

# Academic Programs

## Section II

### **Undergraduate Education in Nursing**

*Purpose and Objectives* ..... II - 1

### **Graduate Education in Nursing**

*MSN Purpose and Objectives* ..... II - 2

*DNP Purpose and Objectives* ..... II - 4

### **PhD in Nursing**

*PhD Purpose and Objectives* ..... II - 5

### **Undergraduate Education in Nursing**

#### ***Purpose***

The purpose of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program is to prepare graduates for professional nursing practice in a variety of health care settings. The program focuses on the knowledge, skills, and values deemed essential for professional nursing practice in today's multifaceted health care system. The baccalaureate program also provides a foundation for graduate study in nursing.

The student who enters the nursing program is prepared for upper division course work and brings knowledge of the humanities and the natural and social sciences as a basis for study in the nursing major. Students learn to apply concepts and principles to clinical practice and gain experience doing so with individuals, families, and populations in a variety of health care systems. Opportunities to practice nursing with persons of all ages, including those who are healthy as well as those who are experiencing health alterations. The leadership role of the nurse as a contributing member of the profession and the values and behaviors that reflect professional commitment to society are emphasized throughout the program.

#### ***End of Program Objectives***

Upon completion of the BSN Program, the graduate should be able to:

1. Demonstrate accountability, responsibility, and professional values in the practice of nursing.
2. Develop and use critical thinking skills as the basis for decision-making in nursing practice.
3. Communicate effectively with diverse patients and health care professionals through active listening and written, non-verbal, and oral formats.
4. Collect, analyze, and synthesize data to make judgments about nursing interventions and evaluate health care outcomes.
5. Perform, teach, delegate, and supervise technical skills with safety and confidence.

6. Demonstrate knowledge and skills in health promotion, risk reduction and disease prevention across the lifespan and population.
7. Use knowledge of pharmacology, pathophysiology, assessment and management of symptoms and the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual responses of individuals and family/caregiver(s) to disease and illness across the lifespan to maximize the quality of life and maintain optimal functioning.
8. Uses information and communication technology in a confidential manner to discover and retrieve information, document and evaluate health care, enhance patient education, and enhance own knowledge base.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of ethics and ethical decision making in nursing practice as well as professional conduct and relationships.
10. Apply knowledge of the effects of cultural, racial, socioeconomic, religious, and lifestyle variations across the lifespan on health status and response to health care in providing nursing care across a variety of settings and with diverse populations.
11. Apply knowledge of health care policy and the ways in which it shapes the health care system, including a global perspective, to participate in efforts to influence health care policy makers on the behalf of individuals, families, groups, populations, and/or the nursing profession.
12. Provide evidence-based nursing care and teaching, using current knowledge, theory, and research, in collaboration with individuals, families, groups, populations, and other health care professionals across the life span within the context of cultural diversity.
13. Use leadership and management skills to design, coordinate, collaborate, and negotiate a seamless plan of care with other members of the interdisciplinary health care team, to delegate and supervise health care activities, and to allocate physical, fiscal, and human resources.
14. Develop and demonstrate goals for life long learning and professional development.

## **Graduate Education in Nursing**

### ***MSN***

#### ***Purpose***

The purpose of the Master of Science on Nursing (MSN) degree program is to prepare students for advanced professional practice roles in selected areas of clinical specialization, education, and administration for various types of health care systems. The program also provides a theoretical and practical foundation for doctoral study.

Master's education in nursing is predicated on relevant baccalaureate education and professional practice, and builds upon this foundation, expanding it in three major areas: scope of practice, role behavior, and depth and breadth of knowledge. Students focus on a specific area of clinical practice by critically assessing, planning, intervening and evaluating the health and illness experiences of clients (individuals, families, communities, and populations). Advanced practice roles include those of manager, educator, consultant, direct caregiver and leader. The student is prepared to be a knowledgeable consumer of research and to utilize research methodology in practice.

