

NEW OFFERINGS TO ENHANCE NURSING PROGRAMS

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(From *Rivier Today*, Fall 2013)

Rivier launches new M.S. Nursing Leadership in Health Systems Management (online) and Ed.D. in Leadership and Learning with Nursing Education Specialization

Two new nursing degree programs will build upon Rivier's already robust nursing offerings. An online Master of Science in Nursing Leadership in Health Systems Management and a Nursing Education Specialization track in its existing Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Leadership and Learning program were launched this fall and spring 2014.

M.S. Nursing Leadership in Health Systems Management



The Master of Science in Nursing Leadership in Health Systems Management prepares nurses for supervisory and management responsibilities in all practice environments, building the necessary skills for leadership career tracks. Nurse leaders facilitate and deliver quality patient care while coordinating workflow and managing nursing care. A nurse administrator may run a small team of nurses, several nursing units, an entire department or entire health system.

“These nurses are well versed in nursing practice as well as in administrative procedures. Nurses drawn to this specialty typically aspire to be leaders in health care and often seek executive and policy making roles,” said Dean of Nursing and Assistant Professor of Nursing **Dr. Paula Williams, RN, CNE**.

Leadership roles for nurse leaders often include nurse-managed clinics, managed care firms, community-based clinics, ambulatory care centers, hospitals, data management firms, practice management organizations, and corporate organizations.

The program will focus on health care systems, health care finance, management, and evidence-based decision making for the nurse administrator as well as health policy skills critical for today's high performance oriented nurse executive. It also teaches nurses how to solve problems, make decisions, resolve conflict, and operationalize the mission and goals of the health care delivery system. This program focuses on the development of leadership skills and knowledge in areas such as fiscal management, legal/ethical issues, strategic planning, organization structures and marketing.

Ed.D. in Leadership and Learning with Nursing Education Specialization

Rivier brings education and nursing together at the highest level through the Doctorate of Education in Leadership and Learning with a specialization in Nursing Education. The program is designed for

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working professionals who hold a master's degree in nursing, and who have an interest in learning, researching, and advancing their knowledge about leadership in teaching and learning, human growth and development, and the policies and practices that enhance learning.

The program will allow nursing educators to develop a deep understanding of the social, cultural, economic, and political influences and forces in society that effect education. This doctorate prepares leaders who can anticipate the need for development of effective policies, practices, and interventions based on current research knowledge to promote leadership in learning.

“We are very excited to offer the new addition of the Ed. D. in Leadership and Learning with a Specialization in Nursing Education,” said Professor of Nursing **Dr. Denise Baxter, APRN, CNE**. “This program will offer masters-prepared nurses an opportunity to continue their education at the doctoral level.”

According to Baxter, the 2010 Institute of Medicine government report titled "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health" includes the key message that “Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.” This report is leading the current nursing education reform in the United States. In keeping with the goal of developing programs that are innovative in recognizing the need for change, a partnership between Rivier University's Ed.D. program in Leadership and Learning and the nursing program has been developed. “Nursing education needs teachers with a deep nursing knowledge who also know how to teach and conduct research on nursing education, and who engage in the scholarship of teaching and learning,” Baxter said.

Nurses with a master's degree in a variety of specializations may qualify for the Nursing Education track of the Ed.D. program, including nursing education, family nurse practice, psychiatric mental health nurse practice, nursing leadership, acute care nursing, adult nursing, geriatric nursing, neonatal nursing, palliative care nursing, pediatric nursing, obstetrics nursing and gynecological nursing.

The nursing shortage and complex demands of the nursing profession put nursing education in a unique position of opportunity and responsibility to expand and improve the field. Over the last decade, the number of available nursing faculty has decreased to the extent that schools face severe shortages of teachers. Rivier's Nursing Education specialization includes courses and content that help qualify nursing professionals to become faculty in this critical need area.

The program also allows students to continue developing their career goals, meet personal aspirations and expand their professional network while reaching the highest level of nursing education.■

For more information on these programs, please visit <http://www.rivier.edu/gradnursing>.