Duke University School of Nursing

Transforming Care. Touching Lives.
Thank you for your interest in becoming a part of Duke University School of Nursing!

DUSON, as it’s called by many, is an organization and culture committed to providing the best educational environment for the development of nursing leaders. Whether you have had a career in another field and are looking to transition into nursing or are already a nurse and looking to advance professionally, we have a program that is right for you.

What is DUSON?

Established in 1931, we are an academic center of excellence that is heavily involved in the advancement of nursing science, the promotion of clinical scholars and the education of clinical leaders, advanced practitioners and researchers.

The Duke University School of Nursing community is committed to the growth and development of our facilities and resources to help you be successful. Our School includes state-of-the-art simulation labs, classrooms and technology to help our students hone their nursing knowledge and skills.

Who are our faculty and staff?

Our faculty and staff are recognized internationally for their excellence. Not only are they committed to educating the nursing leaders of tomorrow, they are also at the helm of critically important research that is changing the future of health care.

More than 99% of our faculty are doctorally prepared. They are renowned experts in their field and use the latest technology and teaching strategies to help students reach their potential. Many of our faculty conduct cutting edge research and testing to improve the health of those with chronic illness. Many others are actively involved in practice in their specialty area, such as caring for at-risk newborns and women as well as those with heart failure, diabetes, etc. In short, DUSON faculty have the knowledge, skills and experience to help you become the best nurse, nurse practitioner, educator, executive or researcher!

Who are our students?

At DUSON, it is all about you – the student! As one of the leading nursing schools in the country, our learning climate is where you will find creativity, a genuine respect for others and an opportunity to realize your potential contributions to health care.

Through strong advisement and mentoring, students from around the globe pursue a world-class degree from Duke and bring diverse perspectives into the classroom. And with many of our degree and certificate programs being distance-based, faculty use creative approaches to deliver top-quality education while students learn without leaving their jobs.

What can you expect at DUSON?

Read on to find the information you need for a uniquely personalized educational experience to help prepare you for the future you want. Meet the program directors from our Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs and get brief facts on their respective programs. You can also learn more about our programs as well as other initiatives at DUSON by visiting nursing.duke.edu.

I hope that you will consider joining DUSON and the Duke Blue Devil family as you advance your nursing career.

Sincerely,

Marion E. Broome
Why Choose Duke?

At Duke University School of Nursing, preparing for the nursing profession involves the active transformation of knowledge into practice.

- Cultural competency is an integral part of what we teach and learn here. A growing number of students choose to participate in cultural immersion experiences in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Faculty members are conducting in-depth and cross-disciplinary research, searching for practical solutions to health care issues ranging from the care of sickle cell disease patients to best practices for helping patients waiting for a liver transplant cope with the uncertainties of the process.

- We champion innovation and entrepreneurship in nursing practice, research and education.

- Duke University School of Nursing values diversity as a crucial component in its engagement with students, faculty and the world. You’ll find a learning climate where creativity, robust yet respectful debate and a genuine respect for others can flourish — an environment where diversity can spawn intellectual engagement and collaborative partnerships. Our students are people of all ages, at every stage of their nursing careers. Our faculty, like our students, come from across the nation and the world.

Whether you’re just entering the field of nursing or pursuing an advanced degree, Duke University School of Nursing offers a top-ranked and uniquely personalized education to help you prepare for the future you want.
Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) Program

The Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program is a second-degree program for students who have completed at least an undergraduate degree and the required prerequisites prior to the time of enrollment.

It is an intensive, full-time campus-based 16-month program (or four 12-week semesters). The curriculum includes six credit hours of electives with graduate credit options. This program incorporates all of the components of a traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program with an additional focus on 21st century health care needs and environment.

Upon completion of the ABSN program, graduates are eligible for the licensure examination to become a registered nurse (RN) and enter into professional nursing practice as a generalist. The program focuses on clinical leadership, evidence-based nursing practice and culturally-relevant care, utilizing dynamic teaching-learning strategies, simulation and virtual and standardized patients.

This rigorous program offers students the advantage of practical experience in clinical, community and global health sites, reflecting the diversity of the internationally respected Duke University Health System, ranked among the nation’s top health care institutions.
Why pursue your ABSN at Duke?

- Expert faculty with diverse clinical backgrounds and expertise in nursing
- Opportunity to continue directly into most Duke graduate specialty tracks
- Personalized advising from faculty
- Low faculty-to-student ratios in the clinical setting
- Interprofessional education initiatives
- Six credit hours of electives with graduate credit options, allowing students to explore areas of interest
- First-time RN licensure pass rate of 98.5%

Meet ABSN Program Director:
Dr. Brigit Carter

Brigit M. Carter, PhD, MSN, RN, CCRN, joined the School of Nursing in 2010 and teaches pediatrics and professional nursing in the ABSN program. She earned her BSN at North Carolina Central University in 1998, an MSN in nursing education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2002 and a PhD in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2009. She continues her clinical practice as a staff nurse in the Duke University Medical Center intensive care nursery, where she has 16 years’ experience. She is the project director of the HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity grant at DUSON, “The Academy for Academic and Social Enrichment and Leadership Development for Health Equity,” and is also the academic coordinator for this program.

