# **AQUINAS COLLEGE 2012-2013 Graduate Catalog**



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**Founded 1961** 

#### WELCOME TO THE ONLINE COURSE CATALOG

The Aquinas College Course Catalog is now online; paper catalogs are no longer produced. The information in this catalog is relevant to the 2012-2013 academic year, consisting of the Fall 2012, Spring 2013, and Summer 2013 semesters.

#### PURPOSE OF THE CATALOG

The catalog contains important information about, and is the official source of, the college's academic programs and courses. The catalog should be used as a guide in planning a course of study and in meeting requirements for graduation.

All statements in this catalog reflect policies in effect at the time of publication and are subject to change without notice or obligation. This includes statements of fees, course offerings, and program, admission, and graduation requirements applicable to both currently enrolled and new students. Generally, students are held to the requirements of the catalog year in which they began their degree program. Exceptions must be approved by the Dean of the appropriate school and documented with the Registrar's Office.

BAquinas Aquinas College students are responsible for knowing the information found in the catalog. Failure to read it does not excuse students from the requirements and provisions described herein. Therefore, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with its contents early in their graduate careers.

Each semester a <u>Schedule of Courses</u> is available on the web. The schedule lists those courses that will be offered during the semester, as well as times and locations. Not all courses listed in this catalog are offered every semester.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

#### HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Aquinas College, Saint Cecilia Academy and Overbrook School constitute The Dominican Campus, which is located on Harding Road in West Nashville. Owned and administered by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation, the College first began in 1928 as a normal school for the education of the Sisters and was affiliated with the Catholic University of America in 1929.

In 1961, the normal school was replaced with Aquinas Junior College. Two significant milestones in the institution's history occurred at this point: the College was moved from Saint Cecilia Motherhouse to its present location, and it was opened to the public.

On December 1, 1971, the College was granted welcomed into the membership of the regional accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the associate degree. In December 1993, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools granted Aquinas candidacy to award its first bachelor's degree: Bachelor of Arts degree in Teacher Education. This was followed full reaffirmation and approval in 1996 by the same accrediting agency. In order to reflect this action, the institution's original charter was officially amended to read *Aquinas College* and academic programs and majors were added in response to the needs of the community and of the Church. In 2012, Aquinas College became level III institution with approval to offer master's degrees in education and in nursing education. The same year, Aquinas became a residential college with contracted use of Seton Lodge facilities at St. Thomas hospital on adjoining property.

#### Current degrees awarded are:

#### School of Arts and Sciences

A.A. in Liberal Arts B.A. in Liberal Arts B.A. in English B.A. in History B.A. in Philosophy B.A. in Theology

## **School of Education**

B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies, K-6 Education Licensure Track, K-6 B.S. in English, 7-12 B.S. in History, 7-12 M.A.T., K-6 M.A.T., 7-12 M.Ed. in Teaching and Learning

#### School of Business

B.B.A. in Finance B.B.A. in Management

#### School of Nursing

A.S.N. in Nursing
R.N.-B.S.N. in Nursing
M.S.N. in Nursing Education
Post-Masters Certificate Program in Nursing Education

#### PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT OF AQUINAS COLLEGE

The Catholic Church, from the beginning of the Order of Preachers, has called Dominicans to teach the Word of God. St. Dominic embodied the teaching mission of the Church in the apostolic work of his Order. By sending his followers out into the world, he sought to proclaim the Gospel to all people.

The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation have continued this mission of St. Dominic through their dedication to Christian education in institutions of learning. For over a century, the St. Cecilia Congregation has owned and administered academic institutions in which students come to a deeper understanding of their faith, their heritage and their responsibilities as members of society. Aquinas College exists primarily to enable students to learn in a Christ-centered atmosphere of love and truth.

The College reflects the philosophy of the Catholic Church as it pertains to education. Each student is recognized as an individual of eternal worth whose immortal soul is destined for happiness with God. Aquinas College endeavors to nourish the intellectual gifts of its students and to develop their spiritual and physical potential in view of their final end and the good of society.

### MISSION STATEMENT OF AQUINAS COLLEGE

Aquinas College is a private Catholic institution of higher education. The College offers an academically challenging liberal arts and sciences curriculum.

The primary mission of Aquinas College is to provide an atmosphere of learning permeated with faith, directed to the intellectual, moral and professional formation of the human person. Aquinas seeks to foster intellectual achievement and personal growth in a socially and economically diverse population. The Christian principles and values they learn enrich students.

Faculty and staff seek to make students aware of the relationship that exists between human culture and the message of salvation. Thus, the mission of Aquinas College is to bring this message of salvation to bear on ethical, social, political, religious and cultural issues.

In order to accomplish this mission, the Board of Directors, administration, faculty and staff of Aquinas College are committed to:

 giving primacy to the Church's mission of evangelization by the faithful proclamation of the Gospel as interpreted and proclaimed by the Catholic Church

- providing a teacher education program committed to academic excellence, to the instilling of values, to respect and care for students and to professional competence enriched and put into perspective by the Gospel message
- providing nursing programs which combine classroom study with clinical experience in order to form competent, compassionate and ethical nursing professionals
- providing a business administration programs which instill in students an understanding of the principles and practices of a market-based free enterprise economy within the context of Christian ethics
- providing programs in the liberal arts that develop academic and professional skills, foster spiritual growth, and cultivate intellectual virtue
- providing curricular and co-curricular experiences and activities which help to identify and enhance student talents, extend their opportunities and promote lifelong intellectual and spiritual growth
- serving the local community through opportunities for continuing education
- offering opportunities for the study of Catholic doctrine, ethics, spirituality and worship.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The governance of the College is vested in the Board of Directors and in the Congregation of St. Cecilia. The membership of the Board of Directors consists of the Prioress General of St. Cecilia Congregation who serves as Chairman of the Board and appointed religious and lay members.

#### PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL.

The President's Council serves as an advisory group to the President of the College. The President's Council consists of not more than forty members chosen by the President of the College in consultation with the Board of Directors.

## APPROVALS AND ACCREDITATION

Aquinas College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the associate, baccalaureate, and masters degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Aquinas College. The Commission should be contacted only if there is evidence that appears to support the institution's significant non-compliance with a requirement or standard.

National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
Tennessee Board of Nursing
Tennessee Higher Education Commission for Veterans Training
Tennessee State Department of Education and Accreditation

#### FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

**FERPA** is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. (US Department of Education) Several additional requirements exist to comply with this law and are reported in the Student Handbook and on the Aquinas College website.

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of Aquinas College, while reserving its lawful rights where applicable to take actions designed to promote the Dominican and Roman Catholic principles that sustain its mission and heritage, to comply with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and in its educational programs. Aquinas College admits qualified students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age or disability to all the rights,

privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the College. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age or disability in administration of its education policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan programs.

# ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE

Education at Aquinas College is more than the mere acquisition of skills; it is a complete learning experience intended to open one's mind and heart to the world in light of the Gospel. Here, one will be encouraged to develop his/her unique potential in an atmosphere of personalized learning, with a caring faculty and administrative support.

The Office of Admissions is primarily responsible for recruiting and admitting new students to the College. Admissions counselors work closely with college registrars to create a seamless transition for incoming students. It is the policy of the College, while reserving its lawful rights where applicable, to take actions designed to promote the Dominican and Roman Catholic principles that sustain its mission and heritage, to comply with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and in its educational programs. The College admits qualified students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age or disability to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the College. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, age or disability in administration of its education policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan programs.

The provisions of this catalog are for information purposes only and should not be construed as a contract between Aquinas College and the student. The specific courses or activities constituting the degree requirements for any program are subject to substitution at any time prior to completion by the student. The academic regulations, programs, curricula, fees, charges or costs as set forth in this catalog are subject to change at any time.

#### APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Admission to Aquinas College does not guarantee admission to Graduate Studies.

Application for admission to Graduate Studies (M.S.N., M.Ed., M.A.T. (K-6), (7-12) begins with the Office of Admissions. Aquinas College reserves the right to make exceptions to the admission requirements for all programs offered at the College. Written requests for exceptions to the admission requirements, supported by evidence of extenuating circumstances, will be considered by the Admissions Committee with the approval of the Vice President for Academic Affairs after an official application for admission has been filed.

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All admission requirements must be fulfilled as scheduled by the Office of Admissions. Students must submit proof of immunizations required by the State of Tennessee. Students who fail to meet requirements and deadlines will be administratively removed from enrollment of the College. Students removed from enrollment of the College will not receive refunds of any tuition and fees.

## **International Students**

There are additional documentation requirements for international students. These requirements are available at <a href="http://www.aquinascollege.edu/admissions/adminternational.php">http://www.aquinascollege.edu/admissions/adminternational.php</a>.

# **Admissions Review**

Aquinas College reviews each application carefully. The stated requirements serve as guidelines for admission. The M.S.N. Graduate Program Committee and the Graduate Programs in Education Committee reserve the right to exercise discretion in admission decisions.

Aquinas College admits graduate students as follows:

- 1. Good Standing—when all admissions requirements have been met.
- 2. Provisional Admittance—when all official documents have not been received.
- Conditional Admission—may be granted to an applicant who has not completed all
  admissions requirements or for whom all credentials have not been received. The courses
  may be limited for conditional students until all requirements are fulfilled.

# GRADUATE STUDIES IN EDUCATION

The degrees offered through the School of Education at Aquinas College reflect the belief that teaching is more than a career choice; it is both a gift and a mission. Students are prepared to be Teachers of the Truth, thus enabling them to bring the message of salvation to bear on ethical, social, political, religious and cultural issues in a variety of public, private and parochial school settings.

#### GOALS FOR GRADUATE STUDIES IN EDUCATION

- To educate the whole person by promoting the spiritual, moral, physical and intellectual development of
  each prospective teacher in a value-centered environment.
- To challenge the individual abilities of each prospective teacher in such a manner as to enhance selfworth and to attain academic excellence.
- To encourage caring leadership, competence in teaching and cooperation in endeavors with other professionals.
- To motivate students to live as part of a believing community which works to serve the multifaceted
  needs of the children in society; to enable students to embrace the plurality of cultures and creeds; and to
  respect and reverence the individual differences of children as a wonder of God.

## MASTER OF EDUCATION IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree is for individuals who presently hold a degree and/or license in teaching and who would like to pursue an advanced degree.

# LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR MASTER OF EDUCATION IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Understanding the vocation of teaching as both gift and mission, Masters of Education graduates of Aquinas College:

- Contribute to the formation of a community that promotes a sense of personal worth, competence and responsibility, and that fosters moral courage in dealing with the complex issues of our times.
- Promote a culture of learning that embraces students and their families, professional colleagues and the community at large.

- Exercise educational leadership by commitment to ongoing professional formation, collaboration with parents and colleagues, and serving as role models and mentors in the profession.
- Integrate genuine respect for the dignity of each person: student, parent, colleague and member of the community.
- Integrate relevant data to guide personal reflective practice, to monitor student learning, to contribute to school improvement in professional settings, and to promote scholarly inquiry.

#### ADMISSION REQUIRMENTS

#### Master of Education in Teaching and Learning - M.Ed.:

- 1. Submit proof of a current or expired Teaching Certificate.
- 2. Submit a completed Aquinas College Graduate application and non-refundable \$25 application fee.
- 3. Submit a 2 page essay. Essay topics are available with the Graduate Education Application.
- 4. Submit one additional writing sample.
- 5. Submit current resume.
- 6. Submit two (2) recommendations using the forms provided in the Graduate Application Packet. One recommendation must be from an administrator, college supervisor, or former employer. The other recommendation must be from a professional colleague and a former teacher who can evaluate applicant's potential for success in a graduate program.
- 7. Provide (2) official transcript(s) from all previously attended colleges or universities.
  - If transcript is from an international institution: applicants must provide an official copy of a
    third party course by course credential evaluation. World Education Services (<a href="www.wes.org">www.wes.org</a>)
    or Educational Credential Evaluators (<a href="www.wes.org">www.wes.org</a>) offer this service.
- 8. Satisfactory GRE scores
  - GRE waived for students with a Masters degree
  - GRE must have been taken within the last 5 years
- 9. An interview is required. Applicant will be contacted by the Admissions Office.
- 10. Completed criminal background and fingerprint checks prior to admission.
- 11. Applicants whose native language is not English, must submit a TOEFL score of at least 600 (paper-based), or 250 (computer-based), or 100 (Internet-based) test.

#### COURSES

# M.Ed. - Master of Education in Teaching and Learning

EDU 600 - Education in the Dominican Tradition	3 credit hours
EDU 610 - Human Dignity and Diversity in Education	3 credit hours
EDU 620 – Data Driven Decisions in Education	3 credit hours
EDU 630 – Modes of Instruction	3 credit hours
IDS 640 – Moral Communities	3 credit hours
EDU 650 – Scholarly Inquiry and Research	3 credit hours
EDU 660 – School Law	3 credit hours
EDU 670 – Education in the Digital Age	3 credit hours
EDU 680 – Learning and Cognition	3 credit hours
EDU 690 – Scholarly Inquiry in Action	6 credit hours
Total	33 credit hours

#### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## EDU 600 - Education in the Dominican Tradition

3 Credit Hours

Participants in this course will examine the roles of the moral, spiritual, intellectual, physical, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of education at all levels from the Dominican perspective. These elements will be examined in the light of a Christian anthropology and world view. The importance of the educator as witness and the dignity of the human person will also be emphasized in light of teaching as a vocation. The importance of promoting a culture of learning and the formation of moral conscience and fostering moral courage in dealing with current moral concerns will be integral to this course. This is the first course in the program of study.

#### EDU 610 - Human Dignity and Diversity in Education

**3 Credit Hours** 

Proceeding from the doctrine of human dignity and the unrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness of every person, this course examines the impact of diversity on the effectiveness of advocacy, human relationships, communications, and education. Expressions of diversity considered in this course comprise a wide range, including but not limited to: attribute and behavior diversity; variations of learning styles and challenges; socio-economic diversity; family, community and organizational structures, including ethnic and cultural differences.

#### EDU 620 - Data-Driven Decisions in Education

3 Credit Hours

This course details the processes of using data to make informed decisions regarding student learning, instructional programs, resources, and policies. Instruction will include aspects of information literacy such as methods for collecting meaningful data, analyses of data, communication of findings, and decision-making based on findings. Particular emphasis will be given to using teacher and student work samples to make instructional decisions based on analyses of student learning gains and related data.

#### EDU 630 - Modes of Instruction

3 Credit Hours

This course is designed to engage students in the study and implementation of the various instructional models and how they relate to the different learning styles and effective classroom management. The role of curriculum, philosophy, and knowledge of the learner will be examined in the selection of teaching strategies. Emphasis will be placed on the practical application of the various models to the specific audience of the student through a culminating project.

#### **IDS 640 – Moral Communities**

1 Credit Hour

Course must be repeated for three consecutive semesters after the first semester in the program for a total of 3 credit hours.

Participants in these seminar courses will examine contemporary moral issues and concerns facing educators. Topics will include but not be limited to: community and family relations; formation of moral conscience; promotion of a culture of learning; formation and fostering of moral courage; the role of freedom in education and society; promotion of virtuous living; and the integration of Gospel values into personal and professional practice.

