Defining Life
the nurse you were meant to be
You want to make a difference in people’s lives. For you, that’s the definition of a good nurse—and a successful life. At Duquesne University’s School of Nursing, we offer a strong, innovative program that builds on your qualities of compassion and caring. Here you’ll find leading edge learning, state-of-the-art facilities, highly trained and involved faculty, and an emphasis on equality in healthcare. So you can become the nurse you want to be. And define your life by helping others.

There has never been a better time to be a nurse—or to study nursing at Duquesne. Nurses are in demand everywhere, and the critical role that nurses play in health care is expanding rapidly. Here at Duquesne, we are well positioned to help students prepare for the nursing profession’s many new opportunities and challenges.

At every level, we offer students a unique educational experience, one that takes advantage of new technologies in order to enrich classroom, clinical and online learning. We believe that innovative, forward-thinking coursework is fundamental for preparing students for leadership and high-demand specialties. And, because we are located in Pittsburgh, we have agreements with some of the world’s best health care facilities, and can offer our nursing students a superior clinical experience.

Duquesne has led the way in nursing education, and we remain in the vanguard. Recently we launched the nation’s first program combining bachelor in science degrees in nursing and biomedical engineering. At the graduate level, we pioneered online degree programs, including a master’s with a concentration in forensic nursing. Also, in response to the increasing need for registered nurses with baccalaureate degrees, we are now offering a completely online RN-BSN program.

Our nationally recognized faculty includes experts and specialists whose work as researchers, practitioners and authors is making important contributions to nursing and to Duquesne’s reputation for scholarship and service. First and foremost, however, the members of our faculty are educators whose mission is to help every nursing student succeed.

I appreciate your interest, welcome your questions and encourage you to contact us to learn more.

Mary Ellen Smith Glasgow, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor

“I didn’t want just any job—I wanted a career with passion and meaning. That’s why I chose nursing. I learned how to think critically, to respect human life regardless of cultural and ethnic differences, and to care for the whole person. The School of Nursing at Duquesne was the perfect fit for me!”

Chelsea Martin
BSN Program 2014

Making your world {better}
Twice

The number of times The National League for Nursing has named us as a Center of Excellence, a distinction that only the best schools of nursing can claim. And our graduate programs, which are completely online, have been consistently ranked in the top 10 on the Best Online Programs list of US News & World Report.

The federal government predicts that nursing will be the top occupation in terms of job growth through 2020 and that the nursing workforce in hospitals will expand by 36 percent.

Increasingly, the pathway to professional nursing is the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) DEGREE.

Why {Duquesne} Nursing?

80% of the nation’s nurses should have a BSN degree and the number of nurses with doctoral degrees should double, according to the Institute of Medicine in its recommendations report, The Future of Nursing.

THE CURRENT DEMAND for nurses with master’s and doctoral degrees—and who can take leadership roles in advanced practice, clinical specialties, teaching and research—FAR SURPASSES THE SUPPLY.

ACCREDITATION. Duquesne University’s undergraduate nursing programs are approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Master of Science in Nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Duquesne University is accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the State Board of Education of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

To offer Bachelor of Science in Nursing in Pennsylvania
To have online PhD in Nursing program

1st
Redefining How Nursing is Taught
The way nurses are prepared at Duquesne University stands apart from traditional approaches to nursing education.

Compassion is at the heart of our mission and has always been a critical part of our nursing curriculum. Preparing nurses who have compassion for the people they serve truly makes a Duquesne nursing education unique.

We place a high value on teaching. This means that every student’s education is important at Duquesne. The members of our nursing faculty exemplify the highest ideals of the teacher-scholar, and they put as much emphasis on their students’ achievements as on their own. Our innovative approach to nursing education is based on the Synergy Model, developed by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. Adopting the Synergy Model helps us equip our students with a wide range of clinical competencies, and ensures that they graduate with a full complement of essential knowledge and skill.

We provide the best possible on-campus learning facilities. Our Irene Fritzky Nursing Lab contains high-tech simulators so sophisticated that they mimic a range of diseases and conditions replete with groans and verbal complaints. In the lab, you will gain skills and knowledge in an environment where digitally delivered feedback fosters learning and permits you to be active participants in evaluating your own advancement.

Service to the poor and underserved, as well as taking a leadership role in the struggle for justice and equity in health care, are profoundly important. We offer our undergraduate nursing students opportunities to learn by serving vulnerable populations, including for example, through a partnership with a Nicaraguan nursing school the chance to accompany faculty members on annual trips to a Managua barrio for a community-based learning experience.