Dr. Carter’s experience in nursing education before joining the DUSON faculty included intensive care nursery staff education and development coordination and teaching positions at both Duke as a clinical instructor in labor and delivery for ABSN students and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a teaching fellow in the UNC School of Nursing. She serves as a board member of the North Carolina Nursing Association.

Dr. Carter has 26 years of U. S. Navy service (including nine on active duty) and is currently serving in the rank of commander in the U. S. Navy Reserves. She is stationed at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Dr. Carter’s current research focuses on nursing care of premature infants (<1500 grams) with feeding intolerance and identification of measurable methods for early detection of feeding intolerance.
The program is highly flexible, allowing students to meet their personal needs and professional goals. Students have a variety of study options including part-time, full-time, online and distance-based. Distance-based courses blend the convenience of online coursework with classroom interaction during intensive on-campus learning experiences.

The MSN curriculum includes required core courses and specific courses within each major. Students can select from several clinical and systems electives or choose to add a unique clinical specialty to their major. A student’s program of study culminates with a synthesis course — an immersion in a mentored clinical or field experience that integrates the skills and knowledge learned throughout the program of study.

Students will have plentiful opportunities to interact with expert clinicians and nurse leaders affiliated with the world-renowned Duke University Health System and are encouraged to participate in the Duke School of Nursing’s cutting-edge research initiatives. No matter which major is chosen, students will benefit from outstanding mentorship from globally recognized faculty who have extensive research and clinical expertise in their fields of study.

The Duke University School of Nursing MSN program develops leaders in research, education, clinical practice and administration who are educated to become the next generation of transformational leaders in nursing and health care.

Why pursue your MSN at Duke?

- Ranked among the top four graduate nursing schools in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2017 rankings
- Small, collegial atmosphere and experientially-based curriculum provide an ideal environment for exploring and reaching personal career goals
- Multiple financial aid options available to help fund your education
- Learning environments range from high-tech to rural underserved settings
- Extensive clinical and intellectual resources available at Duke University Health System and Duke University
Michael Zychowicz, DNP, ANP, ONP, FAAN, FAANP, is board certified as an Adult and Orthopedic Nurse Practitioner (NP). He earned his associate’s degree from Orange County Community College, an MSN as a nurse practitioner from Syracuse University and a DNP at Case Western Reserve University.

Dr. Zychowicz taught at Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, New York, from 1999 to 2008 prior to joining Duke. While in Newburgh, he also practiced in orthopedics, primarily focusing on spine care. He was selected as the New York State NP of the Year in 2004. He received the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) Award for Excellence and was selected as a fellow of the AANP, both in 2007. Dr. Zychowicz was selected for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Leadership in Academic Nursing Fellowship (2007-2008) and was inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 2013.

Dr. Zychowicz served as an Army Reserve officer between 1991 and 2005. He published the book “Orthopedic Nursing Secrets” and has published many articles and chapters on a variety of orthopedic topics. In 2010 he joined the journal Orthopedic Nursing as a columnist writing about orthopedic pathophysiology. He is frequently invited to lecture at conferences and seminars nationally and internationally, where he shares his expertise and passion for orthopedic topics.

Michael Zychowicz, DNP, ANP, ONP, FAAN, FAANP, is board certified as an Adult and Orthopedic Nurse Practitioner (NP). He earned his associate’s degree from Orange County Community College, an MSN as a nurse practitioner from Syracuse University and a DNP at Case Western Reserve University.

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**MSN Program Majors**

**Advanced Practice Registered Nurse**
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner
- Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

**Specialties**
- Cardiology
- Endocrinology
- HIV/AIDS
- Oncology
- Orthopedics
- Veterans Health Care Concentration

**Nursing Informatics**

**Health Care Leadership**

**Nursing Education**
Being inducted as a fellow by a professional association, academy or society is one of the highest honors a faculty member can receive. At the Duke University School of Nursing, our faculty have earned more than 46 fellowship designations.

- Academy of Emergency Nursing
- Academy of Nursing Education
- American Academy of Nursing
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- American College of Critical Care Medicine
- American College of Medical Informatics
- American Heart Association
- Gerontological Society of America
- National Academy of Practice in Nursing
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners
- Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy

The average passing rate of a Duke School of Nursing ABSN student on licensing examinations is 100%.