# EDU 650 - Scholarly Inquiry and Research

3 Credit Hours

This course is designed to facilitate students' understanding and application of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, including research ethics and informed consent, and to critically analyze and debate published research methods and relevant issues. Methods of data analysis appropriate to selected research methods will be reviewed. Examination and application of research models to inform and promote best practices will be required.

EDU 660 - School Law 3 Credit Hours

This course is designed to provide an analysis of legal issues applicable to private, public, and Catholic schools. Areas that will be addressed include: Constitutional Law, Statutes and Regulations, Common Law, Contract Law, and Canon Law. In addition, the aspect of TORT Law as it pertains to schools will be explored. References to case law and current legal topics will provide a framework for practical applications in the school environment.

#### EDU 670 - Education in the Digital Age

3 Credit Hours

Education in the Digital Age will examine teaching and learning with technology by investigating the issues of: digital literacy and moving beyond information, organizational policy regarding use of technology, the role of standards in technology integration, and current issues regarding use of technology in education. Emphasis will also be placed on developing necessary skills for integrating technology in the education process. A culminating project will require students to develop a project demonstrating knowledge and skills that have been developed in this course.

#### EDU 680 - Learning and Cognition

**3 Credit Hours** 

This course is an examination of major theories of learning and cognition. Topics include, but are not limited to, information processing, critical thinking, problem solving, memory, and motivation, with implications and applications for practitioners.

# EDU 690 - Scholarly Inquiry in Action

6 Credit Hours

This capstone course is taken over two semesters for a total of 6 Credit Hours.

Prerequisite: EDU 650 Scholarly Inquiry and Research

This capstone course is designed to provide a disciplined process of inquiry for educators to explore challenges found in schools. Students will utilize a seven-step process that includes: (1) selecting a focus, (2) clarifying theories, (3) identifying research questions, (4) collecting data, (5) analyzing data, (6) reporting results, and (7) taking informed action. The research will culminate with the students' presentation of a paper or a project. This project must be approved by the Graduate Education Review Board.

# MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (K-6) AND (7-12)

The Master of Arts (M.A.T.) in Teaching for Grades K-6 or 7-12 is designed for individuals who hold an undergraduate degree in a discipline outside of education, but who would like to pursue a career in teaching.

#### LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR INITIAL LICENSURE PROGRAMS

Recognizing that teaching is both a gift and a mission, the Aquinas College School of Education seeks to develop caring and compassionate individuals who desire to educate the whole child by promoting the spiritual, moral, physical, and intellectual development of each child in the classroom, school, and community.

The Aquinas College Teacher Education Graduate will be prepared to:

- Demonstrate depth and breadth in subject area content.
- Integrate a variety of instructional strategies to develop student's performance skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and personal achievement.
- Design and implement a variety of assessments to evaluate each student progress.
- Direct and manage individual and group behavior to promote an atmosphere conducive to academic progress.
- Model respect and reverence for the dignity of all peoples of various cultures and creeds by creating learning opportunities that enhance and value differences in learning styles, development, and other diversities.
- Employ effective communication techniques to encourage supportive, collaborative interaction among teachers, students, and parents.

 Collaborate and cooperate with other professionals and professional organizations in order to remain current and abreast of new trends and research in education.

\*Initial Licensure Programs include:

B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies
B.S. English
M.A.T. – K -6
M.A.T. – 7 – 12

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

## Master of Arts in Teaching - M.A.T. (K-6):

- 1. Submit proof of a Bachelors degree
- 2. Submit a completed Aquinas College Graduate application and non-refundable \$25 application fee.
- 3. Submit a 2 page essay. Essay topics are available with the Graduate Education Application.
- 4. Submit one additional writing sample.
- 5. Submit current resume.
- 6. Submit two (2) recommendations using the forms provided in the Graduate Application Packet. One recommendation must be from an administrator, college supervisor, or former employer. The other recommendation must be from a professional colleague and a former teacher who can evaluate applicant's potential for success in a graduate program.
- 7. Provide (2) official transcript(s) from all previously attended colleges or universities.
  - If transcript is from an international institution: applicants must provide an official copy of a
    third party course by course credential evaluation. World Education Services (<a href="www.wes.org">www.wes.org</a>)
    or Educational Credential Evaluators (<a href="www.wes.org">www.wes.org</a>) offer this service.
- 8. Satisfactory GRE scores
  - GRE waived for students with a Masters degree
  - GRE must have been taken within the last 5 years
- 9. An interview is required. Applicant will be contacted by the Admissions Office.
- 10. Completed criminal background and fingerprint checks prior to admission to the Program.
- Applicants whose native language is not English, must submit a TOEFL score of at least 600 (paper-based), or 250 (computer-based), or 100 (Internet-based) test.

## COURSES

#### Master of Arts in Teaching K through 6

EDU 600 – Education in the Dominican Tradition	3 credit hours
EDU 620 – Data-Driven Decisions in Education	3 credit hours
EDU 630 – Modes of Instruction	3 credit hours
EDU 632 - Practicum and Application of Data-Driven Decisions and Modes of Instruction	2 credit hours
EDU 512 – Literacy Through Learning	3 credit hours
EDU 517 – Reading Diagnosis and Instruction	3 credit hours
EDU 525 – Media and Technology in Education	3 credit hours
PSY 520 – Human Growth and Development	3 credit hours
PSY 523 – Exceptional Child	3 credit hours
ENG 500 – Children's Literature	3 credit hours
EDU 501 – Education Seminar for K-6: Classroom Organization and Management	1 credit hour
EDU 560 – Supervised Student Teaching	6 credit hours
Total	36 credit hours

#### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### MAT Courses K-6

#### EDU 600 - Education in the Dominican Tradition

3 Credit Hours

Participants in this course will examine the roles of the moral, spiritual, intellectual, physical, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of education at all levels from the Dominican perspective. These elements will be examined in the light of a Christian anthropology and world view. The importance of the educator as witness and the dignity of the human person will also be emphasized in light of teaching as a vocation. The importance of promoting a culture of learning and the formation of moral conscience and fostering moral courage in dealing with current moral concerns will be integral to this course. This is the first course in the program of study.

#### EDU 620 - Data-Driven Decisions in Education

**3 Credit Hours** 

## Must be taken concurrently with Modes of Instruction

This course details the processes of using data to make informed decisions regarding student learning, instructional programs, resources, and policies. Instruction will include aspects of information literacy such as methods for collecting meaningful data, analyses of data, communication of findings, and decision-making based on findings. Particular emphasis will be given to using teacher and student work samples to make instructional decisions based on analyses of student learning gains and related data.

#### EDU 630 - Modes of Instruction

3 Credit Hours

#### Must be taken concurrently with Data-Driven Decisions in Education

This course is designed to engage students in the study and implementation of the various instructional models and how they relate to the different learning styles and effective classroom management. The role of curriculum, philosophy, and knowledge of the learner will be examined in the selection of teaching strategies. Emphasis will be placed on the practical application of the various models to the specific audience of the student through a culminating project.

# EDU 632 – Practicum and Application of Data-Driven Decisions and Modes of Instruction 2 Credit Hours Must be taken concurrently with Data-Driven Decisions and Modes of Instruction 2

This practicum focuses on the application of various instructional and assessment strategies presented in Modes of Instruction and Data-Driven Decisions.

