

**University of South Carolina  
College of Nursing  
Graduate Programs of Study**

USC College of Nursing offers the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science, Doctor of Nursing Practice, and the Master of Science in Nursing degrees, awarded through the Graduate School of the University. Also offered are programs leading to dual master degrees from the College of Nursing and the School of Public Health, and a Post-Master's Certificate of Graduate Study in Advanced Practice Nursing that includes emphases in Primary Care, Acute Care, Psychiatric/Mental Health and Women's Health. An Interdisciplinary Certificate of Graduate Study in Gerontology may be earned by completing 18 credit hours beyond the master's degree requirements. The purpose of the PhD program is to prepare professional nurses for careers in research. The DNP program is designed to prepare nurses as clinical practitioners/scholars to assume advanced practice clinical and leadership roles. The master's and post-master's programs prepare professional nurses for careers in advanced practice as clinical nurse specialists and nurse practitioners and for careers in education and administration.

The PhD program offers a foundation of nine courses in nursing theory development, research, and statistics. Program options build on core courses and provide for development of individualized programs of study, which conclude with the preparation and defense of the doctoral dissertation. Program requirements are distributed across 28-31 credit hours of core courses, 15-33 credit hours of contributing courses, 3-6 credit hours of mentored research, and 12 credit hours of dissertation preparation. A minimum of 61 credit hours is required. Students in the BSN entry option will need to complete 18 additional credit hours of master's level courses which may be from one of the existing nursing majors or emphasis areas or in an individualized program of study. Program requirements must be completed within eight years.

The DNP program has three entry points: bachelor's degree from a discipline other than nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, or a master's degree in nursing. The DNP curricular plan totals 83 credits. Non-BSN degree prepared students take additional coursework as prerequisites and co-requisites with the DNP curriculum. These students are awarded the BSN degree upon completion of the additional coursework and the prescribed credits of DNP coursework required for licensure. BSN prepared students take only the 83 credits of the DNP curricular plan. Students with a master's degree in nursing may have required courses in the DNP curricular plan waived upon proper submission of like course material that was successfully completed with a minimum grade of B. An approved program of courses totaling not less than 45 credits of the DNP curriculum is required by master's degree in nursing prepared students.

The master's program offers foundation courses in nursing theory, research methodology, health care issues, and statistics. Full-time and part-time study in the 43-48 credit-hour master's program is available. Dual degree requirements include 51-54 credit hours. Post Master's Certificate of Graduate Study consists of 24-25 credit hours. Program requirements must be completed within six years. The MSN degree has thesis and non-thesis options. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accredits the master's degree program. Selected courses are offered at distant sites through videocassette or closed circuit television.

### **Financial Aid**

Financial assistance is available in a variety of forms. The Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships supplies information on fellowships, scholarships, grants, and loans. Professional Nurse Traineeships, scholarships, and assistantships are offered through the College of Nursing. In addition to direct student aid and graduate assistantships, employment opportunities are available in nearby hospitals and health care agencies.

The Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) is funded by the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA) to support educational expenses for nurses in graduate programs seeking a career in nursing education. Eligible applicants must be admitted to the University of South Carolina College of Nursing, enrolled in full-time study for the duration of the loan program, and teach in a nursing education program for four consecutive years following graduation. Applications are submitted through the College of Nursing Office of Academic Affairs

### **Cost of Study**

For 2005-2006, fees for full-time study are \$3869 (resident) per semester; \$8378 (non-resident) with health profession fee of \$648.00 (resident) per semester or \$903.00 (non-resident). Part-time students pay \$384 (resident) per semester hour or \$816 (non-resident) per hour, health profession fee \$63.00 (resident) per semester hour or \$94.00 (non-resident) per hour, and an optional fee to cover costs of student activities, athletics, and health center services. All students must pay nominal fees for the processing of theses and dissertations, insurance, and graduation (Costs are subject to change).

### **Living and Housing Costs**

The Off-Campus Student Services office (803) 777-6680 assists students in locating off-campus housing.

### **Students**

The University of South Carolina has a total enrollment of about 27,065. More than 32% of the students are in graduate programs. Approximately 121 part-time and full-time graduate students are enrolled in the College of Nursing. The average age of graduate students in nursing is 37; approximately 5.79% are men, and 19% are members of ethnic minority groups. The Graduate Student Association provides opportunities to join graduate students from other fields in programs and activities of mutual interest.

### **Location**

The University is in Columbia, the state capital. The campus is adjacent to the state government complex and the downtown business, cultural, and shopping districts. The Greater Columbia area, with a population of over 450,000, offers a wide range of attractions, including the South Carolina State Museum, Columbia Art Museum, Community Theatres, Koger Center of the Arts, and Riverbanks Zoological Park. The city is easily accessible by public transportation and interstate highways. Its central location makes it convenient to the mountains of the state's northwestern region and the beaches of its Atlantic coast. Nearby Lake Murray is a popular setting for a variety of aquatic activities. Golf and tennis may be enjoyed year-round.

