COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
School of Nursing

IN FOCUS
Columbia University School of Nursing, or CUSON, is among the world’s leading centers of nursing education, research, and practice. Located in New York City, CUSON prepares nurses to excel in the clinically complex tasks required for the independent diagnosis and treatment of disease, the coordination of care including the transition of care. Our graduates can be found on the frontlines providing sophisticated, compassionate care that promotes health and prevents illness.

CUSON’s faculty is made up of doctorally prepared faculty who are educators, clinicians, and researchers bringing their everyday experiences into the classroom. Our education programs allow students to encounter many real-world challenges in coordinating and delivering care to patients. Graduates receiving advanced degrees in nursing from Columbia combine a focus on the human experience with illness and the science behind clinical practice to provide true patient-centered care. Our alumni hold leadership positions throughout the healthcare system, shaping practices and policy that improve the lives of all Americans.

The members of our research-oriented faculty are creating a body of new knowledge that enhances clinical practice, prevents illness, and improves the lives of people of all ages and backgrounds. Their research is published by leading professional journals and includes such areas as informatics, infectious disease control, and women’s health. CUSON’s scientists translate their research findings into practice and help set policy agendas.

As part of the Columbia University Medical Center, CUSON enjoys unique opportunities for collaboration with the schools of medicine, public health, and dentistry, partnerships with local community and national healthcare organizations, and clinics and schools of nursing abroad help CUSON make a difference in the lives of people in New York City and around the globe.

Our approach to nursing is all-inclusive, going beyond diagnosing and treating illness to the prevention of disease and the preservation of wellness. CUSON’s many contributions to nursing education, research, and clinical care serve as a powerful resource ensuring the current and future delivery of safe and effective health care for all.

Columbia University School of Nursing is part of the Columbia University Medical Center, which also includes the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Mailman School of Public Health, and the College of Dental Medicine. With close to 100 full-time faculty and 600 students, the School of Nursing is dedicated to educating the next generation of nurse leaders in education, research, and clinical care.
Columbia University School of Nursing is a leader in advanced practice nursing education. Our reputation for excellence attracts accomplished, enthusiastic, and motivated students eager to apply the knowledge and experience they acquire at Columbia toward improving the health of patients, families, and communities.

Our talented students take part in a unique learning experience that provides the foundation to succeed in their chosen specialty area. They learn from an accomplished faculty whose commitment and practical experience exemplify nursing’s core values of service, scholarship, and leadership. CUSON’s state-of-the-art simulation labs, wide-ranging clinical settings, and vibrant urban environment enable a smooth transition from the classroom to the clinical environment.

CUSON nursing students work with interdisciplinary colleagues throughout the University and in other institutions. Through collaboration with our global partners, CUSON students gain a global perspective and the opportunity to make a difference to health care around the world.

CUSON DEGREE PROGRAMS

COMBINED BACHELOR OF SCIENCE/MASTER OF SCIENCE

The BS/MS program prepares students for careers in advanced nursing practice as nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, and nurse midwives by offering an accelerated, combined degree for non-nurse college graduates that integrates clinical experience with academic studies. The program has two components: pre-licensure study provides students with knowledge of nursing science and practice, and post-licensure specialty study focuses on the advanced practice role. Students may choose among several specialty majors for intensive study: acute care, anesthesia, bedside, women’s health, psychiatric/mental health, adult-gerontology, family, or pediatric primary care.

MASTER OF SCIENCE

The Master of Science degree program prepares nurses for site-specific advanced clinical practice. Clinical specialties are organized by client group and are defined by age, gender, and health status. The program prepares students to manage and negotiate healthcare delivery systems, provide culturally sensitive care, cultivate the nurse/patient relationship, as well as assess, plan, implement, and evaluate personalized patient education and coaching interventions.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

The DNP program prepares nurse clinicians to conduct complex diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, make use of sophisticated informatics and decision-making technology, and assemble in-depth knowledge of the biophysical, psychosocial, behavioral, and clinical sciences.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING (PhD)

The PhD program enables graduates to conduct evidence-based research independently and as part of interdisciplinary teams. The program provides a strong foundation in nursing science and research methods. Students are mentored by faculty advisers as they move toward independent investigations. CUSON PhD graduates continue to have a major effect on health care by furthering nursing knowledge at the national and global levels.
Columbia University School of Nursing carries out research that is recognized for improving health outcomes, health systems, and health policy. Our efforts have led to new knowledge and insights in such areas as containing infectious disease, helping manage pain, using web-based technologies to prevent disease, and improving the health of women and children.

The School’s faculty has the nation’s second largest number of grant awards per research faculty member from the National Institutes of Health. Our research scientists are regularly published in leading peer-reviewed journals and have been recognized by prominent healthcare associations, foundations, and government agencies for their short findings. CUSON’s research faculty and students are supported by the Office of Scholarship and Research, which provides expert review and feedback aimed at maximizing funding success.