A Place in History
The Duquesne University School of Nursing was established in 1937, and from the beginning it has been the definition of scholarship and innovation. We established Pennsylvania’s first BSN program, created the nation’s first online PhD in Nursing program and broke new ground with graduate programs in emerging fields like forensic nursing.

Our BSN programs are tailored to the needs of first time nursing students, whether they are in college for the first time or looking for the fast track to a new career, as well as to the needs of registered nurses who want to enhance their careers by gaining a bachelor’s degree. Our online master’s and doctoral programs offer an appealing combination of maximum flexibility with tuition discounts for qualified nurses, coupled with the academic rigor and respect that only a degree from a renowned university can provide.

“Duquesne University nurses are leading the way in evidence based practice.”
Maribeth McLaughlin RN, BSN, MPM
Chief Nursing Officer
Vice President of Patient Care Services
Magee Women’s Hospital of UPMC
Pittsburgh, Pa

A {leader} from the start
At Duquesne we pride ourselves on having a caring faculty committed to teaching, so that you will achieve your very best. In addition to having an academic advisor, you will be assigned a faculty mentor and, if needed, tutors are available for extra help.

**Serving Those Who Serve**

Duquesne University participates in both the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon programs, and we are honored to include veterans as well as active duty personnel and members of the National Guard and Reserves among our students. In its inaugural Best Colleges for Veterans rankings *U.S. News & World Report* puts us at no. 24 in the nation for helping veterans pursue a college education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. And, for the support we provide veterans and military students, the School of Nursing has repeatedly been named a Military Friendly School by Victory Media.
Nursing Centers
Through two unique Nursing Centers, we are expanding and enhancing the role of nurses, while providing our students and faculty with invaluable clinical, research and service opportunities.

Center for Research for Underserved and Vulnerable Populations
Established in 2006, the Center for Research for Underserved and Vulnerable Populations is an outgrowth of the School of Nursing’s long-standing commitment to research and scholarship. Dedicated to building a community of scholars that includes both faculty and students, the Center supports qualitative and quantitative methodologies with a particular emphasis on topics related to health disparities, cultural competence and chronic illness.

Community-Based Health & Wellness Center for Older Adults
In 1994, the School of Nursing established this nurse-managed wellness center, which it now operates as a community service through clinics in Pittsburgh neighborhoods. These client-focused interdisciplinary clinics are designed to help prevent unnecessary hospitalization and premature institutionalization of low-income elderly people through health promotion, monitoring of chronic conditions and facilitating access to existing community services.

“Attending the Duquesne University School of Nursing was one of the best decisions I ever made.”
Alexander Krach, RN (Second Degree BSN, 2006)
Staff RN/Project Director
Humane Medicine Medical Humanities Program
Department of Emergency Services
Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center, Medford, Ore.

Take advantage of opportunities to do life-changing nursing work in the community.
An {inspiring} campus

A University Built On Caring
Duquesne University began as a mission school for Pittsburgh’s poor immigrant children. It was founded by The Congregation of the Holy Spirit, also known as the Spiritans, a Catholic missionary order that assists needy and marginalized persons throughout the world.

Duquesne is the nation’s only Spiritan university, and the values of the Spiritans are a powerful force on our campus. At Duquesne, helping you succeed is our founding principle and our most important goal.

Duquesne is experiencing an exciting period of growth and accomplishment. More than 10,000 students are enrolled in nine schools of study. Duquesne offers rich, diverse liberal arts studies as well as high quality undergraduate and graduate programs in its schools of business, education, health sciences, law, music, nursing, pharmacy and sciences. Students benefit from a low student to faculty ratio, and Duquesne is consistently ranked among the nation’s top Catholic universities, having earned a reputation for combining academic rigor with a student-centered educational experience. Our scenic, safe and self-contained campus occupies 50 acres near downtown Pittsburgh with breathtaking views of the city’s historic three rivers.

Campus Visits
Visiting is one of the best ways to learn more about us, and we encourage you to come out and see us. You can schedule a visit year-round on weekdays and selected weekends. Go to duq.edu/visit to schedule your campus visit.

“"The first time I visited Duquesne University I knew I chose the right school."”
Emerson E. E., DNP, APRN, CNE, PhD in Nursing Student
Clinical Assistant Professor
Fellow, Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing
New York University College of Nursing
Duquesne University is centrally located in Pittsburgh, a center of commerce and innovation for more than 250 years. Today, Pittsburgh is a national leader in robotics, health care and green building technology, as well as the home of global corporations and world-class universities.

