Scholarships
Providence Southwest and the Betti Foundation have once again been generous in their support of nursing education scholarships. Thank you! Did you know the RN to BSN program has a Nursing Scholarship Fund supported exclusively by community and alumni donations? The university is kicking off its annual 3.21 giving campaign and although people can give whenever they feel inclined, the purpose of the giving day is to create an event with a bit of competition to inspire people to give at a specific time. Gifts made online on March 21 or by mailing in a check with “3.21GIVE (nursing fund)” on the memo line, will count toward the giving day total. Clicking on the “Scholarships and Financial Aid” box, you can select the option for the nursing scholarship. 100% of the contributions will help build the Nursing Fund Scholarship. The competition is more about participation than actual dollar amount so consider even contributing the cost of a latte or a movie ticket at give.stmartin.edu. Set an appointment reminder on your calendar to save the date to donate. Thank you!

Student Enrollment

Students in the current NUR courses

The RN to BSN program is expecting to graduate one student in May, seven in August and two more in December. We already have twelve students admitted for the Fall semester with more applications coming in. Recruitment efforts continue with program faculty and admission counselors visiting hospitals as well as colleges with ADN programs. We would love coming to your workplace to talk about our program if you have RNs interested in pursuing their BSN. Give Diane a call or send an email her way. Remember you can help recruit too! Print the accompanying flyer, featuring an “old” program alumna Andrea Raincrow-Chisholm, and post it in your breakroom! We have some swag to share too (pens and sticky notes) if you are interested. The SMU nursing website lists information sessions offered at the university as another option. Thank you to recent alumni who have accompanied Diane to their alma maters to recruit: Rosa Welch at South Puget Sound Community College, Morgan Watters and Rachel Eaton at Grays Harbor College. It was fun!
New Program Director

SMU is pleased to announce Dr. Teri Woo has accepted the position as the new director of the Nursing Program and will start July 1, 2018. Dr. Woo, a Full Professor, has over 30 years of nursing experience and academic leadership. She has taught in nursing programs at Oregon Health Sciences University, University of Portland and at Pacific Lutheran University before coming to Saint Martin’s University. She has taught nursing at the baccalaureate, master and doctoral levels with her specialties being pharmacology and pathophysiology. She comes from PLU, where she is a professor and associate dean for graduate nursing programs. Click here to read more!

Thank you to nursing program alumni who participated in the director search. Sol Maldonado, Phillip Miller and Jevahly Wark, we appreciate your active involvement with the nursing program including the successful search for a program director.

Current RN to BSN Faculty

SMU welcomes Dr. Cassi Spencer, to the nursing program now teaching two core courses; Health Policy and Promoting Population Health in the Community. Dr. Spencer earned her DNP from WSU in population health. She currently works primarily for Madigan Army Medical Center in the Olympia clinic as a population health nurse and has previous teaching experience in community health with BSN students at PLU.

Dr. Fuji McPherson returns most spring semesters to provide his expertise teaching the nursing program elective titled Traditional Chinese Medicine and Evidence Based Practice. As usual, this spring his class has drawn a diverse group of students including SMU staff and faculty. Dr. McPherson earned his Doctorate in Asian and Oriental Medicine, is a family nurse practitioner, and licensed East Asian medicine practitioner practicing TCM at the internal medicine clinic at Madigan Army Medical Center at JBLM.

Dr. Diane Hamilton continues teaching responsibilities and well as providing leadership as the Interim Director for the nursing program at SMU. Dr. Hamilton continues her part time practice in the critical care unit at Providence St. Peter Hospital. She has been teaching core nursing courses at SMU for three years since earning her DNP in nursing education.

The RN to BSN program accreditation with CCNE comes up for review in 2018 with the site visit scheduled for September 12-14. You may be asked to assist with this very important process! Please mark your calendars.
Program Expansion

Dr. Woo is eager to begin the collaborative work to develop a prelicensure registered nursing program. She will help build the current program as well as design and implement a generic RN program. As you know, many prospective qualified applicants are turned away from overfull nursing programs. Communities of interest support a new program in Washington State and an application for the proposed program will be submitted to the Nursing Care and Quality Assurance Commission once Teri gets her feet under her at SMU.

