional, community-based, and private practice. Students learn to care for individuals suffering from a variety of mental disorders, including mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and thought disorders. Clients range in age from the adolescent to the older adult, and are from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic groups. Students learn to assess, diagnose, treat, and evaluate outcomes. Medication management is an important part of the curriculum. Students’ clinical practice sites span the state and provide experiences in hospitals, clinics, private practices, correctional facilities, and schools. The DNP Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner track requires 74 credits of coursework and completion of a clinical portfolio.

The DNP Nurse Anesthesia Track

The Nurse Anesthesia track prepares students as expert clinicians for every stage and in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered to patients. Because nurse anesthetists are responsible for direct patient care, students gain hands-on experience in a variety of regional (neuraxial and peripheral blocks) and general anesthesia techniques under the supervision of CRNA and M.D. faculty. In addition to “routine” surgical cases, nurse anesthesia students enhance their preparation by participating in trauma, major burn, and high-risk obstetrical cases. Upon graduation, students are eligible to sit for the certification examination administered by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists. Successful completion of this examination allows the new graduate to practice as a nurse anesthetist in all patient care settings. The DNP Nurse Anesthesia track requires 75 credits and a completion of a clinical portfolio.

Note: A total of 1,000 practicum/immersion hours is required for the DNP with the exception of the Nurse Anesthesia program which requires a minimum of 1,200 hours. For MSN to DNP students, these hours include documented hours of supervision in an MSN program.
The School of Nursing Master of Science in Nursing Program

The School of Nursing is admitting students into the MSN program in three tracks: Clinical Nurse Leader, Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. All specialties lead to a master of science in nursing degree and fulfill academic requirements toward certification as a professional advanced practice leader in care for individuals, adult psychiatric or family nurse practitioner. The master’s degree program requires 38 to 49 course credits for completion, depending on the selected track.

The practitioner tracks prepare candidates to provide quality healthcare services and members of the community, with an emphasis on meeting the unique healthcare needs of culturally diverse and underserved populations. Clinical experiences in a variety of hospitals and agencies in surrounding communities allow for synthesis of clinical judgment, assessment, diagnostic skills, and theory.

The School of Nursing has long been recognized for its commitment to individualizing instruction and educational experiences. Each student is assigned to a faculty advisor who works closely with students to monitor progress through the program. Academic counseling, individualized attention, and career planning are integral to the advisement process. Faculty members in the School of Nursing are exceptionally qualified by academic and clinical preparation. Many faculty also currently practice in their advanced specialty.

The Clinical Nurse Leader Track - MSN

This specialty track will allow baccalaureate-prepared nurses in clinical practice to achieve graduate level competency in the clinical management of cohorts of patients in a variety of settings. The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) is an advanced education nurse generalist role recently created by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in response to an urgent call for better patient outcomes and improved coordination in the delivery of healthcare. CNLs will provide leadership in designing unit-level changes to move organizations toward evidence-based systems of care that will provide safe care for a specific patient population. The program is comprised of 38 credits that incorporate 9 credits of practicum experience.

The Family Nurse Practitioner Track - MSN

The Family Nurse Practitioner track prepares advanced practice nurses to provide holistic care to individuals of all ages from newborn babies to older adults, including women’s health. Students work in all care settings with a focus on delivering health promotion and disease prevention to people with acute and chronic disease. Graduates of this program are eligible to diagnose and manage the care of patients across the life span and in all settings but critical care. Students have clinical practica in nearby city and rural clinics, private practices, hospitals, and settings where they have identified in practice nurses or MDs. The MSN Family Nurse Practitioner track requires 47 credits of coursework, including 12 credits (600 hours) of practicum experience.

The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Track - MSN

The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner track prepares advanced practice nurses to provide care in a wide variety of settings - institutional, community-based, and private practice. Students learn to care for individuals suffering from a variety of mental disorders including mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and thought disorders. Clients range in age from the adolescent to the older adult, and are from diverse ethnic and socio-economic groups. Students learn to assess, diagnose, treat, and evaluate outcomes. Medication management is an important part of the curriculum. Students’ clinical practice sites span the state and provide experiences in hospitals, clinics, private practices, correctional facilities, and schools. The MSN Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner track requires 49 credits of coursework, including 12 credits (600 hours) of practicum experience.

Healthcare Management Track - MSN

Fairfield University is suspending applications to the Healthcare Management Track while the program is under review.

