

## **University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL)**

### **College of Nursing**

#### **THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI--ST. LOUIS (UMSL)**

##### **Overview**

The University of Missouri is one of the nation's largest higher education institutions, with more than 72,000 students on four campuses (St. Louis, Columbia, Kansas City and Rolla) and an extension program with activities in every county of the state. The mission of the University, as a land-grant university and Missouri's only public research and doctoral-level institution, is to discover, disseminate, preserve, and apply knowledge. The University promotes student learning and achievement, fosters innovation to support economic development, and advances the health, cultural, and social interests of the people of Missouri, the nation and the world.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL), established in 1963 as part of the University of Missouri system, is the largest public university serving the St. Louis metropolitan area. As the metropolitan, land-grant, research institution serving the most diverse and economically important region in Missouri, the University of Missouri-St. Louis delivers exceptional educational, research and engagement experiences that inform, prepare, challenge and inspire. UMSL has a rich tradition of fostering student learning through excellent teaching. UMSL's fundamental purpose is to educate and graduate diverse students as they seek different and better lives. Our academic programs emphasize student growth through research, internship opportunities, and one-on-one attention. The University offers nationally recognized academic programs and a safe, attractive campus environment. *Academic Analytics* has ranked UMSL in faculty productivity among the top "small" (i.e., fewer than 15 doctoral programs) research universities. UMSL's programs in International Business, Criminology, Education (Counseling), Nursing and Tropical Ecology are highly ranked and have received recognition for their outstanding programs.

UMSL is situated in metropolitan St. Louis, an area extremely rich in cultural diversity and activities. Located conveniently within minutes of St. Louis Lambert International Airport with two on-campus MetroLink stops, the UMSL campus has a comfortable, suburban feel. The University has partnerships with local commercial organizations, including ExpressScripts, the largest provider of prescription mail services in the US and has been recognized for its extensive community outreach and collaborative partnerships.

UMSL provides its students with 41 undergraduate degrees, 31 Master's level and 13 doctoral programs, 41 graduate certificate programs, two education specialist programs and the only professional optometry degree in Missouri. Its faculty members are nationally recognized leaders, researchers and scholars, journal editors, consultants and entrepreneurs who provide high quality education. The University is culturally and ethnically diverse with a student population of more than 16,700 individuals representing 48 states and more than 60 countries. More than 59% of the students are women and

29% are from minority groups. In addition to its national and international academic programs, UMSL hosts international students and visiting scholars from all regions of the world.

## **COLLEGE OF NURSING<sup>1</sup>**

### **History and Facilities**

Founded in 1981 the College of Nursing (College) is one of eight academic colleges and schools at the UMSL. The College first's first degree program was the RN to BSN post-licensure program. This was later expanded to comprise a total of four BSN options (see below for details). The College has a long history of excellence in teaching, research and service, as well as promoting collaborative relationships with the two other schools of nursing in the System and with clinical and community health agencies in the St. Louis metropolitan area. In 1993, the University received independent degree granting authority for the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program. The PhD program was begun in 1994 and prepares nurse scientists to be outstanding researchers and scholars. In 2008, the College initiated a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, which prepares nurse clinical and system leaders. A BSN-DNP entry option was added in 2015 to transition the academic programs preparing nurse practitioners and nurse leaders from the MSN program to the DNP program.

The College is located on the south campus of the University and includes two physical structures, the Nursing Administration Building and Seton Hall. The need for nurses has led to growth of all the programs in the College, and this growth has, in turn, resulted in a need for expansion of the College's physical facilities. The Nursing Administration Building contains a classroom, seminar/conference rooms, faculty offices and the student services and administrative offices. The renovated Seton Hall contains classrooms, student study and community gathering areas, four nursing simulation and skills laboratories, and additional faculty offices. The three main classrooms in Seton Hall are equipped with full computer access (SMART technology). The Nursing Simulation/Skills Center is composed of two nursing simulation and skills labs and two health assessment labs that provide students with multiple learning environments. Capitalizing on the robust number of health care facilities in St. Louis, the College has over 100 active clinical contracts for student placements, including primary care sites, acute and rehabilitation hospitals, community mental health sites, community health clinics, and immunization clinics. The College's programs benefit enormously from strategic partnerships with other UMSL academic units, medical centers and myriad institutions, companies and community agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> More information about the College is available at: <http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/nursing/>

## **Academic Programs**

The College has nationally accredited baccalaureate and DNP nursing programs. The BSN programs are a traditional pre-licensure program, a traditional part-time (evening/weekend) pre-licensure program, an accelerated pre-licensure program, and an RN to BSN post-licensure programs. The DNP program has nurse practitioner and system and population health emphasis areas and a MSN-DNP option. The PhD program has post-BSN and post-MSN options.

The College's academic programs have been continuously accredited since 1983. In 2016, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) granted continuing accreditation of the BSN, MSN, DNP and post-graduate certificate programs for ten years until 2026. The pre-licensure BSN option is fully approved by the Missouri State Board of Nursing through 2019.

### Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program

The **Bachelor Science in Nursing (BSN) program** contains four options: the traditional pre-licensure option, the traditional part-time (evening/weekend) pre-licensure option, the accelerated pre-licensure option, and the RN to BSN post-licensure option. The baccalaureate program provides the education that serves as the foundation for professional nursing practice. These options focus upon improving health care outcomes nationwide by emphasizing nursing art and science through evidence-based practice. A total of approximately 700 students are enrolled in the various BSN program options.