Celebrating our Graduates

Last August, the nursing program began celebrating its graduates during a pinning ceremony and it was so well received not only by the graduates but by many of the program alumni. As a result, the nursing program will be celebrating the 2nd Annual Pinning Ceremony and Alumni Reunion on August 15th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Saint Martin’s University in the Cebula Hall Event Space. Alumni who have not received a SMU BSN pin are invited to order one and participate in the pinning ceremony. All nursing alumni are encouraged to attend and reconnect with their classmates and support the new graduates! Remember how exciting it was to graduate! The program includes a keynote address, pinning of graduates and a buffet dinner will be served. This is an opportunity to meet Teri Woo, the new director of the nursing program. If you are interested in ordering a pin or to RSVP for the pinning ceremony please contact Diane Hamilton at dhamilton@stmartin.edu.

Save the date: August 15, 2018!

Program Satisfaction

Thank you to nursing program Advisory Committee member Malika Lamont for listening to the current nursing students as they provided confidential feedback regarding the program. The feedback is very important and is one way the program makes improvements. Students felt many things in the program are working well, from well-organized syllabi to the community experiences they receive. Kind and helpful faculty as well as once a week campus classes were positives. Room for improvement included Moodle, the online learning management system has some weaknesses and time management is challenging especially during this practicum semester. Students would recommend SMU to others.

Continuing Education Event

In collaboration with Providence St. Peter Hospital, the SMU nursing program is co-sponsoring a conference on June 4th and 5th in the NWCC, with nationally recognized Nicole Kupchik. Nicole has practiced as a critical care nurse for over 20 years and currently is a staff nurse at Harborview Medical Center and frequently teaches critical care content nationally. Sepsis and a potpourri of critical care topics are on the agenda. If interested in attending, contact Diane. More information available soon.
Current Students’ Service

The current RN to BSN students are well into their community practicum projects making a positive impact in their communities through their experiences.

- Amandeep Kaur has finished her project serving guests at the Auburn Ray of Hope day shelter and resource center. She provided specific 1:1 education to guests with health needs, obtained and organized the OTC medications and created and displayed health promotion-related posters.
- Nicole Allen is being precepted by a palliative care nurse at Providence Centralia Hospital. She is working to build a knowledge bridge to ensure her coworkers in the Emergency Department understand the process for obtaining palliative care consultation for their patients.
- Caitlin Brothers and Jessica Rosenow are both with nurses in the Bethel School District. They are getting experience in different schools and with children varying in ages from preschool to high school. They are participating in basic health screening and will begin their specific projects soon.
- Katala Lach and Amanda Taylor are also getting experience with school nurses. Katala in the Tumwater School District and Amanda in the North Thurston schools. They too are gaining insight into the roles and responsibilities of this type of community nursing and are working on projects to support specific student groups.
- Donna Slusser is gaining a new perspective and understanding in her practicum experience with a Providence Centralia Hospital social worker. They are seeking resources for patients ready for hospital discharge, but who are without the resources needed for optimal outcomes.
- Amanda McCleskey is completing her practicum at Quixote Village. She has engaged with the residents and they have requested she provide education to them about the signs of stroke and heart attack and the interventions they can provide to one another in these emergencies.
- Alyssa Tumangday is reviewing the relevant literature and creating an education session related to policies hospitals use when they are discharging patients who received treatment due to an opioid overdose. The desired effect is to have naloxone given to these patients before being discharged as part of a routine policy. She is working with CHOICE Regional Health Network.

The nursing faculty and students are grateful for the support of our community partners in making these practicum experiences so valuable and meaningful. Students long after graduation will look back on their involvement in communities and their learnings from their preceptors and mentors with appreciation for the insights in their professional nursing practices.
The RN-to-BSN program at Saint Martin’s University provides Registered Nurses a pathway to earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Pursuing your degree in Saint Martin’s hybrid RN-to-BSN program allows you to earn your degree in as little as one year, attend class only one night per week, learn through a hybrid teaching model and advance your career earning power.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

Why choose Saint Martin’s RN-to-BSN program?