### **The University**

The University, founded in 1801, was the first state college to be supported by annual public appropriations. Today, the University is the state's oldest and largest public

institution of higher learning. It is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In recent years, the University has emerged as a leading educational institution comprising seventeen academic units.

### **Admission**

Both the Graduate School and the College must admit students before they may enroll in courses. Applicants to the master's programs are expected to supply documentation that they hold a BSN from a nationally accredited program, a license to practice nursing, all college transcripts of previous coursework including evidence of a BSN degree, two letters of reference from master's or doctorally prepared nurses and evidence of satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test or Miller Analogies Test (MAT). A combined score of 1,000 or better on the verbal and quantitative portions of the GRE General Test or a score of 410 or better on the MAT is required. International students should have an evaluation by CGFNS and satisfactory scores on the TOEFL. Applicants to the PhD program, in addition to the BSN transcript and nursing license, must have a master's degree from a nationally accredited program, submit evidence for potential scholarship in nursing science, and evidence of a combined score of 1,000 or better on the verbal and quantitative portions of the GRE General Test. Applicants to the DNP program must have a 3.0 GPA if they have a bachelor's degree or a 3.5 GPA if they have a master's degree, a nursing license if BSN or master's prepared, a GRE score of at least 1,000 for combined verbal and quantitative component, and evidence of writing competency for an essay question.

### **Application Deadlines**

Completed applications are received throughout the year. Application deadlines for the Post Master's and DNP programs are May 1 for summer admission, July 1 for fall admission, and November 15 for spring admission. The deadline for applications to the PhD program and to the Master's program is July 1 for fall admission only.

## **GRADUATE FACULTY AND THEIR RESEARCH**

Judith W. Alexander, Associate Professor; PhD; University of South Carolina, 1982. Sociotechnical systems; nursing organizations; quality of care; costing nursing service in health-care settings.

Wanda F. Anderson-Loftin, Assistant Professor; PhD; Medical College of Georgia, 1996. Nursing case management; rural diabetes nursing.

Beverly Baliko, Assistant Professor, PhD; Virginia Commonwealth University, 2005. Post-traumatic stress, grief and trauma related to violent death, domestic violence.

Mary R. Boyd, Associate Professor; PhD; University of Virginia, 1995. Home intervention with depressed women; substance abuse in rural women; violence against women.

Mary Foster Cox, Assistant Professor and Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, PhD; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2003. Adolescent sexual behavior, effects of parenting on adolescent sexual health, parenting communication styles, web based interventions.

Gwen M. Felton, Distinguished Professor; PhD; University of South Carolina, 1984. Variables associated with health-promoting behavior of adolescents and adults, nursing ethics.

Sara G. Fuller, Associate Professor and Chair of the Faculty; PhD; University of Texas Medical Branch, 1986. Mother-infant attachment; adolescent health care; infant health outcomes.

JoAnne Herman, Associate Professor, Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and Graduate Director; PhD; University of Texas at Austin, 1984. Psychophysiological interventions; experimental research; nursing diagnosis, internet interventions.

Marlene C. Mackey, Associate Professor; PhD; University of Illinois at Chicago, 1984. Preterm labor experience; perspectives of childbearing women; evaluation of health status and health care; international nursing, depression in African-American women.

DeAnne Messias, Associate Professor; PhD; University of California at San Francisco, 1997. Women's work and health; immigrant women's health; qualitative research methods; feminist narrative analyses; participatory action research, language access.

Mary Ann Parsons, Professor and Dean Emeritus; PhD; University of Florida, 1976. Variables associated with health-promoting behaviors; primary care nursing; school health.

Kathleen Scharer, Assistant Professor; PhD; University of Illinois at Chicago, 1996. Nurse-parent relationships in child psychiatric inpatient settings; provider-family relationships in health care; mental health promotion in schools; web-based social support.

Laree Schoolmeesters, Assistant Professor; PhD; Case Western Reserve University, 2005. Complementary therapies, Pain Management, Osteoarthritis

**For Additional Information Please Contact:**

Office of Student Services  
College of Nursing  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC 29208  
(803) 777-7576  
(803) 777-0616 (FAX)  
E-mail: [inquiry@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:inquiry@gwm.sc.edu)

The Graduate School  
<http://www.gradschool.sc.edu>

INTERNET:

<http://www.sc.edu/nursing/index.html>

The University of South Carolina system provides affirmative action and equal opportunity in education and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status. 2/1/03, 6/7/06