You will find that Pittsburgh offers you some of the nation’s best hospitals and health care facilities, with unparalleled opportunities for learning and launching a professional career.

You’ll also find the city to be comfortable and safe. With spectacular views of hillsides and river valleys, and with its unique mix of large-city amenities and small-town friendliness, Pittsburgh is a pleasant surprise for first-time visitors. National Geographic Traveler put Pittsburgh on its Best of the World list of must-see destinations, and the Rand McNally Places Rated Almanac and other publications have called the city one of America’s best places to live.

Visit duq.edu/pittsburgh to find out what makes our city a great place to live, learn and start a career.

Experience Pittsburgh

- Ride the Duquesne Incline up Mount Washington for a spectacular view of the city.
- Venture into Oakland for a trip to the world-famous Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History.
- Watch the Pirates play at the classic PNC Park stadium on the North Shore.
- Enjoy the flavors of the world available at the Strip District’s eclectic array of wholesale markets and restaurants.
- Enjoy a stroll through the gorgeous, ever-changing gardens at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.
- Hike or bike on the Great Allegheny Passage, a trail that begins at Point State Park and goes for 150 miles.
- Go kayaking on one of the city’s three rivers.
- Explore the South Side, a vibrant neighborhood with unique shops, restaurants and nightlife.
Unmistakable trends in health care indicate that the nation is going to need many more nurses who have a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN). Research shows that nurses who have a BSN are equipped to make critical, evidence-based decisions and prepared to lead.

Four-year BSN

Our BSN program is designed for qualified high school graduates and transfer students. This is a four-year course of study, designed to impart the knowledge and skills that professional nurse generalists need, whether in nursing practice or as preparation for graduate study. Nursing students are required to take courses in the natural, biological and behavioral sciences. And, like all Duquesne undergraduates, our nursing students graduate with a strong foundation in the liberal arts.

The program includes courses in theory and practice. Clinical courses in world-renowned hospitals and other health care settings prepare you for providing the highest quality care for individuals of all ages as well as families and larger groups. All nursing textbooks in the BSN program, whether for theory or clinical courses, are provided in eBook format. These textbooks are formatted for reading on laptops, tablets or smartphones. Using eBooks provides the ultimate in portability and savings. In addition, the contents of all these nursing textbooks can be searched with a single command, making ideas and concepts come to life across a range of subject areas. Your nursing e-book library will be helpful throughout your career.

We are committed to ensuring that you will be well prepared for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN), so that when you graduate, you will be confident and ready for the test that qualifies you for licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN).
More {paths} to earn a BSN

Introducing the Dual Degree Program in Biomedical Engineering and Nursing
Duquesne University’s School of Nursing is proud to launch a pioneering program that combines a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering (BME). This five-year program is the first of its kind, and is innovative for integrating the clinical knowledge of nursing with the technological aspects of biomedical engineering. Graduates will have the ability to be involved with all phases of biomedical innovation – from the identification of clinical problems through the development of technical solutions to the evaluation of clinical outcomes. With this unique background, nurse-engineers will be prepared to develop technical solutions to today’s health issues, such as refining how sensors are used to note physiologic changes and new applications for telehealth, among many others.

Second Degree BSN
Choosing to become a nurse, even after embarking on some other career path, can be one of the best decisions you will ever make. If you have earned a bachelor’s degree in some other discipline, our Second Degree BSN program enables you to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in just one year.

This accelerated program requires full-time study, but after 12 months you will have met all the requirements for a BSN degree. After graduating, you are then eligible — and well prepared — to take the NCLEX-RN nursing licensure examination to become a Registered Nurse (RN).

Starting in August and spanning three semesters, the Second Degree BSN program is a creative blend of:

- Traditional classroom instruction
- Simulation lab and Web-enhanced instruction
- Clinical experiences at state-of-the-art health care settings in the Pittsburgh area

You can meet BSN requirements through:
- Credits transferred from your previous academic work
- Any required prerequisite courses, which can be taken at any accredited institution prior to the start of the Second Degree program
- Credits from the nursing courses you will take during 12 months of study at Duquesne

Clinical Education for Four-year and Second Degree BSN Students
Your clinical experiences supply opportunities to apply the knowledge you gained in the classroom and simulation labs to help treat patients under the supervision of members of our clinical faculty as well as specially assigned nurse-teachers, known as preceptors.

You will enter the profession with a strong, broad-based clinical foundation for nursing practice. When you graduate, you will have logged hundreds of hours in hospitals and community facilities — institutions that are educational partners with the Duquesne University School of Nursing.