#### EDU 525 - Media and Technology in Education

**3 Credit Hours** 

### Prerequisites: Computer Competency

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to integrate instructional technology into the school classroom. The course addresses the management of different learning strategies, the development of higher order thinking skills using various instructional technologies, the selection, use and integration of appropriate technology-based resources, and the development of instructional materials which make use of basic computer applications of word-processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation software and the Internet. Students are required to develop and teach a technology-integrated lesson in a school classroom. Evaluation of hardware, software, and Websites are incorporated into this course. Practicum included. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

## PSY 520 - Human Growth and Development

**3 Credit Hours** 

This course is a detailed study of the physical, intellectual, moral, social and emotional growth and development of the human person, covering the entire life-span. All stages of human life from conception to the aged are considered. Particular emphasis will be placed on how individuals learn in the context of their environment. In addition to studying the entire life-span, each student will engage in a focused study of one phase of development. Field experiences required. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

## PSY 523 - Exceptional Child

3 Credit Hours

Acknowledging that each student is unique, and in this sense, exceptional, this course focuses on the needs of a variety of children, including those with learning disabilities, physically and/or mentally limiting conditions, intellectual gifts and emotional or behavioral difficulties. The main emphasis is on empowering the student to enable each child to strive for and reach full personal potential. Field experience included. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

#### ENG 500 - Children's Literature

**3 Credit Hours** 

This course is an overview of age-appropriate children's literature. The course develops an awareness of the value of good literature in the education and life of children. Integration of children's literature with various performance technologies, such as storytelling, puppetry, children's theatre and creative dramatics, provides students with effective techniques for the elementary classroom. Reviewed literature offers the student a cross-cultural experience. Field experience included. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

#### EDU 512 - Literacy Through Learning

3 Credit Hours

This course focuses on theories, materials and strategies for reading and writing instruction across the curriculum. A variety of instructional strategies are provided along with the integration and application of materials for creating a literacy environment through the content area and resources from age-appropriate literature, including language experiences and other traditional and contemporary programs. Higher-order thinking skills and critical questioning techniques support the emergent reader. This course includes field experience, observations and teaching. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

#### EDU 517 - Reading Diagnosis and Instruction

3 Credit Hours

This course offers appropriate methodologies for applying current research and skills in solving problems related to reading level, rate, comprehension and other reading difficulties experienced in the K-6 classroom. The teacher education student will apply these methods to all elementary content areas working directly with a student by developing an individual assessment. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

#### EDU 501 - Education Seminar for K-6: Classroom Organization and Management 1 Credit Hour

This senior synthesis accompanies the Enhanced Student Teaching experience. Designed in a different time format, this seminar bridges the learning for the student teacher in the area of classroom organization and management from theory to practice. Other pertinent concerns that arise during the student teaching experience are discussed and evaluated in the light of sound educational practices. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

### **EDU 560 - Supervised Student Teaching**

**6 Credit Hours** 

Supervised student teaching allows teaching interns to synthesize all that they have learned in the Master of Arts in Teaching curricula. The experiences give students the opportunity to plan and execute instructions in environments which provide structure for an increasing degree of responsibility. In order to provide both depth and breadth of experience, the professional semester is divided into two modules: a nine-week experience and a seven-week experience. The two experiences may be in varied school settings (urban, rural or suburban). The two experiences must be in different grade levels. The evaluation of the M.A.T. student's performance during the professional semester is both formative and summative in nature, and is carried out by mentor teachers in cooperation with the Aquinas College School of Education supervisors.

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

## Master of Arts in Teaching - M.A.T. (7-12):

- 1. Submit proof of a Bachelors degree
- 2. Submit a completed Aquinas College Graduate application and non-refundable \$25 application fee.
- 3. Submit a 2 page essay. Essay topics are available with the Graduate Education Application.
- 4. Submit one additional writing sample.
- 5. Submit current resume.
- 6. Submit two (2) recommendations using the forms provided in the Graduate Application Packet. One recommendation must be from an administrator, college supervisor, or former employer. The other references must be from a professional colleague and a former teacher who can evaluate applicant's potential for success in a graduate program.
- 7. Provide (2) official transcript(s) from all previously attended colleges or universities.
  - If transcript is from an international institution: applicants must provide an official copy of a
    third party course by course credential evaluation. World Education Services (<a href="www.wes.org">www.wes.org</a>)
    or Educational Credential Evaluators (<a href="www.wes.org">www.wes.org</a>) offer this service.
- 8. Satisfactory GRE scores
  - GRE waived for students with a Masters degree
  - GRE must have been taken within the last 5 years
- 9. An interview is required. Applicant will be contacted by the Admissions Office.
- 10. Completed criminal background and fingerprint checks prior to admission to the Program.
- 11. Applicants whose native language is not English, must submit a TOEFL score of at least 600 (paper-based), or 250 (computer-based), or 100 (Internet-based) test.

#### COURSES

## Master of Arts in Teaching 7 - 12

EDU 600 – Education in the Dominican Tradition	3 credit hours
EDU 620 – Data-Driven Decisions in Education	3 credit hours
EDU 630 – Modes of Instruction	3 credit hours
EDU 632 – Practicum and Application of Data-Driven Decisions and Modes of Instruction	2 credit hours
EDU 525 – Media and Technology in Education	3 credit hours
PSY 520 – Human Growth and Development	3 credit hours
EDU 524 – Instructing Diverse Learners	3 credit hours
EDU 535 – Reading Strategies 7 - 12	3 credit hours
ENG 503 – Adolescent Literature	3 credit hours
EDU 502 – Education Seminar for 7-12: Classroom Organization and Management	1 credit hour
EDU 560 – Supervised Student Teaching	6 credit hours
Total	33 credit hours

#### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

# MAT Courses 7-12

## EDU 600 - Education in the Dominican Tradition

**3 Credit Hours** 

Participants in this course will examine the roles of the moral, spiritual, intellectual, physical, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of education at all levels from the Dominican perspective. These elements will be examined in the light of a Christian anthropology and world view. The importance of the educator as witness and the dignity of the human person will also be emphasized in light of teaching as a vocation. The importance of promoting a culture of learning and the formation of moral conscience and fostering moral courage in dealing with current moral concerns will be integral to this course. This is the first course in the program of study.

#### EDU 620 - Data-Driven Decisions in Education

#### Must be taken concurrently with Modes of Instruction

3 Credit Hours

This course details the processes of using data to make informed decisions regarding student learning, instructional programs, resources, and policies. Instruction will include aspects of information literacy such as methods for collecting meaningful data, analyses of data, communication of findings, and decision-making based on findings. Particular emphasis will be given to using teacher and student work samples to make instructional decisions based on analyses of student learning gains and related data.

#### EDU 630 - Modes of Instruction

**3 Credit Hours** 

#### Must be taken concurrently with Data-Driven Decisions

This course is designed to engage students in the study and implementation of the various instructional models and how they relate to the different learning styles and effective classroom management. The role of curriculum, philosophy, and knowledge of the learner will be examined in the selection of teaching strategies. Emphasis will be placed on the practical application of the various models to the specific audience of the student through a culminating project.

# EDU 632 – Practicum and Application of Data-Driven Decisions and Modes of Instruction 2 Credit Hours Must be taken concurrently with Data-Driven Decisions and Modes of Instruction

This practicum focuses on the application of various instructional and assessment strategies presented in Modes of Instruction and Data-Driven Decisions.