The **traditional pre-licensure BSN option** is for students who begin their studies as freshmen or as transfer students. The **traditional part-time option** allows for students to complete all clinical coursework over three years. The **accelerated pre-licensure BSN option** is available for students coming in with a baccalaureate degree in another field or students who have earned sufficient credit hours, and was added in 2000 in an attempt to address the nursing shortage and increase access for qualified applicants. A revised concept based curriculum will begin in Fall 2019.

The **RN to BSN post-licensure option** is for registered nurses with diplomas or associate degrees who wish to earn a BSN, and is configured and offered to afford maximum flexibility for the working registered nurse allowing students to complete the program on a part-time basis. The RN to BSN post-licensure track currently enrolls 75 students via on-campus online, and hybrid delivery options.

### Doctoral Programs (PhD and DNP)

The College's doctoral programs focus on preparation as a nurse scientist (PhD) or for leadership for clinical practice through data-based improved practice and patient outcomes (DNP). The PhD program currently enrolls 31 students and the DNP program enrolls 200 students.

The **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program** is designed to prepare graduates to: (a) generate integrated clinical and translational strategies to improve health care delivery and health outcomes in the region and in complex clinical environments; (b) use clinical scholarship and analytical methods in collaboration with multiple disciplines to shape healthcare delivery and policy; and (c) lead the health care community by providing excellence in advanced clinical nursing practice. The focus of the DNP program is preparation for the highest level of leadership in clinical nursing in order to improve quality of health care for individuals and populations through advanced practice and through improving systems of care. The DNP program offers two entry options: BSN-DNP and MSN-DNP. Both programs are offered in a predominately online format with on campus intensive experiences throughout the curriculum. The BSN-DNP option includes Nurse Practitioner and Systems and Population Health tracks. The MSN- DNP program focuses on additional preparation in the areas of health policy, organizational and system leadership, and evidence-based practice. Post-Graduate certificate options in the nurse practitioner areas are also offered.

**The Nurse Practitioner (NP) options** prepares nurse practitioners to be advanced practice specialists in delivering and managing health care delivery to targeted populations. The curricula span adult/geriatric primary care nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, primary care pediatrics nurse practitioner, acute care pediatrics nurse practitioner, psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner and women's health nurse practitioner.

The **PhD program** is designed to prepare graduates to: (a) serve as leaders in nursing and health care; (b) function as nurse scientists to advance the science of nursing practice and contribute to interdisciplinary knowledge; (c) demonstrate advanced knowledge, values and skills in a selected functional role; and (d) use theory, research knowledge and methods to, implement and evaluate practice interventions, health systems and clinical teaching. The PhD program offers two entry options: BSN-PhD and MSN-PhD with much of the program available in an online format. The Collaborations for Advanced Research Methods and Analysis (CARMA) initiative with the University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) and University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) nursing PhD programs has increased the course offerings available for PhD students across all three programs.

## **Research**

The faculty of the College of Nursing maintains active research in areas such as community health and health promotion, mental health among children in the foster care system, lateral violence among nurses, maternal and newborn health, sexual health, substance use and abuse, and cardiovascular care and diabetes management. Methodological expertise includes qualitative and mixed-methods, intervention research, and community-based participatory and patient-centered outcomes research. Faculty members engage active programs of scholarship and academic service, including publishing in peer-reviewed journals, disseminating their work from local to international venues, serving as editors and reviewers for journals, and lending their substantive

expertise to the university community and regional, national and international groups. Our faculty include Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing and of the American Heart Association and others hold national and international positions on boards representing cancer care, mental health, and evidence-based nursing interventions.

The Office of Research supports faculty and students in developing their research and scholarship and is responsible for all grant compliance standards. In Seton Hall and in the College of Nursing Administration building, there are dedicated research work areas containing large tables, work areas, computers and printers, and rooms available for students, faculty members, and research assistants. A variety of statistical software programs, such as SPSS, SAS, AMOS, and NVIVO, and institutional access to survey platforms (Qualtrics) are provided. Faculty members engaged in research are supported in grant writing, proposal and manuscript editing, data analysis, and budget design and management. The College has a faculty member who serves as a representative to the central campus Office of Research Administration Institutional Review Board. She reviews nursing research proposals before they go to the central committee.

## **Faculty Profile**

The nursing faculty currently includes 40 full-time faculty and 41 adjunct faculty members. The College currently has two endowed professorships. Twenty-two full-time faculty hold doctorates and eleven are currently enrolled in doctoral programs.

In addition to a roster of nurse scholars, the College also includes clinician preceptors. They are intended to serve as role models, mentors, and supervisors for the BSN and DNP programs. They are expected to fulfill the duties and responsibilities defined by the College and their employer and provide written and verbal information about students to course faculty.

## **Staff Profile**

The College recognizes the importance of consistent student advising to ensure a smooth progression into and through the curricula. In the Office of Student Services, lead by the Assistant Dean for Student and Alumna Affairs, a staff of seven support students in all programs to ensure that program requirements are fulfilled and the students' educational plans are as efficient as possible. This includes four full-time academic advisors and a student success and retention coordinator who work closely with students and faculty to support student success throughout the program.

The Academic Program area led by the Associate Dean for Academic Programs includes four staff that support various activities and functions related to the academic programs, clinical placement, compliance requirements, class scheduling and program evaluation.

The Business and Fiscal Operations area led by the Assistant Dean for Administrative Operations includes three staff who support accounting, fiscal, physical facilities, and

faculty travel activities. The College's technology needs are supported by a software support expert and student technical assistants.

The Office of Research is led by the Associate Dean for research and includes a research associate who provides support to faculty for proposal development, post-award activities for funded research, and statistical support.

The Office of the Dean is supported by the executive assistant to the dean.