“Duquesne’s School of Nursing provided the knowledge and clinical skills I need to be successful as a professional nurse, but Duquesne also provided a learning environment that encouraged me to grow as a person as well as a professional”

Michele Hardner, RN, BSN Program 2013
UPMC Mercy Hospital
Pittsburgh, PA

Nursing Skills Labs
Lab simulations mimic real patient care situations, and provide the optimal learning experience. Here in a controlled environment, you can practice and develop your decision-making, teamwork, communication and leadership skills without risk.

Our Nursing Skills Lab has sophisticated equipment that you will use to learn basic and advanced patient care skills, from patient assessment to acute and chronic care. A variety of patient-simulators, including neonatal and birthing mannequins, show symptoms, express complaints and respond to care, providing exceptional hands-on learning experiences in the lab that will have you well prepared for live patients in clinical situations.

RN-BSN
For those who have earned a diploma in nursing or an associate’s degree in nursing (ADN), we offer a new, flexible RN–BSN program, completely online. This program is structured to provide innovative and relevant coursework to help you obtain your BSN on a full- or part-time basis.

RN-BSN program classes are eight weeks in length, and you can take one or more classes at a time. Any non-nursing courses that you need to complete the degree can be taken either at Duquesne or another pre-approved university. The curriculum is designed to provide a specialty area in ethics, quality and safety, forensics, veterans’ health, global health and human rights, or professional development.

We provide an online or on-campus orientation to the RN-BSN program, which includes what you need to know about online learning, from submitting assignments and taking tests to obtaining technical help or support from your advisor or nursing professors.

Take a virtual tour of our lab at duq.edu/nursing-tour.
Online Learning
The Duquesne University School of Nursing is an early adopter and innovator in online graduate nursing education. We were the first in the nation to offer a completely online PhD in Nursing degree and we continue to offer working nurses like you the chance to advance your career. Our online programs are designed so that you can complete coursework anywhere, and on your own schedule. Some classes include real-time discussions and other activities.

Like classroom courses, online courses have a syllabus, weekly assignments, projects, papers and tests. The content and workload are no different than they are in an on-campus class. Each course has a unique, secure website, where course materials are available, assignments are submitted and communication with the faculty and other students takes place.

Our nursing courses are structured so that students share their learning and motivate each other. In an online class, you can review course materials as often as you need and then interact with other students or the faculty via email, text or audio chat rooms, and threaded discussions. In addition, you will frequently take part in exercises and solve problems in small groups using digital communication tools.

None of this requires a high degree of technical ability or access to sophisticated computer equipment. However, technical support is available when needed. To be successful in online coursework, you need only basic keyboard and computer skills, such as those used in sending and receiving email; attaching, sending and opening documents from email or Internet sites; participating in online chats; and searching the Web or using databases. You will also have a full range of support, from an academic advisor to a faculty mentor to tutors, if needed.

A chance to advance. With a graduate degree, you’re making a choice to further your nursing career. And we’re making it as convenient for you as possible. Here you’ll find an energetic, welcoming learning community. You’ll also find rigorous programs and outstanding support. And if you’re a busy professional, you’ll appreciate that all of our graduate nursing programs are completely online. So you can advance your career on your own terms—from anywhere at any time.

Graduate Degrees

Master of Science in Nursing, Post-masters’ Certificates, PhD in Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
As health care undergoes major change, the role of the nurses who have graduate degrees will expand accordingly. A master’s level nursing education provides the preparation that you need to plan for and successfully adapt to change in our health care delivery system, while ensuring that patients receive the highest quality care.

We provide a creative and scholarly environment that includes plenty of personal attention, one where the nursing faculty is genuinely concerned about your career goals and your success.

Although each of our MSN programs is offered online, certain courses require a one-week campus visit in the fall. In addition, new students must attend a mandatory orientation on campus for two days in the spring. All MSN programs at Duquesne can be completed on a full-time (six credits per semester) or part-time basis.

Three areas of specialization are available to students in the MSN program:
- Family (Individual across the Lifespan)
- Nurse Practitioner
- Forensic Nursing
- Nursing Education and Faculty Role

Family (Individual across the Lifespan)
Nurse Practitioner
Increasingly, family nurse practitioners are providing vital care to patients of all ages and in all types of primary care settings. Indeed, nurse practitioners often function as the patient’s primary care provider, and in addition to providing care, nurse-practitioners spend time getting to know patients and serve as an advocate for their patients’ needs. As a consequence, studies show high levels of patient satisfaction with the family-centered holistic approach nurse practitioners provide.

