



Changing What's Possible

COLLEGE OF NURSING

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## COLLEGE OF NURSING

As baby boomers age, the need for qualified health care professionals is soaring. While nursing schools across the country strive to keep up with this demand, our focus at the MUSC College of Nursing is on a particular type of student — one who wishes to excel in the nursing profession — one who has the will to discover new approaches and exceed expectations — one who can change what's possible in the lives of his or her patients and actively shape the health care of tomorrow.

The MUSC College of Nursing has a long and distinguished history of more than 130 years preparing the finest professional nurses who care, cure and create new knowledge in improving the health of individuals, families and communities. We educate more than 570 students each year who earn baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees. Nearly half of our nursing students receive their education and training entirely through our academically and technologically advanced online program. In 2018, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked our online graduate nursing program No. 3 in the country and it has held one of the top two spots in the nation four years in a row. The college also possesses a strong nursing research program and currently ranks 13th in NIH funding among colleges of nursing across the country. With more than \$8.3 million secured in total funding last year, the college is the highest-ranked college of nursing in South Carolina, and the third-highest ranked in the southeast for federal research funding.



# 13th

in NIH funding for  
U.S. nursing schools



# \$8.3M

total secured  
research funding

## RESEARCH

Researchers among our faculty and doctoral students at the College of Nursing are attaining national recognition as nurse scholars focused on vulnerable populations. Our faculty is known for their collection of funded work that ranges from population-based interventions, such as reducing disparities in the areas of diabetes and stroke management to the physiological investigation of thermoregulation in the formation of vascular ulcers. Through building an environment that encourages productivity and scholarship, we facilitate research endeavors of our faculty and students.

The primary aim of the Office of Research is to increase the college's externally funded research productivity through a robust infrastructure that assists grants administration, writing and editing of proposals and publications, financial management, and methodological support. Working within the only academic health sciences center in South Carolina, we create collaborative research alliances with colleagues in the other five colleges. We also can access university-wide infrastructures, such as the Department of Public Health Sciences and the MUSC NIH-funded clinical translational research award center, SCTR (South Carolina Translational Research).

Recently, the College of Nursing became the recipient of a P20 Center Grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that leverages technology and bioinformatics to develop community-based interventions for pain and fatigue. The commonality all our researchers share is a dedication to changing the lives of the citizens of our state and beyond, and educating the next generation of nurse scientists.

Our faculty has active peer-reviewed research programs supported by several national agencies such as the NIH, AHRQ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality), the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Heart Association, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and the Department of Homeland Security. Additionally, our faculty work with state organizations such as the S.C. Department of Public Safety and the S.C. Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund. We also are fortunate to join colleagues across campus in being rated among the top 100 universities in the U.S. for funding by having more than \$200 million in sponsored research, with \$100 million from the NIH.

Research takes a prominent role within the College of Nursing. To achieve our college's mission to change lives we must create a community of nurse scholars that includes both nursing and interprofessional research in education and practice.



*To address complex issues, an innovative, coordinated approach is required that considers patient, family and community-level factors.”*

- Gaynell Magwood, Ph.D., RN, FAAN  
Professor and Nurse Scientist

# ACADEMIC NURSING PROGRAMS

## DNP | Doctor of Nursing Practice

The DNP is considered the highest practice degree in nursing for students who wish to become expert nurse practitioners or nurse executives. This program enables the student to remain in direct patient care while providing him or her with the knowledge and training to be a leader in a fast-changing health care environment. Our asynchronous online program is designed to be completed in three years of full-time study or four years of part-time study, while the online flexibility allows students to work while obtaining their graduate education.

Our online DNP curriculum offers multiple nurse practitioner tracks including Adult-Gerontology, Family, Pediatrics and Psychiatric Mental Health. We also offer a specialty track, the Nurse Executive Leadership and Innovations, that will prepare students to practice at the highest executive level.

The primary care track is for students who want to become innovative advanced practice nurses and provide comprehensive primary care to their specialized population and community in a variety of settings including homes, hospitals, schools, community agencies, clinics and private practices. The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track is for nurses who want to become groundbreaking advanced practice nurses specializing in behavioral health services to children, adults and senior adults in various settings including hospitals, primary care offices, community mental health centers, and other related agencies. The Nurse Executive track focuses on providing nurses the knowledge and skills to be executive leaders who are not only competent and entrepreneurial, but who can transform health care outcomes in an ever-changing health care system. The DNP nurse executive will be the bridge between the patient and family, community, interdisciplinary team and administration. All of these tracks graduate visionary and innovative advanced practice nurses.



## PhD | Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science

Our accelerated PhD online program prepares graduates to pursue a career of externally funded research, scholarly publication and professional leadership. Our faculty's expertise and program curriculum focus on the care of vulnerable populations and the innovative ways to promote health equity for individuals and communities. We recruit talented and diverse applicants who possess a research interest and a commitment to accomplishing the program milestones.

This asynchronous program is designed to be completed in three years of full-time study or four years of part-time study. Typical career goals of our graduates include independent researchers, clinical and organizational leaders, and faculty members. Non-nurses with health-related degrees may also benefit from this program.