Duke Chapel
The Duke Chapel is 210 feet tall, and weddings are booked one year in advance of the wedding month. Some couples camp out around “sign ups” to ensure they can be the first to book their special day.

Published by NCBON. NCLEX-RN candidates from Duke who took the exam 1/1-9/30/16.

For 37 years DUSON faculty and students have engaged with global partners to reduce health disparities and improve quality of care. Today Duke nursing students and faculty are studying in China, Tanzania, Rwanda, the Caribbean and Central America.

Duke School of Nursing faculty who are doctorally prepared is 99%.

Krzyzewskiville
In order to attend some home basketball games, Duke students camp out for almost two months.

Faculty Who Are Fellows

1 Academy of Emergency Nursing
5 Academy of Nursing Education
26 American Academy of Nursing
7 American Association of Nurse Practitioners
1 American College of Critical Care Medicine
1 American College of Medical Informatics
1 American Heart Association
1 Gerontological Society of America
1 National Academy of Practice in Nursing
1 National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners
1 Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy
Who are Fellows

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- Academy of Nursing Education
- American Academy of Nursing
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- American College of Critical Care Medicine
- American College of Medical Informatics
- American Heart Association
- Gerontological Society of America
- National Academy of Practice in Nursing
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates
- Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy

2018 US News & World Report Ranking

- #1 Best Graduate School for Nursing
- #1 Best Doctor of Nursing Practice Program
- #3 Best Online Graduate Nursing School (2017)

- #2 Nurse Practitioner: Pediatric, Primary Care
- #3 Nurse Anesthesia
- #3 Nursing Informatics
- #4 Nurse Practitioner: Family
- #5 Nurse Practitioner: Adult-Gerontology, Acute Care

Faculty Growth 2006 - 2015

The Duke Lemur Center is the world’s largest sanctuary for rare and endangered prosimian primates.
The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program prepares nurses for advanced practice roles and as clinical scholars skilled in the translation of research and evidence into clinical practice, the measurement of patient outcomes and the transformation of health care systems to ensure quality and safety.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program provides skills and tools that enable you to:

- Enhance quality of patient care
- Assess published evidence to inform your practice
- Improve systems of care to influence patient outcomes

Graduates of our DNP program are nurse leaders in interdisciplinary health care teams and work to improve systems of care, patient outcomes, quality and safety.

The Duke DNP program is flexible and accommodates nurses working in advanced practice positions and students who have earned a bachelor's degree in nursing and want to pursue a DNP while earning an advanced nursing practice specialty. Between 74 and 83 credits are required for students with a BSN, depending on the advanced practice specialty selected.

**Why pursue your DNP at Duke?**

- Students learn alongside distinguished faculty with broad experience in advanced clinical practice, leadership and patient safety
- The DNP program at Duke is accredited by the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- All of the required courses are online with some classes having an on-campus component once a semester for a two- to three-day executive session
- The DNP is a five- to six-semester program for a master’s-prepared student who progresses through the program following the recommended matriculation plan

**New! DNP Executive Leadership Specialty**

This brand-new specialty provides seasoned nurse leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to lead complex and changing organizations and health care systems. Students will be able to:

- Lead complex organizations by understanding people, organizations and the advanced use of multiple sources of data.
- Develop skills in designing, implementing and evaluating care of populations to meet organizational goals.
- Forecast and monitor trends in patient care, health care legislation and more.
Nurse Anesthesia – Doctor of Nursing Practice

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) with specialization in nurse anesthesia prepares clinical scholars with an education in anesthetic administration in a wide array of clinical settings to patients across the lifespan. This program addresses the critical leadership skills needed to translate evidence-based care into practice, change systems of care and measure outcomes of groups of patients, populations and communities.

The Duke DNP with specialization in nurse anesthesia is a 36-month 83-credit full-time on-campus program. The curriculum is an integration of DNP, APRN and nurse anesthesia specialty courses. The program culminates in completion of a capstone project addressing a process improvement or quality improvement project affecting populations of patients, health care organizations and health care systems in a clinical setting.

Graduates from our program have a CRNA certification exam pass rate of 100 percent. All of our graduates find employment upon graduation.
The PhD in Nursing program prepares nurse scholars who will build nursing science by leading interdisciplinary research initiatives that span from prevention of chronic illness to care at the end-of-life in a variety of populations, and includes how the systems and settings in which health care is delivered influence health trajectories.