#### EDU 525 - Media and Technology in Education

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: computer competency

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to integrate instructional technology into the school classroom. The course addresses the management of different learning strategies, the development of higher order thinking skills using various instructional technologies, the selection, use and integration of appropriate technology-based resources, and the development of instructional materials which make use of basic computer applications of word-processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation software and the Internet. Students are required to develop and teach a technology-integrated lesson in a school classroom. Evaluation of hardware, software, and Websites are incorporated into this course. Practicum included. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

# PSY 520 - Human Growth and Development

3 Credit Hours

This course is a detailed study of the physical, intellectual, moral, social and emotional growth and development of the human person, covering the entire life-span. All stages of human life from conception to the aged are considered. Particular emphasis will be placed on how individuals learn in the context of their environment. In addition to studying the entire life-span, each student will engage in a focused study of one phase of development. Field experiences required. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

## **EDU 524 - Instructing Diverse Learners**

3 Credit Hours

This course examines pedagogical, curricular, and social considerations pertaining to teaching and learning. Areas for discussion will include, yet not be limited to, diversity of culture, ethnicity, language, and exceptional learning needs. Emphasis will be placed on how diversity is represented in each learner and how to design and implement appropriate instructional opportunities for all learners in the classroom. Field experiences required. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

#### **ENG 503 - Adolescent Literature**

3 Credit Hours

This course is an overview of developmentally appropriate literature for the adolescent student. The content reflects and projects many of life's experiences and demonstrates that significant parallels exist in the literature of global cultures and interrelated genres. Field experience included. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

#### EDU 535 - Reading Strategies 7 -12

3 Credit Hours

This course provides a study of current methods, teaching procedures, assessment techniques and materials for teaching reading in grades 7-12. The primary emphasis of this course is on reading as a developmental process and on useful strategies to increase comprehension. Field experiences required. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

## EDU 502 - Education Seminar for 7-12: Classroom Organization and Management 1 Credit Hour

This course, conducted in a seminar format, examines secondary classroom organization and management, instruction, assessment, evaluation, and preparation for enhanced student teaching in grades 7-12. Credit at the graduate level requires the completion of additional course outcomes which will be indicated in the course syllabus.

#### **EDU 560 - Supervised Student Teaching**

6 Credit Hours

Supervised student teaching allows teaching interns to synthesize all that they have learned in the Master of Arts in Teaching curricula. The experiences give students the opportunity to plan and execute instructions in environments which provide structure for an increasing degree of responsibility. In order to provide both depth and breadth of experience, the professional semester is divided into two modules: a nine-week experience and a seven-week experience. The two experiences may be in varied school settings (urban, rural or suburban). The two experiences must be in different grade levels. The evaluation of the M.A.T. student's performance during the professional semester is both formative and summative in nature, and is carried out by mentor teachers in cooperation with the Aquinas College School of Education supervisors.

#### LICENSURE

A teacher candidate must have acquired the knowledge and skills specified by the Tennessee State Board of Education, have student teaching experiences as outlined in the Tennessee State Board of Education guidelines, and meet additional standards, procedures and guidelines, as mandated, by the State Board and the Aquinas College School of Education.

A teacher candidate seeking initial licensure must attain passing scores on the *Educational Testing Service Praxis II Examinations* as required by the State of Tennessee and the Aquinas College School of Education before the Enhanced Student Teaching Experience. Aquinas College Education administration and faculty must recommend the candidate.

HEA Compliance Title II of the Higher Education Act requires teacher preparation institutions to report *Praxis II* test scores and other data. See the following chart:

Information regarding Praxis pass rates for Aquinas College may be viewed at the following address: <a href="https://title2.ed.gov/View.asp">https://title2.ed.gov/View.asp</a>

# **GRADUATE STUDIES IN NURSING**

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING EDUCATION POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE IN NURSING EDUCATION

The purpose of the Master of Science in Nursing and the Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education, consistent with the Mission and Core Values of Aquinas College and the philosophy of the School of Nursing, is to prepare registered nurses in the specialty role of nurse educator for faculty positions in schools of nursing and as clinical educators in health care facilities, in community settings and in other health care organizations. The programs are founded on beliefs in a moral community of learners committed to protecting and defending the dignity of every person in a contemporary era of encounter, dialogue, collaborative partnerships, transformation, technology advancement and global interactivity required to promote caring, integrity, diversity and excellence in nursing practice through nursing education.

#### PROGRAM OUTCOMES

By the conclusion of this program the student will be able to:

- Fulfill the role of competent nurse educator who integrates the Catholic-Dominican principles to protect, defend and promote the dignity, freedom, and flourishing of every person from the moment of conception to natural death regardless of religious beliefs, gender, color, ethnicity, culture, diversity, socio-economic status and the reason for illness or station in life;
- Implement diverse, contemporary and practice-based educational interventions that promote an effective
  culture of learning and competence among learners and inter-professional partners based on
  collaboration, evolving practice content and assessment of learner-related data.
- Communicate with learners and relevant others to effectively promote achievement of course outcomes, using oral, written, and electronic methods;
- Promote scholarly inquiry by integrating diverse methods of critical thinking designed to promote
  achievement of stated outcomes and core competencies, and by collaborating with colleagues to promote
  evidence-based quality nursing education.
- Engage in human caring activities to promote the development of compassion, respect, competence and confidence among learners and colleagues.
- Manage human and material resources effectively in the teaching-learning process consistent with requirements and needs of learners, the College, the health care delivery system, and the community.
- Engage in responsibilities as informed leader in nursing education, participant in the profession, and
  citizen of the community by participating in activities to help shape health and social policies that
  promote competent practice that improves patient safety and quality care, in the tradition of Aquinas
  College.
- Integrate knowledge required for practice as a competent nurse educator related to contemporary curriculum design and implementation, evidence-based, interactive and practice related learning strategies, effective cognitive and performance assessment methods, and evaluation of program effectiveness.

#### ADMISSION REQUIRMENTS

To be admitted to the Master of Science in Nursing Education or the Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education Programs, the following criteria must be met:

## **Master of Science in Nursing Education:**

- 1. Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing
- 2. Submit a completed Aquinas College Graduate application and non-refundable \$25 application fee.
- 3. Submit an essay of 500 to 700 words describing applicant's professional experience, career goals, and reasons for pursing graduate studies in nursing education.
- Submit current resume. Applicants must have minimum work experience of one year as a practicing registered nurse.
- 5. Submit three (3) references using the forms provided in the M.S.N. Graduate Application Packet. One reference must be from a supervisor. The other references must be from previous nursing faculty, professional colleagues or other work supervisors who can evaluate applicant's potential for success in a graduate program.
- 6. Provide official transcript(s) from all previously attended colleges or universities.

- Minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale preferred in all undergraduate or graduate nursing courses.
- 8. Have a valid, unrestricted, unencumbered RN license to practice in Tennessee.
- Submit current resume. Applicants must have minimum work experience of one year as a practicing registered nurse.
- Two independent interviews are recommended: one with the Director of the M.S.N. Program and one
  with a member of the Program Faculty.
- 11. Completed criminal background and fingerprint check prior to admission to the Program.
- 12. Transcript is from international institution: applicants must provide an official copy of a third party course by course credential evaluation. World Education Services (<u>www.wes.org</u>) or Educational Credential Evaluators (<u>www.ece.org</u>) offer this service.
- Applicants whose native language is not English, must submit a TOEFL score of at least 600 (paper-based), or 250 (computer-based), or 100 (Internet-based) test.

### Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education

- 1. Submit a completed Aquinas College Graduate application and non-refundable \$25 application fee.
- 2. Have a valid, unrestricted, unencumbered RN license to practice in Tennessee.
- Submit current resume. Applicants must have minimum work experience of one year as a practicing registered nurse.
- 4. Two independent interviews are recommended: one with the Director of the M.S.N. Program and one with a member of the Program Faculty.
- 5. Completed criminal background and fingerprint check prior to admission to the Program.
- 6. Official transcript for the Master of Science Degree in Nursing.
- 7. Successful completion of graduate courses in Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, and Health Assessment.