As a graduate from the Family (Individual Across the Lifespan) Nurse Practitioner program you will be eligible for certification and licensure as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP). You need not be a Pennsylvania resident or intend to work in Pennsylvania to enroll in this program.

In addition, graduates are eligible to take either the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) or the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Family Nurse Practitioner certification examination.

After being accepted for admission to the MSN program, each student is assigned a faculty mentor who will assist the student in completion of a Program Plan. Although this program is offered online, students are required to come to campus one week in the second and third year. The required campus visits are in the fall.

Forensic Nursing
We designed a master’s program that can help you create the future of forensic nursing. This program has a special focus on violence and its consequences in our communities, and creates previously unimagined opportunities for members of the nursing profession to address this problem.

Our master’s in forensic nursing program can teach you skills for healing wounds, as well as skills for helping law enforcement and legal professionals do their jobs effectively. The program’s broad-based curriculum provides advanced practice knowledge that is applicable to a wide variety of care settings, so our graduates are able to function not only as practitioners but also as leaders in this emerging specialty area. They are creating hospital-based programs, designing educational curricula and helping to enact new policy initiatives at the local, state and national levels.

“I am a nurse practitioner today because of the support and encouragement of Duquesne’s nursing faculty.”
Amy Morgan, MSN, CRNP, NP-C, CLC
(BSN 1999, MSN 2010)
Steel City South Pediatrics
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Currently, we offer three specializations for students desiring a post-master’s certificate:
- Family (Individual Across the Lifespan)
- Nurse Practitioner
- Forensic Nursing
- Nursing Education and Faculty Role

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing degree is designed to nurture scholarship and research that will expand scientific knowledge and improve nursing practice. The PhD curriculum is research-focused and designed to prepare you for a lifetime of intellectual inquiry and creative scholarship.

In 1997, the Duquesne University School of Nursing earned the unique distinction of creating the nation’s first completely online nursing PhD degree program. Since then we have successfully adapted our PhD in Nursing curriculum to meet national needs and to address emerging health care trends as well as to advance our own research agenda.

Major focus areas for nursing research conducted at Duquesne include, but are not limited to:
- Care for vulnerable populations
- Achieving diversity within the nursing profession
- Accommodating diversity among patients
- Healing within the context of chronic illness

To develop your research study, you’ll work closely with a faculty mentor who has allied or similar research goals. You are encouraged to contact a member of our PhD faculty to discuss specific interests.

Early in the program, you will develop the knowledge and skills needed to obtain pre-doctoral research funding. Applied research courses that require both qualitative and quantitative methodologies prepare you to function as an independent researcher upon graduation. Our elective courses, called cognates, may supplement your dissertation study.

You can obtain a post-master’s certificate prior to, or while, pursuing a doctor of philosophy degree in nursing, and credits from the post-master’s certificate program can be used as cognates in the PhD program if appropriate.

Requirements for PhD in Nursing students include a one-week on-campus orientation. During that time you will meet with faculty advisors, attend lectures by visiting professors and participate in seminars for required courses.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a terminal degree focused on improving patient care practice. It is designed for nurses who seek an alternative to research-focused doctoral programs. DNPs are evidence-based practice (EBP) experts who translate the evidence into best clinical practice and policy in health care settings. In our DNP program you will gain a strong EBP foundation for learning, and you will graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to transform the health care delivery system. You will acquire the skills and knowledge needed for assessing health care policy, organizational competence, and economic trends in health care so that you can design new, more effective models for patient care that improve health care quality and patient outcomes. Our DNP graduates are expert EBP clinicians who utilize outcomes management, evidence-based quality improvement, and EBP change projects.

In this doctoral program, a Doctor of Nursing Practice Project is required. This project demonstrates original thinking and an ability to evaluate an area of advanced nursing practice. This quality improvement or change project must be evidence based and should involve a population, program, system, or clinical intervention in a health care system. Requirements for DNP students include a one-week, on-campus orientation. During this time you will meet with your Faculty Mentor and Student Advisor, attend guest lectures, and participate in classes for required courses. A second on-campus experience is recommended at Duquesne’s campus in Rome as part of your Transcultural and Global Health studies.

If you are also interested in obtaining a doctorate in nursing, our PhD and DNP programs are among the few programs anywhere to offer a forensic focus.
Choose Duquesne University, and choose a unique education that will prepare you for the challenges of nursing today. Take advantage of our innovative programs. Learn to work with new technologies and in new specialty areas. Develop your sensitivity for diverse cultures and people. Get the help you need to succeed. And get ready for a lifetime of compassionate caring— for you and those you serve.