Post-Baccalaureate School Nurse Certification Program

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

Alvernia is a Franciscan University rooted in the Catholic and liberal arts traditions, dedicated to the ideals of service in the helping professions. Our rich heritage of service and strong faith resonates in contemporary ways in our campus life and academic programs. Alvernia University’s graduate programs are designed for the focused working professional who places equal value on intellectual achievement and professional growth. Our faculty and staff are committed to teaching, guiding, and supporting our students in all aspects of their experience at Alvernia University, from course selection and scheduling to connecting with peers and colleagues.

The post-Baccalaureate School Nurse Certification Program prepares registered nurses for the specialized practice of school nursing in the 21st century. Today’s school nurse is not only responsible for health care and case management for school students and staff, but they are also responsible for developing procedures that support a safe and healthy learning environment. They provide primary screenings, assessment and referrals, individual and group instruction on health promotion, and disease prevention. In addition, school nurses serve as vital team members on multidisciplinary, emergency preparedness, coordinated school health, and school crisis intervention teams and function as liaisons between school, home, and community.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

Students are admitted into the post-baccalaureate School Nurse Certification Program when the following criteria have been met:

- Successful completion of undergraduate coursework
- Minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher
- Completion of continuing education/graduate entrance application with supporting documentation
- Review of transcripts by the Certification Coordinator
- Interview with Program Coordinator

CAREER SUCCESS

At Alvernia we measure our success by our graduates’ personal and professional satisfaction, and by the ways they contribute to the greater good in all areas of society. Our graduates contribute substantially to the education and health care professions in Berks County, surrounding communities, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and beyond. No matter what your aspirations and dreams, we’ll give you the tools and support to help you thrive.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Certified School Nurse
College Health Nurse
Community Nurse

Pediatric Nurse
Public Health Nurse
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

School Nurse Certification - Post Bachelors of Science in Nursing (8 Credits)

Required School Nurse Certification Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUR 510</td>
<td>School Nursing*</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED 505, or</td>
<td>Introduction to Special Needs Students</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED 515</td>
<td>Strategies in Special Ed/Inclusive Classroom</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Includes required practicum in assigned school district(s)

In addition to these requirements, students who intend to apply for School Nurse Certification (Educational Specialist I) through the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) are required by PDE to have successfully completed the following coursework, which may be done prior to entering Alvernia University or concurrent with school nurse coursework:

- Six (6) semester credit hours (or the equivalent) of undergraduate mathematics
- Six (6) semester credit hours (or the equivalent) of undergraduate English composition and British or American literature
- Three (3) semester credit hours (or the equivalent) of undergraduate or graduate Educational Psychology

Note: Required coursework and credits are listed as known at the time this curriculum overview was printed. PDE conducts on-going evaluation of the programs it accredits and could require mandatory changes at any future time which Alvernia University would be responsible to implement into its professional certification programs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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