#### COURSES

### M.S.N. PROGRAM

NUR 601/EDU 600 – Education in the Dominican Tradition	3 credit hours
NUR 602 - Theoretical Foundations and Transformation in Nursing Education and Practice	3 credit hours
NUR 603 – Curriculum Development in Nursing Education	2 credit hours
NUR 603P – Practicum in Curriculum Development in Nursing Education	1 credit hour
NUR 604/EDU 630 – Modes of Instruction	3 credit hours
NUR 605 - Design and Measurement of Competencies and Outcomes in Nursing Education	2 credit hours
NUR 605P – Practicum in Design and Measurement of Competencies and Outcomes in Nursing Edu.	1 credit hour
NUR 608/EDU 650 – Scholarly Inquiry and Research	3 credit hours
NUR 609 – Ethical, Legal and Public Policy Issues in Health Care and Education	3 credit hours
NUR 610 – Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3 credit hours
NUR 611 – Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3 credit hours
NUR 612 – Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	3 credit hours
NUR 615 – Clinical Specialty Seminar	3 credit hours
NUR 616 - Residency in Nursing Education and Practice	1 credit hour
NUR 617/EDU 610 – Human Dignity and Diversity in Education	3 credit hours
NUR 618/EDU 670 – Education and the Digital Age	3 credit hours
Total	40 credit hours

#### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### NUR 601/EDU 600 - Education in the Dominican Tradition

**3 Credit Hours** 

Co-Requisites: NUR 602

Participants in this course will examine the roles of the moral, spiritual, intellectual, physical, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of education at all levels from the Dominican perspective. These elements will be examined in the light of a Christian anthropology and world view. The importance of the educator as witness and the dignity of the human person will also be emphasized in light of teaching as a vocation. The importance of promoting a culture of learning and the formation of moral conscience and fostering moral courage in dealing with current moral concerns will be integral to this course. This is the first course in the program of study.

# NUR 602 - Theoretical Foundations and Transformation In Nursing Education and Practice 3 Credit Hours Co-Requisites: NUR 601

In this course students integrate theories and models of nursing and related disciplines, with emphasis on the COPA Model, to advance nursing practice and interdisciplinary relationships in the context of current and projected trends in health care, nursing education and practice. They analyze different theoretical perspectives and make decisions to determine relevance, effectiveness, and logistics of applying a theory for particular systems or circumstances. In a seminar environment, students analyze and debate organizational and clinical ethical issues in health care, the science of nursing education, competencies for nursing practice, simulation in learning and performance assessment, and global and diversity initiatives in education and practice They analyze and debate issues and trends related to transformational leadership, heath care reform, financing and the legislative process and interdisciplinary partnerships and collaboration to advance the effectiveness of nursing practice. The IOM Study, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* (2010) is a principal reference for this course, along with selected nursing theory references. The outcomes of this course reflect the conceptual framework, competencies, and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

#### NUR 603 – Curriculum Development in Nursing Education

2 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: NUR 601

Co-Requisites: NUR 603P, NUR 608

In this course students integrate the history, principles and concepts of curriculum design in nursing education. They analyze past and present models and designs with specific emphasis on the Lenburg Competency Outcomes and Performance Assessment Model (COPA) and the National League for Nursing Education Competencies Model (ECM). They also analyze the applicability of these designs in response to current and future trends and issues in nursing education, nursing practice and health care, and through inter-and intra-disciplinary partnerships. They develop a draft curriculum based on specific statements of mission, core values, and philosophy, and incorporate initial competencies in the development of major aspects of the curriculum, such as course development and implementation, teaching-learning strategies, and methods for the design and measurement of competencies for nursing practice. Students continue this curriculum development project in NUR 603P. The outcomes of this course reflect the COPA conceptual framework, competencies and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

## NUR 603P - Practicum in Curriculum Development in Nursing Education

1 Credit Hour

Prerequisites: NUR 601 (practicum hours: 60)

Co-Requisites: NUR 603, NUR 608

In this course students integrate principles of curriculum design, specifically the COPA Model, into the project they presented in NUR 603. An experienced nurse educator guides them in the process.

# NUR 604/EDU 630 – Modes of Instruction

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: NUR 601, NUR 603, NUR 603P

Co-Requisites: NUR 605, NUR 605P

This course is designed to engage students in the study and implementation of the various instructional models and how they relate to the different learning styles and effective classroom management. The role of the curriculum, philosophy, and knowledge of the learner will be examined in the selection of teaching strategies. Emphasis will be

placed on the practical application of the various models to the specific audience of the student through a culminating project.

# NUR 605 – Design and Measurement of Competencies and Outcomes in Nursing Education 2 Credit Hours *Prerequisites: NUR 603, NUR 603P, NUR 618;*

Co-Requisites: NUR 604, NUR 605P

In this course student's integrate the history, philosophy and purpose of the design and measurement of competencies and outcomes in nursing education and practice settings. They analyze different methods and protocols used for effective design and measurement of competencies and outcomes essential for contemporary practice, based on the science of nursing education and the integration of the Lenburg Competency Outcomes Performance Assessment Model (COPA) and the National League for Nursing's Education Competencies Model (ECM). They incorporate into the design and methods used a multiplicity of factors such as practice content, level of expectations, environment, policies, technology, and the diversity and characteristics of faculty, student and patients as partners in learning. Students continue to develop their competency measurement project in NUR 605P. The outcomes of this course reflect the conceptual framework and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

# NUR 605P – Practicum in Design and Measurement of Competencies and Outcomes in Nursing Education Prerequisites: NUR 603, NUR 603P, NUR 618 1 Credit Hour

Co-Requisites: NUR 604, NUR 605

(practicum hours: 60)

In this course students integrate previous learning by creating an effective measurement instrument that incorporates the eight core practice competencies and protocols of the COPA Model for use in the classroom and in nursing practice settings. They are guided in this process by an experienced educator.

## NUR 608/EDU 650 - Scholarly Inquiry and Research

**3 Credit Hours** 

This course is designed to facilitate students' understanding and application of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, including research ethics and informed consent, and to critically analyze and debate published research and relevant issues. Methods of data analysis appropriate to selected research methods and subjects will be reviewed. Examination and application of research models to inform and promote best practices will be required.

# NUR 609 - Ethical, Legal, and Public Policy Issues in Health Care

**3 Credit Hours** 

Prerequisites: NUR 601 Co-Requisites: NUR 617

In this course the students analyze the ethical, legal and public policy issues that impact on nursing education, nursing practice and the health care delivery system using a moral framework consistent with the natural law and Church teaching. Using the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (USCCB, 2009) as a guide, they critique a variety of ethical paradigms and selected case studies in health care ethics. Within a student-led inter-professional milieu, students critically analyze organizational paradigms, regulations, and public policies that threaten the dignity of the human person, the nurse educator and the clinician. Some significant issues include beginning- and end-of-life issues, withdrawal and foregoing care, health inequities and disparities, conscience clauses, advocacy, distributive justice, quality care, safety and access to health services, health care financing, standards of practice, violence in the workplace, incompetent practice, and the changing roles in nursing and health care services. The outcomes of this course reflect the conceptual framework, outcomes and\_competencies of the M.S.N. Program.