The purpose of these initiatives will be to better understand, develop and test innovative interventions. Our approach is to admit a small number of highly qualified applicants so that every student will work closely with one or more faculty members in a series of mentored experiences supported by formal course work to:

- Ensure socialization to the role of research scientist
- Gain significant knowledge and skill acquisition for launching a successful program of independent research postdoctorate
- Prepare for an entry-level role in an academic setting

To that end, the PhD program provides the student with:

- Broad perspective on the philosophy of science and its application to solving challenging health problems facing our nation
- Experience with common and emerging research design and methods
- Rigorous training in statistics
- Mentored research and teaching experiences to reinforce knowledge acquisition and skill development
Debra Brandon, PhD, RN, CCNS, FAAN, joined the faculty of the Duke University School of Nursing in 1999. She has practiced as a Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Intensive Care Nursery of Duke University Medical Center since 1994. She has extensive clinical experience in neonatology, pediatrics and child development. She received her BSN and MSN from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and earned her PhD in Nursing at UNC-Chapel Hill in 2000.

Before joining the Duke faculty, Dr. Brandon was a pediatric clinical nurse specialist at the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, NY, and a developmental clinical nurse specialist at the Center for Development and Learning in Chapel Hill, NC. She was also on the faculty in the nursing and medical schools of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Brandon is an active member of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) and the International Society for Infant Studies (ISIS), and is a co-editor for the journal Advances in Neonatal Care. Her research interests include the effects of the intensive care environment on the growth and development of pre-term infants.

Dr. Brandon's research focuses on the health and development of high-risk infants and young children with an overall goal of improving the short- and long-term outcomes of high-risk preterm infants and their families.

PhD students receive full tuition support and a monthly stipend for up to five years.

Full-time study is required. The program requires a minimum of 47 credit hours of course work prior to the dissertation. The program can be completed in three to five years.

Applicants will be expected to identify a research focus match with a PhD faculty mentor in the School.

Faculty research is varied and can be located at nursing.duke.edu

Course work emphasis is focused on:

- Exploring the interface between chronically ill individuals and their care environments
- Developing expertise in state-of-the-art longitudinal methodologies and quantitative and qualitative techniques of analysis
Office of Global and Community Health Initiatives (OGACHI)

The **Office of Global and Community Health Initiatives** (OGACHI) is committed to addressing health disparities locally and globally through education, research and service.

The objectives of OGACHI are to:
- Enhance cultural understanding, sensitivity and competence
- Improve health outcomes worldwide
- Strengthen health-related human resources and capacity
- Generate and disseminate global health knowledge

Established in 2006, OGACHI serves as a catalyst of local, regional and international activities for DUSON by facilitating the development and implementation of partnerships across the Duke campus and around the world.

OGACHI helps students by facilitating global clinical placements and immersions in Africa, the Caribbean, Central America and China.

“We live in an increasingly diverse and global community. Now more than ever, it’s vital to cultivate nurse leaders who are culturally sensitive, aware of current and emerging health needs and poised to address health disparities worldwide. Our work targets countries and locations with the poorest health indicators where access to quality care, illness prevention, health promotion, education and research has the potential to positively influence outcomes and truly make a difference.”

**Michael Reif, PhD, RN, ANCS-BC, AACRN, CNE, FAAN**  
Associate Dean for Global and Community Health Affairs
The **Center for Nursing Research** (CNR) is dedicated to providing resources that faculty, students and Duke University Health System practicing nurses and researchers need to advance nursing and interdisciplinary science.

A diverse community of scholars and clinicians, along with skilled staff support, the CNR educates and supports the next generation of research leaders in nursing.

The CNR focuses on four key areas that concentrate on optimizing health across the spectrum from discovery to translation. These areas of research excellence are:

- **Clinical Innovation**: Advancing approaches using ideas, processes, products, procedures or interventions and health system changes to benefit the health of individuals, groups and populations
- **Population Health**: Increasing health outcomes of a group of individuals, including families or communities, and reducing health disparities within the group
- **Precision Health**: Evidence-based, customized approach to health that incorporates genomics, environment and lifestyle
- **Methods and Analytics**: Optimizing the use of cutting-edge and underutilized approaches to study design and analytics

CNR researchers are leaders in nursing science in several key areas. For example, faculty are on the cutting edge of utilizing mHealth applications and virtual environments to explore chronic disease management and utilizing biomarkers and genetics to determine risk patterns and outcome trajectories. Researchers are also advancing cognitive and affective symptom science in chronic illness in order to empower patients and their caregivers to achieve optimal management of symptoms and enhance quality of life. Researchers in statistics are utilizing visualization techniques to analyze large and complex data sets.

“We’ve created a central place to help researchers think through projects and to access resources, a place to get people to stretch their minds and think outside the box.”

*Marilyn J. Hockenberry, PhD, RN, PNP-BC, FAAN*  
Associate Dean for Research Affairs
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Visit us:
The best way to visit campus is to schedule a visit through the Office of Admissions and Student Services. Our admissions professionals are available to discuss the programs, admission requirements and selection process and give tours of our facility weekdays at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

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Visit us at nursing.duke.edu