RESEARCH CENTERS

CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
The Center’s mission is to improve the health of children and families at risk through research, consultation, education, advocacy, and the promotion of innovative clinical practices. Recent projects include the development of an instrument to quantify readiness of a parent to engage in decisions about services for a seriously ill child, strengthening the bonds between incarcerated mothers and their children, and fostering training of traditional birth attendants in the most rural villages of Bangladesh.

CENTER FOR EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE IN THE UNDERSERVED
The Center promotes informatics and bio-behavioral research aimed at helping underserved populations carry out better self-management of their own health. Projects include promoting the effective use of information technology to improve self-management by adolescents with diabetes, persons living with HIV/AIDS, and elders at risk for injury by falls.

CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY
The Center works with institutional partners at the local, state, and national levels to develop and evaluate health policy initiatives, as well as translate research findings into effective policies. The Center’s faculty members engage in research investigating issues related to the organization, delivery, and cost-effectiveness of health services, including the effect of nurse staffing, skill mix, and experience on the quality and cost of healthcare delivery.

CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH TO PREVENT INFECTIONS
The Center carries out research on preventing infections in a variety of community and clinical settings. It promotes and supports interdisciplinary research, provides mentorship and support for investigators and trainees, and shares research results with the scientific and lay communities through media outreach and seminars and via peer-reviewed publications. Among the currently funded research projects are developing and testing the appropriate use of antibiotics in the neonatal intensive care unit using automated clinician support; a study to identify the specific viral etiologies of upper respiratory infections (URI) in the community; study the first of its kind, to evaluate and reduce hospital-acquired infections in pediatric long-term care facilities; and decreasing inappropriate antibiotic use for URI in children of recently immigrated Latino community members.
Columbia’s School of Nursing is proud of our leadership role in the education of nurses who provide compassionate, effective care that meets the health needs of diverse populations. Nowhere is this more evident than in the New York City neighborhoods where the School is located.

Through numerous clinical programs and activities, CUSON enables students to actively contribute to the health of individuals in the Washington Heights section of upper Manhattan. In addition, our nursing students collaborate with colleagues at Columbia University Medical Center to staff a primary care clinic for the uninsured. Partnernships at more than 200 clinical practice sites throughout New York City enable the School to provide culturally competent care to patients young and old in the context of the diverse environmental, social, and psychological factors that influence well-being.

CUSON has a long-standing tradition of bringing primary and immediate care to our community. Based in midtown Manhattan, the faculty practice of Columbia University School of Nursing, established in 1997 as the Columbia Advanced Practice Nurse Associates (CAPNA), provides comprehensive, high-quality primary and immediate care services. Our nurse practitioners are board-certified and educated with the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree and offer prevention and health promotion consultation, diagnosis and management of acute and chronic conditions, travel medicine, specialist referrals, and admission, if necessary for hospital care. The practice works in partnership with the 1,200 physicians of ColumbiaDoctors.

An emphasis on leadership is a hallmark of Columbia nursing. Our graduates understand that leadership is as important in providing quality care as the technical ability to deliver care safely and effectively. They take the lead by translating evidence-based research into practice at the front lines and expect to be responsible and accountable for their efforts. They also seek opportunities to build partnerships with physicians and other healthcare providers for meeting the needs of patients and communities. They are team players as well as innovators.

Columbia nurses are also agents of change. Our faculty and alumni serve on national advisory committees, commissions, boards, and professional associations that are shaping the future of the profession and how health care is delivered in this country. Our nurses know how to navigate the political, economic, and social contexts in which their professional contributions can be realized and sustained. CUSON is proud that 5 of its faculty are members of the prestigious national Institute of Medicine and 12 have been inducted as Fellows into the New York Academy of Medicine.

Columbia nurses are lifelong learners. They have a desire and expectation for new learning and recognize the obligation to mentor and teach others. They have been taught to think critically, anticipate and adapt to new professional trends, and gain the competency to care for diverse populations across the lifespan.
The mission of global health at the School of Nursing is to provide students, faculty, and alumni with the foundation to promote leadership and knowledge sharing with international partners. Students at all degree levels can develop an understanding of global health issues and the cultural, economic, and social factors that affect health care in the United States and abroad.

Nurses are often frontline healthcare providers in countries where access to care is limited. In today’s global arena, nurses also act as educators, mentors, and innovators. Many of our students have previous experience in developing countries in a variety of capacities. They come to the School of Nursing with a desire to gain the necessary skill set that will enable them to more fully contribute to improving the health care of often impoverished people.

The centerpiece of the School of Nursing’s global health activities is our designation as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for Advanced Practice Nursing. CUSON believes in the importance of fostering an understanding of cultural competence among students and faculty, in both clinical and research arenas, through collaboration with global partners. For example, immediately after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, we teamed with international aid organizations to supply nurses from our faculty, student body, and alumni.

The School is now active in the Dominican Republic, where our students and faculty provide care at the Clínica de la Familia in La Romana, to adults and children with HIV/AIDS. There are student exchanges with the Oslo University College in Norway.

CUSON has partnerships with institutions designed to develop and carry out collaborative activities in areas of common interests. Partnerships have included research and teaching collaborations, organization of meetings and short courses, and exchanges of faculty and students.