- Complete your BSN in as little as one year
- Attend class one night a week
- Affordable
- Hybrid (traditional/online) learning model
- Scholarships
- Small class sizes
- Flexible program start dates
- Option to attend full or part time
- Accredited through CCNE
- Located in the South Puget Sound region of Washington

**REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE RN-TO-BSN PROGRAM**

- Admission to Saint Martin’s University
- Associate degree or diploma in nursing
- Competitive GPA, with a minimum of a grade of C in each nursing core and prerequisite course
- Unrestricted Washington State Registered Nurse license. (Applicants currently enrolled in a nursing program may be offered provisional admission, pending passage of the NCLEX and receiving RN licensure, which must be obtained by the end of the first semester in the program.)
- Successful program interview

**Admission Process**

- Complete an application for admission to Saint Martin’s University as a transfer student
- Submit one official transcript from every college attended
- Submit a completed FAFSA form for financial aid
- An RN-to-BSN Program interview

See other side for program requirements
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
RN-TO-BSN PROGRAM

All students must meet the university’s graduation requirement of 120 total semester hours. This includes accepted transfer credit and thirty semester hours of upper division credit awarded upon verification of Washington State RN licensure. At least 30 semester hours of course work must be completed at Saint Martin’s University, which includes general education requirements, nursing, and elective courses.

Nursing Core Courses (21 semester hours)
Each core nursing course is offered at least once a year.

- NUR 310 Health Policy (3)
- NUR 350 Translating Research into Evidence-Based Practice (3)
- NUR 370 Ethical Issues in Health Care (3)
- NUR 410 Promoting Population Health in the Community (2)
- NUR 411 Promoting Population Health in the Community Practicum (1)
- NUR 430 Leadership for Advancing Health (3)
- NUR 450 Care Coordination and Inter-professional Collaboration (3)
- NUR 490 Capstone (3)

Examples of Approved Elective Courses (6 semester hours)
Students may take an elective that is not listed if, in the judgment of the program director, it will significantly enhance their learning experience in the major.

- BA 303 Labor/Management Relations (3)
- BA 340 Human Resource Management (3)
- NUR 320 Traditional Chinese Medicine and Evidence-Based Practice (3)
- NUR 330 Practicum at Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (3)
- NUR 340 Global Health (1-6)
- PHL 301 Ethics (3)
- PSY 330 Psychology of the Family (3)
- PSY 343 Health Psychology (3)
- PSY 353 Drugs and Society (3)
- PSY 387 Body Image and Eating Disorders (3)
- PSY 440 Grief and Loss (3)
- SOC 302 Sex, Race and Disability (3)
- SOC 303 Sociology of Aging (3)
- SOC 396 Intercultural Communication (3)

Practicum and Capstone Opportunities
Saint Martin’s University nurses make positive impacts on their communities through their practicum and capstone experiences. Recently, nurses have made the following contributions:

- Outlined a volunteer training program for the new Providence Community Care Center in Olympia
- Developed a Quality Improvement program structure for Olympia Orthopaedic Associates
- Wrote procedures and documents for the Tumwater School District to guide volunteers and staff working with students during health screening and chronic care needs
- Provided health screening to residents at Quixote Village
- Created and distributed a community health resources guide to those participating in the GRuB Kitchen Garden Project in Thurston County
- Developed a process to ensure newly diagnosed cancer inpatients on the Oncology Unit at Providence St. Peter Hospital have access to a cancer nurse navigator
- Established collaboration to begin development of a survivors of suicide support group in Lewis County
- Developed and provided health and wellness education for the clients at the Behavioral Health Resources (BHR) Harvest Program
- Created and distributed a nurse’s guide to identify eligible patients for outpatient cardiac rehabilitation services for Providence St. Peter Hospital Intermediate Care Unit

Accreditation
The baccalaureate program at Saint Martin’s University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and is approved by the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission. www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation

Get your questions answered
Contact Diane Hamilton, DNP, MN, BSN, CCRN, NEA-BC, CNE, RN, faculty in the nursing program at dhamilton@stmartin.edu.