Nursing | Major

“The professors encouraged professionalism in dress, speech and conduct—and it has paid off! I have my dream job in the hospital of my choice.” - Laura Rhodes ’07, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Cedar Crest, PA

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

The purpose of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is to offer a highly qualified professional education for students in a Christian-oriented environment. Baccalaureate nursing education is based on liberal arts and sciences. This foundation distinguishes the baccalaureate nursing graduate from diploma and associate degree graduates by preparing them to communicate, evaluate and provide holistic health care to individuals and groups. The successful graduates are eligible to apply for RN licensure by taking the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN). The BSN graduate functions as a generalist practitioner in a variety of health care environments. Alvernia’s BSN graduate is prepared to deliver health care to persons of all ages, families and community groups with sensitivity to cultural and environmental factors.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

Alvernia’s Nursing program is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Accreditation is an indicator of the quality of the program and reflects adherence to national standards of nursing education.

The three nursing skills laboratories at Alvernia University provide a supportive and caring environment for students to practice and demonstrate nursing skills. Registered nurses who staff the labs work with faculty to provide a variety of creative simulation experiences at all levels of the curriculum. Nursing students learn psychomotor, critical thinking and physical assessment skills necessary for clinical nursing. Students become familiar with equipment and techniques in a non-threatening environment that simulates the clinical nursing setting. A variety of life-sized computer-driven patient simulator manikins are used to enhance student learning. State of the art technology enables recording and remote transmission of simulation scenarios.

NURSING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH BSN

BSN graduates of Alvernia University may be employed in a variety of staff nursing positions in hospitals, long-term care and outpatient facilities. Graduates have secured positions on hospital floors caring for general medical-surgical clients, as well as on specialty units such as maternity and critical care. Registered nurses with a BSN from Alvernia University are well prepared to pursue further education in graduate degree programs for advanced practice careers such as nurse practitioner, educator and administrator.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman Level: This level is for all first time college students, college students who have less than 29 credits of college level work or students who do not have pre-requisite college level science courses.

- First time college students must meet the general admission requirements of Alvernia University
- First time college students with less than 12 credits of college work must have a minimum composite score from the critical reading and math sections on the SAT of 1000 or greater and a high school grade point average of 2.5 or higher, with consideration given to college preparatory courses of study
- Two (2) letters of reference

As required by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, applicants shall have completed work equal to a standard high school course with a minimum of 16 units, which includes 4 units of English, 3 units of social studies, 2 units of mathematics (1 of which is algebra) and 2 units of science with a related laboratory or equivalent.

Transfer Students: Students wishing to transfer to Alvernia University from another institution of higher education must meet the general admission requirements of Alvernia University and have a minimum grade point average of 2.75. Final decisions regarding transfer into the Nursing program are made by the Nursing Department Chair.

-continued on back-
## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM
### CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman Level</th>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>16.5 credits</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>17.5 credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA 105</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>THE 105</td>
<td>Foundations of Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 216</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>BIO 108/118 Human Anatomy and Physiology</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>BIO 220</td>
<td>Clinical Microbiology</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 209</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Chemistry</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>Fine Arts (Art or Music)</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 110</td>
<td>Intro to Experiential Nursing Science I</td>
<td>0.5 cr</td>
<td>NUR 111</td>
<td>Intro to Experiential Nursing Science II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sophomore Level</th>
<th>Semester 3</th>
<th>17 credits</th>
<th>Semester 4</th>
<th>17 credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHI 105</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>THE 210</td>
<td>Medical Moral Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 216</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 209</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Professional Nursing Skills</td>
<td>5 cr</td>
<td>NUR 205</td>
<td>Nursing I: Adult Medical Surgical Clients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 210</td>
<td>Intro to Nursing Practice: Roles and Responsibilities</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NUR 208</td>
<td>Pharmacology and the Nursing Process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Level</th>
<th>Semester 5</th>
<th>15 credits</th>
<th>Semester 6</th>
<th>15 credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>BIO 410 Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 311</td>
<td>Health Assessment Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>MAT 208 Introductory Statistics</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 315</td>
<td>Nursing II: Birth &amp; Childhood to Adulthood</td>
<td>9 cr</td>
<td>NUR 312 Transcultural Nursing</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 317</td>
<td>Nursing III: Behavioral Health &amp; Chronicity</td>
<td>5 cr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Level</th>
<th>Semester 7</th>
<th>16 credits</th>
<th>Semester 8</th>
<th>12 credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHI or THE (200-400 Level)</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NUR 409 Leadership &amp; Ethical Dimensions for Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 408</td>
<td>Introduction to Research Methods</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
<td>NUR 417 Nursing Role Synthesis Practicum</td>
<td>6 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 410</td>
<td>Nursing IV: Adult &amp; Geriatric Clients</td>
<td>5 cr</td>
<td>NUR 418 Nursing of the Acute &amp; Critically Ill</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 412</td>
<td>Nursing of the Family &amp; Community</td>
<td>5 cr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total 125 credits**

## CLINICAL FACILITIES

The Alvernia University Nursing Program provides a rich diversity in clinical practice sites. Sites include both inpatient and community sites. Examples include:

- Caron Foundation
- Ephrata Community Hospital
- Health South Rehabilitation Hospital
- Good Samaritan Hospital of Lebanon
- Penn Foundation Recovery Center
- Pottstown Memorial Medical Center
- Reading School District
- Saint Joseph Medical Center
- The Reading Hospital and Medical Center
- Wernersville State Hospital
- Various Long-Term Care Facilities, Private Office Practices and Clinics

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Mary Ellen Symanski, PhD, RN  
Associate Professor of Nursing, Department Chair  
maryellen.symanski@alvernia.edu  
1-610-796-8217

Office of Admissions  
1-610-796-8269  
admissions@alvernia.edu