

Departmental Base Budget Overview

Department	College of Nursing	Executive	Provost							
Index	411600	Program	01							
Base Budgets:			10-Year % Change							
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
2,921,958	3,011,982	2,993,343	3,129,307	3,115,751	3,128,543	3,398,217	3,915,924	4,179,368	4,246,329	45.32%

Since 1937, the College of Nursing has been central to the land grant mission of Montana State University. The College offers the only state supported basic baccalaureate nursing program and the only graduate nursing program in Montana. The baccalaureate program is offered at four sites – Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls and Missoula, and at one satellite location in Kalispell. On-site faculty provides education to and clinical supervision of students in approximately 150 health care agencies throughout the state.

The undergraduate program has had continuous approval by the State Board of Nursing since inception and continuous national accreditation since 1949. The entire baccalaureate program (two years of lower-division study and two years of upper-division study) can be completed at any campus. Baccalaureate graduates are prepared to take the national licensing exam for registered nurses (RN). The most recent semiannual pass rate for those taking the exam for the first time was 96% and has averaged more than 90% for the past 17 years; the national average for the same period was 87%. The College of Nursing has achieved national recognition for excellence in programs which support the recruitment and success of Native American nursing students.

The nationally-accredited graduate program leads to a master's in nursing (MN) degree and prepares students to take a national certification exam as a family nurse practitioner (FNP), clinical nurse leader (CNL), or clinical nurse specialist (CNS). Both the FNP and CNS graduates may be licensed as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Most FNPs have prescriptive authority. Approximately 75% of the FNP graduates have stayed to work as family nurse practitioners in Montana - many in rural areas. The Clinical Nurse Specialist option for advanced nursing practice was added to the graduate program in the fall semester of 2003. The option offers an education in the care of adults with complex acute and chronic health problems. Every master's graduate in the FNP and CNS options has successfully passed a national certification exam on the first try. The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) option, approved by the Board of Regents last year, was brought online this fall semester. This new option prepares nurses for leadership roles in a variety of clinical settings and also provides a strong foundation for nurses seeking preparation as nurse educators.

The graduate program is distance delivered via teleconference, interactive video, and web-based or web-enhanced courses. Face-to-face classes are held in Bozeman once each year. Clinical supervision is provided by faculty on each campus site.

As of Fall semester 2007, 758 generic baccalaureate students and 45 graduate students were enrolled in the College. The breakdown for each campus follows. Billings: baccalaureate 184, graduate 7; Bozeman: baccalaureate 361, graduate 11; Great Falls: baccalaureate 74, graduate 12; Missoula: baccalaureate 118, graduate 15; Kalispell: baccalaureate 21.