The MSN healthcare management track is intended to provide an opportunity for non-practitioner graduate education for nursing professionals. The program of study is conducted in collaboration with the Charles F. Dolan School of Business. This track prepares the professional nurse to manage organized healthcare services and develop and implement strategies to improve compliance and quality outcomes in healthcare. Competency in basic office software (e.g., Microsoft Office) is required. Graduates have a broad depth of knowledge in a wide range of management, leadership, and quality issues affecting healthcare systems. Students gain experience through practice working in administration and management of healthcare organizations, performance improvement, and other positions requiring a nursing management education and experience. Potential employers include hospitals, nursing homes, and managed care organizations.

The MSN Healthcare Management Track requires 39 credits of coursework, including 6 credits (300 hours) of practicum experience.

The Nurse Anesthesia Track - MSN

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) anesthesia track is being phased out, and any new applicants must apply to the DNP program. The DNP program prepares advanced practice nurses to provide anesthesia in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered. The Fairfield University & Bridgeport Hospital MSN Nurse Anesthesia Program is a full-time, 29-month program offering a Master of Science in Nursing degree from Fairfield University; Dec. 1 for a following spring semester in anesthesia from Bridgeport Hospital. After a spring and summer of academics, students begin their clinical practice and continue to take required academic courses until the May graduation date.

All practica are held at Bridgeport Hospital and focus on the perioperative evaluation and management of patients undergoing anesthesia. Students gain hands-on experience with a variety of regional (neuraxial & peripheral blocks) and general techniques under the supervision of CRNA and MD faculty. In addition to the routine surgical cases, nurse anesthesia students gain experience in trauma, major burn, and high-risk obstetrical cases. The MSN Nurse Anesthesia track requires 52 credits of coursework, including 8 credits of practicum experience.

Clinical Practices, Health and Professional Requirements; Certification

Practicum Application

All students who plan to enroll in practicum courses must complete the application form one semester prior to the semester in which they wish to enroll. Application packets are available in the School of Nursing office. Deadlines for applications are as follows: March 1 for a fall semester enrollment, Oct. 1 for the following spring enrollment. No contracts will be initiated or affiliated agencies until a complete practicum application is on file. Students registering late are not assured placement; thus, progression in the program may be hindered. Due to contractual and insurance limitations, (1) all clinical hours must be completed within the official course timeframe, and (2) an Incomplete will not be granted for practicum courses.

Health and Professional Requirements

All students in the DNP and MSN programs must provide proof of current Connecticut RN or APRN licensure and, if born after 12/31/56, documentation of measles and rubella upon application to the program. In addition, prior to starting clinical practicum courses, students must provide documentation of the following health and professional requirements. With the exception of the OSHA requirement, all documentation is submitted directly to Certificatedbackground.com (tracks students health requirements).

- Current Connecticut RN License (for all MSN & DNP Students)
- Current Connecticut APRN license (for all MSN-DNP Students). Please note a copy of both your APRN and RN License must be provided.
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. Healthcare Provider (American Heart Association), Professional Resuscitation (American Red Cross) or CPR/AED for Lifeguard Certification is the minimum requirement. Please note that the American Heart Association certifies for two years. Students must remain certified throughout the program.

- Student Nurse Practitioner Liability Insurance (For all BSN-DNP & MSN Students in the Family & Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Tracks).

- Professional RN Liability Insurance (For MSN Students in the CNL Track).

- Professional APRN Liability Insurance (For MSN-DNP Students).

- OSHA certification. Fairfield University School of Nursing OSHA training requirements must be met each year prior to clinical practica.

- Annual physical examination and non-reactive Mantoux test.

- Immunizations. Proof of immunization/titre must be provided for hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and diphtheria/tetanus.

Arrangements for clinical practica will not be made until all health and professional requirements are met and students are cleared for clinical by Certificatedbackground.com.

Certification

The DNP and MSN degrees fulfill the academic requirements toward certification by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the American Academy of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Council on Certification, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) and the Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC). Certification is provided for preceptorship requirements for family nurse practitioner, adult psychiatric nurse practitioner, and nursing administration-advanced. The AANP offers a certification exam for the clinical nurse leader. The AANA Council on Certification offers a certification examination in nurse anesthesia to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). Healthcare management students completing the program meet academic requirements for certification and must contact ANCC regarding work experience requirements prior to applying for certification. Graduates of all other tracks are eligible to take the exam upon graduation. Practitioner or nurse anesthesiologist certification provides the necessary credentials to apply for and receive an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse license in the state of Connecticut. An APRN is required in Connecticut for nurses to have prescriptive privileges and receive third-party reimbursement. Complete details and an ANCC application form may be requested online at: www.nursingworld.org/ancc/index.htm, by e-mail at ANCC@ana.org, or by calling (800) 284-2376.