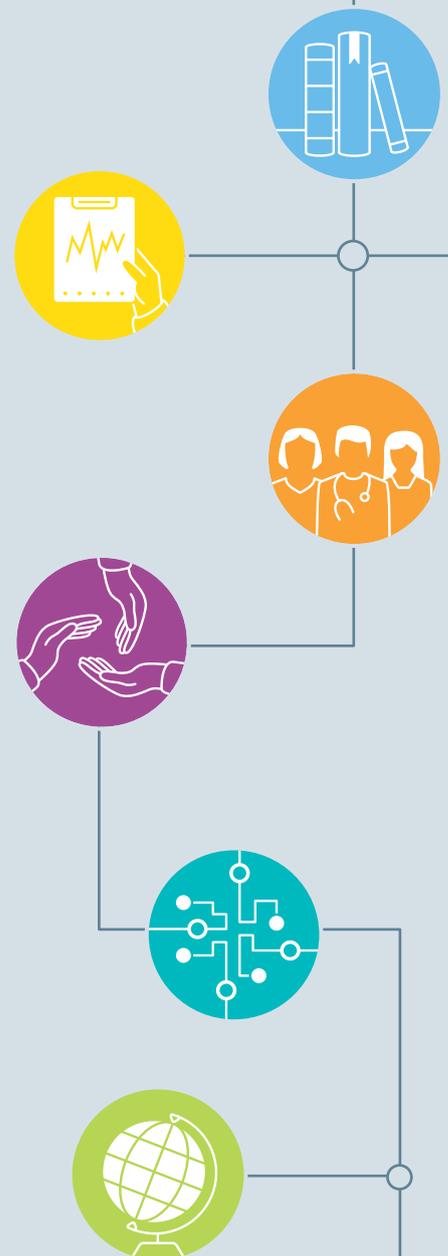




COMMUNITY
RESEARCH
GLOBAL
DIVERSITY
EDUCATION
COMPASSION

School of Nursing SAMUEL MERRITT UNIVERSITY



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Celeste Villanueva
EdD(c), CRNA, DFNAP

COLLABORATION

Under the Affordable Care Act, hospitals and clinics have powerful incentives

to engage in interprofessional practice—the collaboration of professionals from various healthcare disciplines.

In 2013, SMU adopted a university-wide initiative that features the interprofessional model at the forefront of its curricula to ensure our students embody collaborative healthcare.

The best place on campus to witness the interprofessional concept in action is the Health Sciences Simulation Center (HSSC).

The state-of-the-art center trains students to work in real-life patient/client care scenarios.

“Simulation is an ideal way to teach,” said Celeste Villanueva, director of the HSSC. “It’s immersive, it’s engaging, and it’s collaborative. It reflects the philosophy of SMU: Learning is a partnership between the student and the faculty.”

The simulation center also hosts students from a nearby medical school who train side-by-side with SMU students, as well as international medical students and healthcare professionals from Northern California.



Patricia Brennan
PhD, RN, MS, DFNAP

EVIDENCE-BASED

The burgeoning field of Genetics and Genomics offers

incredible opportunities to improve health through safer and potentially more cost effective methods of health care delivery. This emerging field of study focuses on complex hereditary and environmental influence and is poised to offer new paradigms to treat disease. The challenge is how to incorporate these advances into the curriculum of new and advance-practice clinicians. At SMU, we are ready to meet this challenge.

Associate Professor Patricia Brennan is a nationally recognized expert in curricular integration of genetics and genomics having recently completed an NIH appointment as

Faculty Champion for Genetics and Genomics. She also serves on the Editorial Board of the National Human Genome Research Institute’s Genetics and Genomics Competency Center.

Prior to entering academia, Dr. Brennan spent more than 20 years as a clinical specialist and director for UCSF’s Transplant Division, where she had responsibilities for clinical care and inter-professional research endeavors. Her current research interests involve measuring genomic literacy and access to clinical applications of genetic and genomic technology.

