PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Fairfield University’s Nursing Leadership program is an advanced education, nurse generalist degree created in response to an urgent call for better patient outcomes and improved coordination in the delivery of healthcare services. Graduates of the program will provide leadership at all levels of healthcare to move organizations toward evidence-based systems. This is the perfect degree for graduate nurses who do not wish to be nurse practitioners, but do want to maximize career options in dynamic healthcare environments. Career options include management, clinical nurse leaders, nurse navigators, care coordinators (trauma, stroke), hospital education, adjunct clinical faculty, quality improvement, risk management, and a variety of newly emerging roles.

The MSN in Nursing Leadership is based on the assumptions and competencies of the AACN and the development of healthcare leaders. The program equips nurses to advocate for change and gives them the skills to make change happen.

This program targets nurses with diverse career specialties, professional goals and personal interests. In addition to a strong core of courses, the curriculum can be customized to meet the diverse needs of the nursing professional, allowing students to choose between two leadership tracks with course work outside the School of Nursing. To better align students with the interdisciplinary healthcare environment, students can choose from the rich variety of courses in any of the graduate schools on campus.

Graduates of Fairfield’s Nursing Leadership program will be prepared to address the predominant healthcare issues of the future, including:

- Needs of an aging population
- Chronic illness management
- Health disparities associated with socioeconomic dislocation
- Health promotion and disease prevention

COURSE OF STUDY

Fairfield University offers two tracks within the Nursing Leadership program:

- Clinical Systems Leadership
- Integrated Healthcare Leadership

CLINICAL SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

Candidates must complete a minimum of 38 credits for the Clinical Systems Leadership Master's degree. Students will lead a rigorous clinical improvement process and will have an opportunity to take an elective in any of the four other graduate schools at Fairfield University. Graduates of this program meet all the qualifications to register for the national Clinical Nurse Leader Certification Exam. Evidence-based initiatives led by students are chosen by students based on their interests and expertise. Examples include:

- Reductions of restraint use in critically ill pediatric patients
- Improving transitions of care for stroke patients
- Primary care coordination of heart failure patients
- Improving medicine safety and education for high-risk home care patients
- Reducing central line associated infections in neonates

YEAR 1

Fall Semester
- Nursing Leadership Roles for Systems Improvement
- Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology

Spring Semester
- Advanced Health Assessment
- Advanced Pharmacology

YEAR 2

Fall Semester
- Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice
- Information Technology for Healthcare Improvement

Spring Semester
- Advanced Healthcare Policy
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics

YEAR 3

Fall Semester
- Quality Outcomes Management I
- Master's Elective (Engineering, Education, Business, Arts & Sciences)

Spring Semester
- Quality Outcomes Management II
INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM
Candidates must complete a minimum of 38 credits for the Clinical Systems Leadership Master's degree. Students in this track can customize 9 credits of course work in any of the four other graduate schools at Fairfield University to meet their professional goals. In the final semester, students will design integrated leadership experiences in collaboration with their advisors.

YEAR 1
Fall Semester
• Nursing Leadership Roles for Systems Improvement
• Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology

Spring Semester
• Advanced Health Assessment
• Advanced Pharmacology

YEAR 2
Fall Semester
• Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice
• Information Technology for Healthcare Improvement

Spring Semester
• Epidemiology and Biostatistics
• Master's Elective in Core Concentration (Engineering, Education, Business, Arts & Sciences)

YEAR 3
Fall Semester
• Advanced Healthcare Policy
• Master’s Elective in Core Concentration (Engineering, Education, Business, Arts & Sciences)

Spring Semester
• Master’s Elective in Core Concentration
• Master’s Leadership Practicum

Fairfield’s degree in Nursing Leadership is designed to allow students the flexibility to plan a curriculum to fit their needs and provides the highest quality graduate educational experience.

TRACK COORDINATOR
Sally O. Gerard, DNP, RN, CNL
Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 2733
E-mail: sgerard@fairfield.edu

Dr. Sally Gerard serves at the faculty advisor for students in the Nursing Leadership program and is the appropriate person to contact with questions, or to learn more.

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS
Joyce M. Shea, DNSC, APRN, PMHCNS-BC
Phone: (203) 254-4000, ext. 2275
E-mail: jsha@fairfield.edu

For a complete faculty listing, see www.fairfield.edu/sonfaculty.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Applicants for a master's degree must hold a bachelor's degree in nursing from a regionally accredited college or university (or the international equivalent). A quality point average of 3.0 or higher is preferred.

RN applicants who have a non-nursing bachelor's degree will be considered on an individual basis and may be required to complete select prerequisites to be eligible for admission to the MSN program.

FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS
Applications to the graduate program are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are reviewed by the Graduate Admission Committee. Students seeking admission must complete and submit the following online:
1. A completed application. (Apply online at www.fairfield.edu/sonapp.)
2. A non-refundable $60 application fee.
3. A professional résumé.
4. A personal statement:
   • Discuss a practice problem in your field that, in your experience, has a broad impact on patient care outcomes.
   • State professional goals for the next 5-10 years.
   • Explain how a Nursing Leadership degree will help you reach your goals.
5. Official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended.
6. Two recommendations, one of which must be from a current supervisor or professor, accompanied by the University recommendation forms.
7. Copy of current RN license to practice in the state of Connecticut.
8. All international students whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking either TOEFL or IELTS exams. For admission to the graduate school, a TOEFL composite score of 550 for the paper test, 213 for the computer-based test, 80 on the internet-based test or an IELTS score of 6.5 is strongly recommended. Scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (TOEFL) or www.IELTS.org.
   Fairfield’s ETS code is 3390.

Submit transcripts and any other documents that cannot be uploaded to:
Fairfield University
Office of Graduate Admission
Kelley Center
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS
Connecticut State law requires each full-time or matriculated student to provide proof of immunity or screening against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis and tuberculosis. Certain exemptions based on age and housing status apply. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree seeking program. More detailed information and the required downloadable forms are available online at www.fairfield.edu/immunization. Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center. Although this is not required to complete an application, you must provide proof of immunity/screening prior to course registration. Please consult your private health care provider to obtain the necessary immunizations. Questions may be directed to the Student Health Center: 203-254-4000 ext. 2241 or e-mail health@fairfield.edu.

TUITION/FINANCIAL AID
Academic Year 2016/2017
Tuition: $850 per credit hour
A graduate education can provide countless professional and personal rewards in the future. Many students need to look beyond their own financial resources or the resources of their employer for assistance. There are many ways to finance a graduate education, including graduate assistantships, federal direct loan programs and our Veterans Pride Program, which are all discussed at www.fairfield.edu/gradfa.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID
Advisors from the Office of Financial Aid are committed to helping students find the options that best suit each of their needs. We encourage all Fairfield University graduate students to contact the Financial Aid office with any questions or to make an appointment to speak with a counselor.

FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION
Phone: 203-254-4126
Fax: 203-254-4008
E-mail: finaid@fairfield.edu

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPERATIONS
Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

MORE INFORMATION
ADMISSION QUESTIONS
Questions about the application process should be directed to the Office of Graduate Admission.
Phone: 203-254-4184
Fax: 203-254-4073
E-mail: gradadmis@fairfield.edu

OFFICE OPERATIONS
Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

SCHOOL OF NURSING WEBSITE
www.fairfield.edu/nursing

ONLINE CATALOG
For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog www.fairfield.edu/catalogs.