

# Introduction

## Undergraduate Programs

Research College of Nursing was founded in 1979 and admitted its first class in 1980. Research College of Nursing, in partnership with Rockhurst University, offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree is awarded jointly by the two colleges. Research College of Nursing is a private non-sectarian institution of higher learning sponsored by Research Medical Center.

The B.S.N. program is organized and available to qualified students in two undergraduate options: Traditional B.S.N. Option and the Accelerated B.S.N. Option.

The Traditional B.S.N. Option is for first-time-in-college students and transfer students. It is designed to be completed in four years on a full-time basis.

The Accelerated B.S.N. Option is for students who have completed a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing at an accredited institution. The clinical nursing component of the option is designed to be completed in one calendar year (twelve months).

Students of the B.S.N. program are enrolled at both institutions. The B.S.N. degree consists of 66 credit hours in liberal arts and sciences and 62 credit hours in nursing courses for a total of 128 credit hours. The majority of the liberal arts and science courses are taken prior to nursing courses.

The faculty and administration of both institutions have carefully designed the nursing program to provide a consistent, integrated educational experience. Information about Research College of Nursing, its mission, the curriculum and policies and procedures of the College are provided in this catalog. Students and other interested persons should also review the Rockhurst University Catalog for information about the mission, curriculum, and policies and procedures of Rockhurst University.

## Graduate Programs

Research College of Nursing began offering a Master of Science in Nursing degree in 1997. Currently three tracks are offered in the graduate program. The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) track prepares graduates for an advanced practice role as a health care provider in a variety of settings. The second track, Executive Nurse Practice: Health Care Leadership (ENP), is offered in collaboration with Helzberg School of Management at Rockhurst University, and provides nurses with the skill sets necessary to function in management roles in complex health care delivery systems. The third track, Nurse Educator, prepares nurse educators with knowledge and strategies for teaching in both clinical and academic settings.

Two post-master's certificate programs are offered: the Executive Nurse and the Nurse Educator. The certificate programs are designed for individuals prepared with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and a Master's degree in nursing or a health related field who would like to develop specialty knowledge in these roles.