“Understanding genetics and genomics is an essential competency for all practitioners,” Brennan said. “SMU graduates will be well-poised to meet these future challenges.”



Cecily Reeves
PhD, FNP-C, PA-C

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Cecily Reeves first worked with the transgender community in her HIV/

AIDS practice at UCSF, then as part of a team providing care to California prison inmates, and most recently with the SMU transgender outreach program.

Her academic career is dedicated to educating a new generation of medically and culturally competent nurse practitioners. Her clinical career has always been devoted to underserved populations.

“The trans community still needs champions and support to find their voice,” Reeves said. “I think that’s what nurse practitioners do best.

We are problem solvers and advocate fiercely for the underserved. We will proudly be their voice until the devastating social and health disparities are corrected.”

With support from the University through the Scott Beamer Fund, Reeves and a cohort of FNP students began providing support group sessions, primary care and feminizing services to Bay Area trans women in 2009.

“We are committed to including both the didactic foundation and clinical experiences needed to educate our students and graduates to be confident practitioners when working with patients with gender variations,” Reeves said. “It is a unique opportunity for SMU students to learn important skills while making a difference.”

School of Nursing by the Numbers

Percentage of new students who choose SMU based on reputation.

86%

The number of consecutive years the School of Nursing has received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to provide scholarships for disadvantaged and underrepresented nursing students. 120 students have received aid to date.

1:8

Faculty-to-student ratio for prelicensure clinicals in the Bachelor/Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs.

6

4

The number of School of Nursing instructors who have been bestowed Fellowships from The American Academy of Nursing, which recognizes **nurse leaders in education, management, practice, policy, and research**. The Fellows include hospital and government administrators, college deans, and renowned scientific researchers.



26

1.26.1909

The date Samuel Merritt Hospital School of Nursing opened in Oakland, California.

456

The average number of graduates from School of Nursing programs each year for the past four years who took their state NCLEX exams.



FIRST-YEAR
RETENTION RATES

89%

DOCTOR OF
NURSING PRACTICE

96%

BACHELOR OF
SCIENCE—NURSING

98%

ACCELERATED
BACHELOR OF
SCIENCE—NURSING

99%

MASTER OF
SCIENCE—NURSING



Miriam Eisenhardt
MPH, RN

COMPASSION

A lesson in compassion is an integral part of the Community

Health Nursing experience, a required course for students in the BSN, ABSN and ELMSN programs, said Miriam Eisenhardt, assistant professor. For one semester, students take a step outside the hospital setting for a clinical experience in a community setting.

Since 2005 SMU students have worked with homeless and formerly homeless clients at Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco, which provides permanent housing for this underserved population.

“Students begin the semester not knowing what to expect,” said Eisenhardt, who has run the program since it began. “They’re going into an

environment where many are outside of their comfort zone. But the students find their place – they learn to relate to their clients, listen to their stories, and understand and address the health of their clients’ community.”

More than 600 SMU students have provided no-cost healthcare services to ECS clients.

“It’s a transformative experience for our students,” Eisenhardt said. “Every nursing student has the experience of wondering, ‘Am I really making a difference?’” At SMU we want to provide an abundance of experiences that tell them, “Yes, you are making a difference.”



Aara Amidi-Nouri
PhD, RN

CULTURE

Like many SMU faculty members, Aara Amidi-Nouri wears a number of different lab coats.

Amidi-Nouri, who graduated from SMU’s School of Nursing in 1996, is an associate professor who teaches pediatrics and continues clinical work at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland. She also chairs the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

But it is Amidi-Nouri’s work as the school’s Director of Diversity—charged with recruiting

underrepresented students and diversifying the nursing workforce—that has gained her national attention.

In 2014 the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) named Amidi-Nouri as an Executive Nurse Fellow to join the nation’s top nursing leaders to improve the U.S. healthcare system. Through Amidi-Nouri’s stewardship, SMU has received RWJF scholarships for students from underrepresented communities for six consecutive years.