## NUR 610 – Pathophysiology For Advanced Nursing Practice

3 Credit Hours

In this course students develop competence to determine the etiology, pathogenesis and clinical manifestations of the disease process and the interaction between patient vulnerability and resiliency in explaining major pathophysiological conditions across the life span. They assess the complexity and predictability in patient outcomes and evaluate physiological changes, presence or absence of complications and the extent to which all COPA practice competencies and desired outcomes of nursing care and treatment are achieved. The outcomes of this course reflect the conceptual framework and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

#### NUR 611 - Pharmacology For Advanced Nursing Practice

3 Credit Hours

In this course students incorporate the knowledge, principles and application of pharmacotherapeutics, including pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics in patient populations among individuals and families across the life span. They integrate knowledge of therapeutic responses, drug interactions, over-the-counter and herbal preparations, and monitoring multiple drug regimens. They incorporate all COPA core competencies, with emphasis on determining assessment and intervention protocols for significant adverse reactions, dangers of self-medication, administration and regulation of controlled substances, addictions, and the overuse of commonly prescribed medications. The outcomes of this course articulate with the conceptual framework and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

#### NUR 612 - Health Assessment For Advanced Nursing Practice

**3 Credit Hours** 

Prerequisites: NUR 610, NUR 611 Co-requisite: NUR 618 (integrates theory and simulation learning experiences practicum)

In this course students integrate the principles, development and application of the COPA eight core Practice Competencies through planned experiences to obtain, evaluate, present and record a comprehensive health assessment of individuals across the life span (physiological, behavioral, spiritual). They develop a patient database to formulate a comprehensive preventive health/problem list including health stressors of individuals, families, and communities, counseling and learning needs, risks and problems. Emphasis is on health promotion, preventive interventions, including screening tests, counseling interventions, immunizations, chemophylactic regimens and comprehensive planning of culturally relevant care across the life span. The outcomes of this course reflect the conceptual framework and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

#### NUR 615 – Clinical Specialty Seminars

3 Credit Hours (2 Seminars; 1 practicum

Prerequisites: NUR 610, NUR 611, NUR 612

hours – 60 hours)

In this course, students integrate learning and competencies from all previous courses applicable to their selected clinical specialties consistent with the COPA core competencies and Program Outcomes.

Clinical specialty options pending the findings of the Assessment Surveys:

- A. Family Health
- B. Adult Health

Co-Requisites: NUR 616

- C. Gerontology
- D. Women's Health
- E. Community Health
- F. Mental Health
- G. Hospice
- H. Pediatric-Adolescent Health

# NUR 616 - Residency in Nursing Education and Practice

1 Credit Hour

(practicum: 60 hours)

Prerequisites: All previous course work

Co-Requisites: NUR 615

In this capstone course students integrate learning and competencies from all previous courses in order to finalize achievement of the COPA core competencies and the Program Outcomes. Students participate in a practicum designed to promote their professional and educational skills and essential preparation for assuming a specialty role in advanced nursing practice as a nurse educator in a school of nursing, or as a clinical educator in health care facilities, in community settings, or in other health care organizations. They implement learning opportunities such as presenting lectures, facilitating seminars, conducting interactive workshops and in-service programs, coaching and supervising students in various clinical settings, and using standardized protocols to conduct competency performance examinations. The outcomes of this course reflect the conceptual framework and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

### NUR 617/EDU 610 - Human Dignity and Diversity in Education

3 Credit Hours

Co-requisites: NUR 609

Proceeding from the doctrine of human dignity and the unrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness of every person, this course examines the impact of diversity on the effectiveness of advocacy, human relationships, communications, and education. Expressions of diversity considered in this course comprise a wide range, including but not limited to: attribute and behavior diversity; learning styles and challenges; socio-economic diversity; family, community and organizational structures, including ethnic and cultural differences.

# NUR 618/EDU 670 - Education in the Digital Age

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: NUR 603, NUR 603P

Co-requisite: NUR 612

This course will examine teaching and learning with technology by investigating the issues of digital literacy and moving beyond information, organizational policies regarding the use of technology, the role of standards in technology integration, and current issues regarding use of technology in education. Emphasis will also be placed on developing necessary skills for integrating technology into the education process. A culminating project will require students to develop a project demonstrating knowledge and skills that have been developed in this course.

#### COURSES

## POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE IN NURSING EDUCATION

NUR 601/EDU 600 – Education in the Dominican Tradition	3 credit hours
NUR 603 – Curriculum Development in Nursing Education	2 credit hours
NUR 603P – Practicum in Curriculum Development in Nursing Education	1 credit hour
NUR 604/EDU 630 – Modes of Instruction	3 credit hours
NUR 605 - Design and Measurement of Competencies and Outcomes in Nursing Education	2 credit hours
NUR 605P - Practicum in Design and Measurement of Competencies and Outcomes in Nursing Edu.	1 credit hour
NUR 609 – Ethical, Legal and Public Policy Issues in Health Care and Education	3 credit hours
NUR 616 - Residency in Nursing Education and Practice	1 credit hour
NUR 617/EDU 610 – Human Dignity and Diversity in Education	3 credit hours
NUR 618/EDU 670 – Education and the Digital Age	3 credit hours
Total	22 credit hours

### Prerequisites for Admission

NUR 610 – Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3 credit hours
NUR 611 – Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3 credit hours
NUR 612 – Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	3 credit hours

#### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### NUR 601/EDU 600 - Education in the Dominican Tradition

3 Credit Hours

Co-Requisites: NUR 602

Participants in this course will examine the roles of the moral, spiritual, intellectual, physical, psychological, social, and cultural dimensions of education at all levels from the Dominican perspective. These elements will be examined in the light of a Christian anthropology and world view. The importance of the educator as witness and the dignity of the human person will also be emphasized in light of teaching as a vocation. The importance of promoting a culture of learning and the formation of moral conscience and fostering moral courage in dealing with current moral concerns will be integral to this course. This is the first course in the program of study.

#### NUR 603 – Curriculum Development in Nursing Education

Prerequisites: NUR 601

Co-Requisites: NUR 603P, NUR 608

2 Credit Hours

In this course students integrate the history, principles and concepts of curriculum design in nursing education. They analyze past and present models and designs with specific emphasis on the Lenburg Competency Outcomes and Performance Assessment Model (COPA) and the National League for Nursing Education Competencies Model (ECM). They also analyze the applicability of these designs in response to current and future trends and issues in nursing education, nursing practice and health care, and through inter-and intra-disciplinary partnerships. They develop a draft curriculum based on specific statements of mission, core values, and philosophy, and incorporate initial competencies in the development of major aspects of the curriculum, such as course development and implementation, teaching-learning strategies, and methods for the design and measurement of competencies for nursing practice. Students continue this curriculum development project in NUR 603-P. The outcomes of this course reflect the COPA conceptual framework, competencies and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

# NUR 603P - Practicum in Curriculum Development in Nursing Education

1 Credit Hour

(practicum hours: 60)

Co-Requisites: NUR 603, NUR 608

Prerequisites: NUR 601

In this course students integrate principles of curriculum design, specifically the COPA Model, into the project they presented in NUR 603. An experienced nurse educator guides them in the process.

#### NUR 604/EDU 630 - Modes of Instruction

**3 Credit Hours** 

Prerequisites: NUR 601, NUR 603, NUR 603P

Co-Requisites: NUR 605, NUR 605P

This course is designed to engage students in the study and implementation of the various instructional models and how they relate to the different learning styles and effective classroom management. The role of the curriculum, philosophy, and knowledge of the learner will be examined in the selection of teaching strategies. Emphasis will be placed on the practical application of the various models to the specific audience of the student through a culminating project.