The accelerated PhD program is based on essential core competencies required for the beginning researcher in nursing science including, theory application, research design and methods, data analysis, ethics, team science, the mentored conduct of research, leadership, policy, and knowledge translation and dissemination.





## BSN | Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The accelerated BSN degree program is four consecutive semesters (including a summer semester) and taught using diverse teaching styles that include classroom and online instruction, clinical and lab components, and a combination of classroom and online activities. The baccalaureate program focuses on the knowledge, skills and values deemed essential for professional nursing practice in today's multifaceted health care system with particular emphasis on leadership, care coordination and communication skills.

Since MUSC is an academic health science center, other colleges on campus (Dental Medicine, Graduate Studies, Health Professions, Medicine, and Pharmacy) are able to provide students with an interprofessional collaborative experience through academic and extracurricular activities. Many of our students come from diverse backgrounds and bring a richness to the learning environment.

While many BSN graduates go on to work in a variety of health care settings, including hospitals, community agencies, health clinics, long-term care facilities and private practices, our BSN program also provides a foundation for graduate study.

## RN to BSN | Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The RN to BSN program is for registered nurses who are graduates of an accredited associate degree or diploma program in nursing and are interested in taking their career to a higher level by earning a BSN degree. The asynchronous online program is designed to accommodate the working nurse with degree completion expected in three continuous semesters. Our curriculum specifically focuses on leadership, care coordination and interprofessional communication, while practicum components can be completed in a community near the student.



# #3



# 562

Total enrollment  
Fall 2017



# 450+

Clinical training sites



# 94%

2017 NCLEX exam pass rate



# 95%

of BSN & RN-BSN graduates had  
a job within 3 months of graduation

## PRACTICE

Faculty practice promotes the clinical expertise of the faculty and provides unique learning opportunities for students. Some College of Nursing faculty members have the opportunity to engage in practice as part of their faculty role. At MUSC, an academic health center, our faculty practice educators are able to provide direct clinical services across MUSC Health, as well as administer practice services across the Lowcountry. Last year, faculty practitioners reported more than 4,600 patient encounters in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

Along with their practice workloads, faculty practice nurses educate students in the classroom and online, as well as help guide nursing students through clinical rotations. A nursing student's clinical hours are supported across our community at one of 450 clinical practice sites available. These sites provide students with the opportunity to work in diverse, real-world community clinical rotations.

One of these practice sites is Partners in HealthCare, a nurse practitioner practice. In 2013, the College of Nursing partnered with East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) to open Partners in HealthCare to focus on the management of uninsured patients with diabetes, hypertension, and associated conditions of hyperlipidemia, obesity, and tobacco usage.

In addition to helping faculty members meet professional licensure practice requirements, our faculty's practice work also contributes to the education and professional development of nursing students, and to the MUSC goal of building healthy communities.



## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The College of Nursing is committed to promoting equity, access and inclusion among students, faculty and staff. Nursing knowledge and practice must be broad in perspective and content to meet the requirements of a diverse, multicultural population. Valuing diversity is part of the vision, mission, values and philosophy of the College of Nursing and our strategic plan. We are continuously looking for ways to enhance our diverse and inclusive environment, which further enables us to recruit, retain and celebrate our outstanding students, faculty and staff.

- › **The Multicultural Student Nurses Association (MSNA) serves as a platform of cultural exchange with specific emphasis on the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority students. It currently represents the largest student organization on campus.**
- › **The Men in Nursing group provides support and encouragement for male nurses in a female-dominated field. The group connects male nursing students with male nurses throughout MUSC, fostering professional development that enhances teaching and learning, role modeling and support.**
- › **Faculty developed the Cultural Competence Model which provides a conceptual framework to weave throughout clinical and didactic courses that reflect excellence in evidence-based nursing practice. This model embraces equity and culturally effective care to patients, families and communities while promoting best learning outcomes for CON students.**



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## THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Founded in 1824 in Charleston, The Medical University of South Carolina is the oldest medical school in the South. Today, MUSC continues the tradition of excellence in education, research, and patient care. MUSC educates and trains more than 3,000 students and 700 residents in six colleges (Dental Medicine, Graduate Studies, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy), and has nearly 14,000 employees, including approximately 1,500 faculty members.

As the largest non-federal employer in Charleston, the university and its affiliates have collective annual budgets in excess of \$2.4 billion, with an annual economic impact of more than \$3.8 billion and annual research funding in excess of \$250 million. MUSC operates a 700-bed medical center, which includes a nationally recognized children's hospital, the Ashley River Tower (cardiovascular, digestive disease, and surgical oncology), Hollings Cancer Center (a National Cancer Institute-designated center), Level I trauma center, Institute of Psychiatry, and the state's only transplant center. In 2018, for the fourth consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report named MUSC Health the number one hospital in South Carolina.

For more information on academic programs or clinical services, visit [musc.edu](https://musc.edu).

For more information on hospital patient services, visit [muschealth.org](https://muschealth.org).



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