Jordan Stephens
MSN, FNP-BC

LIFELONG LEARNING

As an elementary school teacher with a master’s degree in education, Jordan

Stephens enjoyed her career that helped others learn. Yet the unpredictable job market for educators left her seeking a new profession, so she enrolled in the Entry Level Masters of Science in Nursing program to become a family nurse practitioner.

“At Samuel Merritt University, the curriculum was comprehensive and efficient,” Stephens said. “My passion for the field of medicine was ignited.”

Stephens took classes at SMU’s Sacramento campus and received several alumni-funded scholarships. Her preceptorship at a

community clinic transitioned into her first job after graduation. She now works in primary care in a rural clinic and inpatient care at a 25-bed hospital.

“From a student perspective, the alumni support was invaluable,” Stephens said. “It was nice to have a sense of community at a small campus. Your professors know you, and you have a personal identity.”

Now, Stephens is considering pursuing a doctorate degree.

“Nursing is a life-long learning commitment to education,” Stephens said. “The faculty and administration at SMU introduced me to the tools I needed to become a life-long learner and helped me achieve my educational goals.”



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School of Nursing
SAMUEL MERRITT UNIVERSITY



**AUDREY
BERMAN PHD, RN**
Dean of the
School of Nursing

Dear Prospective Students and Fellow Nurses,

As we enter into a new era of healthcare with the Affordable Care Act, Samuel Merritt University's School of Nursing continues to prepare students who will advance the profession into the future.

In this expanding landscape, where an additional 3.3 million Californians enrolled in new

healthcare plans in 2014, nurses will assume greater responsibilities to meet the needs of a growing and more diverse client population.

Yet the mission of the faculty in the School of Nursing remains the same: We are committed to educational innovation in theory and practice to prepare highly competent professional nursing leaders who are engaged in the advancement of nursing practice and the improvement of health for diverse populations/peoples.

Our student body and faculty reflect this commitment. Driven by academic excellence, and deeply engaged within the communities they serve, our students volunteer at free local clinics and travel abroad to deliver medical care to those in need.

Our faculty consists of both working professionals who are master educators, as well as nationally recognized experts in research and healthcare policy. In 2014, to highlight just a few achievements, members of our nursing faculty received research grants from the National Institute of Health, co-chaired a national study on how to teach the Affordable Care Act in nursing schools, and were named to prestigious fellowships that put them in leadership positions to improve the US healthcare system.

Aside from educating one of the largest Bachelor of Science in Nursing student bodies in the state each year, our University also offers nursing master's and doctoral degrees. Many of our returning students, who view nursing education as a life-long endeavor, upgrade their skill-set to join the rapidly growing fields of case management, nurse practitioner, and nurse anesthesia. The degrees we offer at Samuel Merritt University are the degrees nurses will need to prosper in the new healthcare environment.

In this brochure, we hope to provide a glimpse of the education provided by one of California's largest and most storied nursing institutions. We also hope prospective faculty will view Samuel Merritt University as a destination program and join us in our mission to educate the nursing leaders of tomorrow.

Audrey Berman PhD, RN
Dean of the School of Nursing

OVERVIEW

For more than 100 years, Samuel Merritt University's School of Nursing has prepared students to provide compassionate and transformative healthcare to diverse populations. With campuses in Oakland, Sacramento, and the San Francisco Peninsula, the School of Nursing graduates close to 500 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral nursing students into California's healthcare system each year. In a rapidly changing healthcare field, the School of Nursing seeks to attract faculty and students who want to lead the future of the profession through compassion, diversity, and scientific inquiry.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

DNP

The online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at Samuel Merritt University prepares students to practice at the highest level of advanced nursing practice, demonstrating leadership in a clinical or organizational specialty area, as well as a commitment to improving healthcare outcomes via practice, policy change, and practice scholarship. The DNP program is designed for advanced practice nurses (nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and clinical nurse specialists) and nurses in organizational leadership positions who have a Master of Science in Nursing degree. The program is designed to accommodate students who desire to continue working full or part time while pursuing doctoral study. Students are admitted to the DNP program as a cohort and are strongly advised to progress sequentially through the courses designated in each of the six semesters.

