

School of Nursing

*9th in DNP & 12th in MSN, U.S. News & World Report's 2020 Best Nursing Grad Schools
4th in NIH funding (2018) among schools of nursing
Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)*

OVERVIEW

Currently in Pennsylvania (PA), completion of an approved School Nurse Certificate program is required to practice as a school nurse. The **School Nurse PK-12 Certificate** fulfills the educational requirements for the School Nurse Certificate (Education Specialist I) issued by the PA Department of Education (PDE).

The **School Nurse PK-12 Certificate** is designed to prepare registered nurses to meet the health needs of children of all ages in diverse school settings. The curriculum includes a School Nurse Seminar course which covers the true essentials of school nursing taught by a certified school nurse. Practicums are completed in diverse elementary and secondary school settings. Three nurse practitioner courses enhance student's knowledge of health promotion and disease prevention in culturally diverse populations and their skills in physical assessment and working with psychiatric conditions.

Graduates will be eligible to apply for the School Nurse Certificate (Education Specialist I) issued by the PDE. In addition to meeting PDE educational requirements, PA requires certified school nurses to have a BSN and valid RN license. (Visit education.pa.gov or your home state's board of nursing for state-specific information). This certificate will also help prepare school nurses who want to take the National Certification Examination for School Nurses (NCSN) which is administered by the National Board for Certification of School Nurses (NBCSN).

CURRICULUM FORMAT

- **Online*** (no onsite campus requirements)
- Full-time (3 terms) / Part-time (varies)
- 15 credits (includes 120 practicum hours with a Certified School Nurse)
- Fall & Spring Term admission

*PittOnline (online.pitt.edu / 412-648-9499)

- View Virtual Open House
- 24/7 access to library, computing resources, & virtual tech

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- ≥ 3.0 GPA in BSN or higher nursing degree from ACEN, ACICS, CCNE, or NLN accredited program
- Current Criminal Record Clearance (ACT 34 and ACT 73)
- Current Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (ACT 33)
- Current American Heart Association - BLS Healthcare Provider Course Certification
- Online application: nursing.pitt.edu
- Application Deadlines: August 1 (Fall Term) December 1 (Spring Term)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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