

Program Overview: Bachelor of Science in Nursing



About This Major . . .

The BSN program provides a well-rounded nursing educational experience. Graduates are prepared for the nursing generalist role in a variety of health care settings. The program integrates nursing theory, practice, and science with a broad liberal arts education.

Graduates of the program are highly competent professionals who are ready to provide evidence-based care and leadership in the ever-changing health care system. The BSN program provides an educational framework based on a culture of excellence in nursing and academic rigor. Students are held to high standards of clinical practice as well as theoretical learning. Critical thinking skills are learned and practiced throughout the program, including clinical experiences in hospitals, community, long-term care settings, and areas with rural health focus. Students learn acute, chronic, and population health foci. State-of-the-art simulation, clinical, and classroom learning supplement the curriculum. Senior practicum completes 135 hours in a clinical setting that prepares the student for working in the nursing profession.

Faculty employ educational strategies that are based on adult learning principals, understanding that learning styles vary from person to person. Faculty members cultivate confidence in graduates to provide care across the life span in a variety of health care settings.

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning.

The Student learning outcomes for the BSN graduate are:

1. Professionalism: Promote a culture of respect and safety (Specialized Knowledge, Applied Learning)
2. Math reasoning: Utilize scientific inquiry and quantitative reasoning as a base for patient care decisions (Intellectual skills; Quantitative Fluency)
3. Evidence Based Practice: Communicate a plan for integration of Evidence Based findings into professional nursing practice.(Intellectual skills; Communication fluency)
4. Critical Thinking: Employs critical thinking as a basis for nursing practice. (Intellectual skills; Critical thinking)
5. Collaborative Communication: Improves healthcare outcomes through inter-professional collaboration and communication, facilitating access to resources to meet diverse health care needs. (Information Literacy)
6. Leadership: Integrates ethical principles of leadership and management in the delivery of health care. (Intellectual skills; Communication fluency)

Program Highlights:

Graduates from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Program graduates are employed nationally in a multitude of fields. Students have taken positions in the areas of:

- General Medical-Surgical
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics
- Trauma
- Neonatal Intensive Care
- Peri-operative
- Home based care
- Public health
- Global health
- Geriatrics
- Emergency Room
- Critical Care
- Orthopedics
- Oncology
- Palliative Care & Hospice
- Rehabilitation
- Mental Health
- Telemetry/Cardiovascular
- Neurosurgery
- Wound Care

Get Involved!

All pre-nursing and nursing students are welcome to join the CMU Student Nurse Association (SNA) through which students collaborate to enhance their nursing education experience. Service learning opportunities and "Lunch and Learn" sessions offer creative and professional activities to engage in peer professional groups.

Program Requirements

A student must follow CMU graduation requirements by completing 121 semester credit hours, including ~~40~~ 64 credits of coursework at the 300+ level. See the “Undergraduate Graduation Requirements” in the catalog for additional graduation information. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting and scheduling courses prior to registration. In general, CMU’s programs of study are based on two curriculum groups:

1. Essential Learning

CMU’s Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

2. What You Will Study in This Major. . .

Foundational Courses

These courses prepare you for the scientific process to evaluate evidence in the healthcare field:

- Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II with Labs
- Pathophysiology
- Probability and Statistics
- Human Growth and Development Across the Life Span
- Microbiology

Nursing Core Courses

These courses prepare you to be a generalist professional nurse through classes and clinical opportunities in the following:

- Foundations of Nursing
- Pharmacology I & II
- Family/Maternal/Child Nursing and lab
- Community & Population Health Nursing Theory and Lab
- Acute & Chronic Illness I & II
- Health Assessment Across the Lifespan
- Mental Health Nursing
- Leadership
- Professional Development I, II, & III (Ethics, Theory, Informatics, Professionalism, Policy, NCLEX prep)
- Nursing Research: Evidence-based practice
- Senior Capstone & Symposium

General Admission Requirements for the BSN Program:

- Complete the CMU BSN application and submit per deadline requirements.
- Request transcripts be sent to the Department of Health Sciences.
- Schedule and take the Kaplan Nursing School Entrance Exam through the CMU Testing Center.
- Complete prerequisites and foundation courses (may be currently enrolled in the semester of application).
- Be a current CMU student or in the process of admission to CMU.
- Complete successful background investigation, at the applicant’s expense, after conditional admission.
- Top candidates will be invited to interview for admission.

For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/healthsciences/bsn.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Health Sciences, 170 Maverick Center, 970.248.1398.