MSN

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) offers an entry-level program and three post-professional options. The entry-level program is designed for those who have a baccalaureate in a non-nursing field and who are not registered nurses. There are three options that provide the registered nurse who has a baccalaureate (usually in nursing) with advanced skills: nurse anesthesia (CRNA), family nurse practitioner (FNP), and case management (CM).

CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST

It is the intent of our Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) program to prepare graduates for the full scope of practice in nurse anesthesia in order that they be competitive in the marketplace by delivering the highest possible quality of care. Consequently, students are involved in all aspects of anesthesia including general and regional techniques as well as cases involving conscious sedation and other ancillary services such as pain management, anesthesia for interventional radiology procedures and emergency airway management.

Under close and immediate supervision, students are responsible for the administration and management of virtually all specialty surgery categories and common invasive monitoring modalities for the full range of patient age and acuity levels.

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Family nurse practitioners (FNP) work in a variety of clinical settings including outpatient clinics, ambulatory care settings, emergency departments, inpatient units, community health agencies, and private practice settings with other nurse practitioners, physicians, and other health care providers.

Now is an opportune time to become a nurse practitioner. Not only is there an increased demand nationally for nurses, but there are new and abundant opportunities for nurse practitioners including demand for inpatient nurse practitioner care in **Express Care** clinics in retail outlets as well as a burgeoning need for providers to care for the uninsured.

CASE MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this program is to prepare nurses with advanced theory and practice in a systematic case management approach to the delivery of health care to diverse patient populations. Case management emphasizes collaborative methods of coordination, continuity, and quality of care within a cost-sensitive perspective. Emphasis is placed on critical-thinking and strong planning and decision-making skills needed to recognize and respond to the constant changes in the health care delivery system.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

ABSBN

Samuel Merritt University, School of Nursing, offers an accelerated baccalaureate program (ABSBN) for candidates with undergraduate degrees in other fields. The program recognizes each individual's past experiences and academic achievements and builds upon these assets. It provides a mechanism for graduates with non-nursing degrees to change careers efficiently and effectively. Because of these basic premises, the curriculum is different from the traditional BSN.

The program is designed to be completed in 12 months. The curriculum includes three terms of intensive study at a rapid pace. Although the curriculum and format are different from Samuel Merritt's traditional BSN program, the goals, learning outcome objectives, and foundational concepts are the same.

BSN

FRESHMAN ENTRY: PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Students interested in entering the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program as a freshman must apply directly to one of our partnership programs for pre-nursing at Holy Names University, Mills College, or Notre Dame de Namur University. Following completion of two years of pre-nursing courses, students who meet all conditions of the partnership program are given priority admission to Samuel Merritt University for the completion of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

TRANSFER STUDENTS—DIRECT ENTRY

Samuel Merritt University admits transfer students on a limited basis in fall and spring. The admission is as a first semester junior and it will take four semesters to complete the program.



MICHELLE DeCOUX HAMPTON PHD, RN
Associate Professor
and Doctor of Nursing
Practice Program Director

“The most rewarding aspect of being the DNP program director and a faculty member has been the opportunity to witness the significant impact that our students have had on patient care in a variety of healthcare settings. Students enter the program with a passion to resolve a patient care or health systems problem. With the guidance of our expert faculty, they are able to transform that passion into real-world improvements in patient outcomes—one student, one project at a time.”



MARC CODE DNP, CRNA
Assistant Professor
and Program of Nurse
Anesthesia Director

“One of the most rewarding aspects of being the program of nurse anesthesia director and a faculty member has been the opportunity to recruit, admit, and retain diversity-rich cohorts who will become nurse anesthetists. Our graduates will help to eliminate the health disparities in future generations. Being able to act upon convictions and being a part of this process gives me a purpose and a passion to produce the best anesthesia providers in the country.”



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