School of Graduate Nursing

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Nursing has been one of the professional disciplines of the University of Virginia since 1901, when a three-year diploma program was first offered to high school students under the aegis of the University of Virginia Hospital and the Department of Medicine. Today, as one of the 10 independent schools of the University with a full-time faculty of 50 and an enrollment of 500 undergraduate and graduate students, the school offers the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing, and, as a department of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing.

The first baccalaureate degree in nursing, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education, was offered in 1928 for the first time through the School of Nursing Education in the Department of Education, made possible by an endowment of $50,000 from the Graduate Nurses’ Association of Virginia in memory of Sadie Heath Cabaniss, Virginia’s outstanding pioneer nurse. The purpose of this degree program was to train registered nurses for teaching, supervisory, or administrative positions.

The present baccalaureate program was established in 1950 as a four-year course, with a curriculum consisting of a two-year academic concentration followed by the two-year nursing major. In 1953, a Department of Nursing was established to administer the diploma program and the two baccalaureate programs: the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education. Three years later, in 1956, this department became the School of Nursing. The Master of Science in Nursing Program, initiated in 1972, currently offers specialty preparation in community health/public health and health systems management; nurse practitioner preparation in acute care nursing, primary care nursing, and psychiatric mental health nursing; and clinical specialist preparation in acute and specialty care and in psychiatric mental health nursing. The primary care nursing track prepares family nurse practitioners and pediatric nurse practitioners. The acute care track prepares clinical nurse specialists and nurse practitioners to function in acute care settings. The geriatric nurse practitioner track prepares nurses for specialized care of the elderly. A new option, the Clinical Nurse Leader, was initiated in 2005 to prepare second degree students as masters prepared nurse generalists.

Wound, ostomy, and continence post master's preparation is also available.

The school offers two additional joint degrees: an M.S.N.-M.B.A. program in
collaboration with the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration, and an M.S.N.-M.A. in Bioethics in collaboration with the School of Medicine, the School of Law, and the Department of Religious Studies.

The Ph.D. in Nursing Program, begun in 1982, is designed to prepare scholars and researchers committed to expanding the base of nursing knowledge. Major components of the program include nursing, research, cognates, and electives. The program is housed in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

The School of Nursing, accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and the Virginia State Board of Nursing, is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and the Southern Regional Education Board. The school was first accredited by the National League of Nursing Education in 1941 and appeared on the first list of accredited nursing schools issued by the league.

In addition to actively participating in the leading national nursing organizations, the school has an active chapter, Beta Kappa, of Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society of nursing. Both graduate and undergraduate students are eligible for membership.

**Address**

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University of Virginia  
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**Facilities and Resources**

**McLeod Hall** Located in the eastern part of the University Grounds, near the University of Virginia Medical Center, the school occupies McLeod Hall, a five story building with classrooms, clinical learning laboratories, seminar rooms and offices. It also houses the center for Nursing Historical Inquiry, one of two archive nursing history centers in the United States.

The School of Nursing draws upon the multiple resources of the University’s 10 academic divisions and the University of Virginia Health System in offering its graduate programs in nursing. The programs are further strengthened by the facilities and personnel of a wide variety of Virginia hospitals, community health centers, health departments, and private physicians’ offices.

**Claude Moore Health Sciences Library** This library primarily serves the faculty, students, and staff of the University of Virginia Health System, which includes the Schools of Medicine and Nursing and the hospital.

The library is a modern facility with small group meeting rooms, audiovisual viewing rooms, typing rooms, microcomputers, and photocopy machines. It maintains well-developed collections of books, journals, reference materials, and audiovisual materials in medicine, nursing, and related areas.

The Health Sciences Instructional Resources Center, on the first floor of the library, maintains a substantial collection of multi-media. A variety of players, projectors,
recorders, monitors, and a cluster of microcomputers are available for use in the center, and a small collection of equipment is available for use outside the center. The library also houses an extensive historical collection.

The resources in the Health Sciences Library are augmented by materials in Alderman and Clemons Libraries, the Science/Technology Information Center, various departmental libraries (e.g., biology, psychology, physics, chemistry, engineering, and law) and libraries of the departments and clinics in the School of Medicine. These libraries include special collections in historical materials in nursing and medicine.

**University of Virginia Health System** The University Hospital, together with the Kluge Children’s Rehabilitation Center, comprise a tertiary-care teaching facility with over 550 beds. Approximately 27,000 patients, from a wide geographic area, are cared for each year on the inpatient units.

The hospital provides a stimulating, challenging learning environment for graduate students. As a regional medical center, the hospital serves a diverse group of patients whose health care needs are often complex. In addition to general medicine, all major subspecialty services are available, including cardiology, endocrinology, hematology/oncology, nephrology, neurology, pulmonary, and rheumatology. Surgery departments include thoracic-cardiovascular surgery, plastic surgery, neurosurgery, urology, orthopedics, gynecology, otolaryngology, ophthalmology, and general surgery. In addition to medical and surgical units, there are a number of critical care areas: a medical intensive care unit, a surgical intensive care unit, a burn center, and a coronary care unit.

As with adult services, all major pediatric subspecialties are available to children and adolescent patients. A pediatric intensive care unit and a neonatal intensive care unit with an air-ground Emergency Transport System serve critically ill children and neonates from central and western Virginia and surrounding areas.

Over 335,000 patients are seen annually in the clinics at the Health Sciences Center. The Outpatient Department houses medical and pediatric specialty clinics. The Primary Care Center includes over 126 examining and consultant rooms, a patient education center, playrooms for the children of adult clients, and short-term beds for temporary observation. Medicine, family practice, dermatology, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, and the oncology service see patients in this facility.

An additional 58,000 patients are seen annually in the Emergency Room. Patients range from the non-acute to the severely injured or critically ill. Radio and telemetry communication with all local rescue squads helps to provide pre-hospital care and stabilization of patients.

The psychiatric facilities of the University of Virginia Health System include inpatient, outpatient, emergency, and consultation-liaison services. Clinics for children, adolescents, families, and adults offer a range of diagnostic treatment, consultation, and educational services, including individual, family, and group therapy on an outpatient basis.

The Kluge Children’s Rehabilitation Center has both an intermediate care inpatient unit and multiple outpatient clinics for children and adolescents with a variety of orthopedic and chronic conditions. The center provides medical treatment, physiotherapy, education, occupational therapy, training in the activities of daily living, training in speech and hearing, and vocational guidance. Family services are provided through psychological and genetic counseling and medical social work.

The hospital is registered by the American Medical Association as meeting hospital standards, is on the approved list of the American College of Surgeons, and is
approved by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association as acceptable for the training of interns, as well as for various residencies and fellowships. In addition, the hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.

Cooperating Clinical Institutions and Agencies

The School of Nursing cooperates with other institutions and agencies to provide research and clinical learning opportunities for students. It utilizes health departments, community hospitals, outpatient facilities, industries, schools, geriatric care facilities, mental health care facilities, and tertiary and ambulatory clinical services for patients of all ages. Students have the opportunity to function in advanced practice roles under preceptor guidance.

Advising and Counseling

Cooperation and personal attention mark the relations between faculty members and students. Each graduate student is assigned an academic faculty advisor by the associate dean upon admission to the school, and students are encouraged to avail themselves of this resource. The School of Nursing Office of Admissions and Student Services provides assistance and serves as a source of information for other support resources. The Department of Student Health and the University Counseling Center are available to assist the student through individual and group counseling sessions.

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