Learning at the master's level results from interactions among the student, teacher and

environment. The student is an adult learner seeking to develop a specialized area of nursing expertise. Student characteristics include the ability to think conceptually, identify critical questions and issues related to a defined area of study, and employ creative and innovative solutions based on theory to problems identified. The teacher creates a learning environment that fosters independent, self-directed, life-long learning and serves as a role model for professional nursing practice. The purpose of the learning environment is to provide the student with the tools needed to acquire increased knowledge, which in turn influences the scope of practice and role behavior. In the process of knowledge development, the student synthesizes major theories and concepts from a variety of disciplines to formulate a unique individual nursing approach to advanced practice in a specialized area. Students consult and collaborate with a variety of people in other disciplines including those in the arts and sciences as well as those directly related to health care.

### ***End of Program Objectives***

Upon completion of the MSN Program, the graduate should be able to:

1. Synthesize multi-disciplinary theories with methods of critical inquiry to explore the nature of nursing knowledge and practice.
2. Conceptualize and articulate the nursing knowledge foundational to advanced practice roles.
3. Analyze practice situations using nursing and other paradigms to guide innovative delivery of client-centered health care.
4. Demonstrate expertise in advanced nursing practice roles based on mastery of a specialized area of knowledge derived from the art and science of nursing.
5. Advance nursing practice through research utilization, participation, and the identification of significant research problems in a specialty area.
6. Protect and promote the health of individuals, groups, and communities through assertive and innovative actions that:
  - a. provide direct care,
  - b. respect and value human diversity,
  - c. address ethical and social issues,
  - d. analyze health care trends, issues, and policies,
  - e. exert collaborative leadership, and
  - f. effect change.
7. Articulate how various health care systems are organized.
8. Analyze cost-effectiveness of the delivery of health care services.
9. Demonstrate advanced professional behaviors reflective of autonomy, intellectual independence, accountability, and lifelong learning.

## **DNP**

### ***Purpose***

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program at the Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing is a practice-focused doctoral program in nursing that awards the Master of Science on Nursing degree and the terminal degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Graduates will be employed in primary care settings, hospitals, public health agencies, and schools of nursing. The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates who will practice nursing at the highest clinical level.

### ***End of Program Objectives***

Upon completion of the DNP program, graduates will:

1. Demonstrate expertise in advanced clinical nursing practice roles based on mastery of a specialized area of knowledge derived from a strong scientific foundation.
2. Use clinical scholarship and analytical methods to improve quality and safety in health care systems through organizational leadership, systems thinking, and practice management acumen.
3. Implement continuous quality improvement in patient care and provide leadership in practice and clinical decision-making through use of information systems and technology resources.
4. Foster interprofessional collaboration and teamwork in the improvement of population health outcomes.
5. Influence health care policy that determines the financing, regulation, access, and delivery of care.
6. Promote health equity in the provision of care to eliminate health disparities.

## ***PhD in Nursing***

### ***Purpose***

The Medical University of South Carolina College of Nursing's PhD in Nursing program focuses on study of vulnerable populations. The PhD in Nursing program is designed to prepare graduates for a lifetime of intellectual inquiry that manifests itself in creative scholarship and research, often leading to careers in social, governmental, and health care organizations as well as traditional careers in university and college settings. The purpose of the PhD in Nursing program is to prepare nurse scientists to influence the quality of local, regional, national, and international health care.

### ***Objectives***

Students in the PhD in Nursing program acquire knowledge and skills to conduct research and are prepared to advance and refine nursing science as the basis for nursing practice, education, and administration.

The curriculum is designed to provide students with a core foundation in nursing theory development, research, and knowledge translation. The mentored research experience serves to strengthen skills in the conduct of disciplined inquiry. Program options build on the core foundation and allow students to develop an individualized program of study in conjunction with a faculty advisor. The goal of the curriculum is to prepare beginning researchers in a defined area of nursing science.