# NUR 605 – Design and Measurement of Competencies and Outcomes in Nursing Education 2 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: NUR 603, NUR 603P, NUR 618

Co-Requisites: NUR 604, NUR 605P

In this course student's integrate the history, philosophy and purpose of the design and measurement of competencies and outcomes in nursing education and practice settings. They analyze different methods and protocols used for effective design and measurement of competencies and outcomes essential for contemporary practice, based on the science of nursing education and the integration of the Lenburg Competency Outcomes Performance Assessment Model (COPA) and the National League for Nursing's Education Competencies Model (ECM). They incorporate into the design and methods used a multiplicity of factors such as practice content, level of expectations, environment, policies, technology, and the diversity and characteristics of faculty, student and patients as partners in learning. Students continue to develop their competency measurement project in NUR 605P. The outcomes of this course reflect the conceptual framework and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

# NUR 605P – Practicum in Design and Measurement of Competencies and Outcomes in Nursing Education Prerequisites: NUR 603, NUR 603P, NUR 618 1 Credit Hour

Co-Requisites: NUR 604, NUR 605

(practicum hours: 60)

In this course students integrate previous learning by creating an effective measurement instrument that incorporates the eight core practice competencies and protocols of the COPA Model for use in the classroom and in nursing practice settings. They are guided in this process by an experienced educator.

# NUR 609 - Ethical, Legal, and Public Policy Issues in Health Care

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: NUR 601 Co-Requisites: NUR 617

In this course the students analyze the ethical, legal and public policy issues that impact on nursing education, nursing practice and the health care delivery system using a moral framework consistent with the natural law and Church teaching. Using the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (USCCB, 2009) as a guide, they critique a variety of ethical paradigms and selected case studies in health care ethics. Within a student-led inter-professional milieu, students critically analyze organizational paradigms, regulations, and public policies that threaten the dignity of the human person, the nurse educator and the clinician. Some significant issues include beginning- and end-of-life issues, withdrawal and foregoing care, health inequities and disparities, conscience clauses, advocacy, distributive justice, quality care, safety and access to health services, health care financing, standards of practice, violence in the workplace, incompetent practice, and the changing roles in nursing and health care services. The outcomes of this course reflect the conceptual framework, outcomes and\_competencies of the M.S.N. Program.

# NUR 610 - Pathophysiology For Advanced Nursing Practice

3 Credit Hours

In this course students develop competence to determine the etiology, pathogenesis and clinical manifestations of the disease process and the interaction between patient vulnerability and resiliency in explaining major pathophysiological conditions across the life span. They assess the complexity and predictability in patient outcomes and evaluate physiological changes, presence or absence of complications and the extent to which all COPA practice competencies and desired outcomes of nursing care and treatment are achieved. The outcomes of this course reflect the conceptual framework and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

#### NUR 611 - Pharmacology For Advanced Nursing Practice

3 Credit Hours

In this course students incorporate the knowledge, principles and application of pharmacotherapeutics, including pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics in patient populations among individuals and families across the life span. They integrate knowledge of therapeutic responses, drug interactions, over-the-counter and herbal preparations, and monitoring multiple drug regimens. They incorporate all COPA core competencies, with emphasis on determining assessment and intervention protocols for significant adverse reactions, dangers of self-medication, administration and regulation of controlled substances, addictions, and the overuse of commonly prescribed medications. The outcomes of this course articulate with the conceptual framework and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

#### NUR 612 - Health Assessment For Advanced Nursing Practice

**3 Credit Hours** 

1 Credit Hour

(practicum: 60 hours)

Prerequisites: NUR 610, NUR 611 Co-requisite: NUR 618

(integrates theory and simulation learning experiences practicum)

In this course students integrate the principles, development and application of the COPA eight core Practice Competencies through planned experiences to obtain, evaluate, present and record a comprehensive health assessment of individuals across the life span (physiological, behavioral, spiritual). They develop a patient database to formulate a comprehensive preventive health/problem list including health stressors of individuals, families, and communities, counseling and learning needs, risks and problems. Emphasis is on health promotion, preventive interventions, including screening tests, counseling interventions, immunizations, chemophylactic regimens and comprehensive planning of culturally relevant care across the life span. The outcomes of this course reflect the conceptual framework and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

## NUR 616 - Residency in Nursing Education and Practice

Prerequisites: All previous course work

Co-Requisites: NUR 615

In this capstone course students integrate learning and competencies from all previous courses in order to finalize achievement of the COPA core competencies and the Program Outcomes. Students participate in a practicum designed to promote their professional and educational skills and essential preparation for assuming a specialty role in advanced nursing practice as a nurse educator in a school of nursing, or as a clinical educator in health care facilities, in community settings, or in other health care organizations. They implement learning opportunities such

as presenting lectures, facilitating seminars, conducting interactive workshops and in-service programs, coaching and supervising students in various clinical settings, and using standardized protocols to conduct competency performance examinations. The outcomes of this course reflect the conceptual framework and outcomes of the M.S.N. Program.

#### NUR 617/EDU 610 - Human Dignity and Diversity in Education

**3 Credit Hours** 

Co-requisites: NUR 609

Proceeding from the doctrine of human dignity and the unrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness of every person, this course examines the impact of diversity on the effectiveness of advocacy, human relationships, communications, and education. Expressions of diversity considered in this course comprise a wide range, including but not limited to: attribute and behavior diversity; learning styles and challenges; socio-economic diversity; family, community and organizational structures, including ethnic and cultural differences.

#### NUR 618/EDU 670 – Education in the Digital Age

**3 Credit Hours** 

Prerequisites: NUR 603, NUR 603P

Co-requisite: NUR 612

This course will examine teaching and learning with technology by investigating the issues of digital literacy and moving beyond information, organizational policies regarding the use of technology, the role of standards in technology integration, and current issues regarding use of technology in education. Emphasis will also be placed on developing necessary skills for integrating technology into the education process. A culminating project will require students to develop a project demonstrating knowledge and skills that have been developed in this course.

#### **Graduation Requirements for Master of Science in Nursing Education Program**

- Satisfactory completion of 40 hours of graduate credit in the Master of Science in Nursing Education Program.
- 2. Minimum of 31 hours of graduate credits earned at Aquinas College.
- 3. Maintain cumulative GPA of 2.667 on a 4.0 scale.
- 4. Degree requirements must be completed within four (4) years from time of entry.

## Requirements for Completing the Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education

The Post-Master's Certificate Program requires 22 semester hours to complete the program. The Certification program degree must be completed within four a (4) year period.

- All coursework for a certificate must be completed with a minimum grade point average of 2.667, and no grades below B-.
- 2. Grade of C+ or below in any course must be repeated.
- 3. One course may be repeated during the program.
- Official transcripts of coursework may be obtained from the Registrar's Office for certification and credentialing purposes.
- 5. A certificate of completion will be awarded by Aquinas College.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

#### **Academic Progression**

- 1. Completion of all 500-600 level education and nursing courses with a minimum grade of B-.
- 2. Grade of C+ or below in any course must be repeated.
- 3. One course may be repeated during the program.
- 4. Maintenance of a cumulative minimum GPA of 2.667 on a 4.0 scale.

#### **Length of Programs**

The Master of Education in Teaching and Learning Program requires 33 semester hours for graduation. The time to complete the Program may vary for each student, depending upon whether or not they have credits that will transfer to fulfill some program requirements. Up to 6 credits may be transferred. The degree must be completed within a four (4) year period.

The Master of Arts in Teaching (K-6) Program requires 36 semester hours for graduation. The Master of Arts in Teaching (7-12) Program requires 33 semester hours for graduation. The time to complete the Program may vary for each student, depending upon whether or not they have credits that will transfer to fulfill some program requirements. Up to 6 credits maybe transferred. The degree must be completed within a four (4) year period.

The Master of Science in Nursing Education Program requires 40 semester hours for graduation. The time to complete the Program may vary for each student, depending upon whether or not they have credits that will transfer to fulfill some program requirements. Up to 9 credits maybe transferred. The degree must be completed within a four (4) year period.

The Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education requires 22 semester hours for completion. The time to complete the Program may vary for each student, depending upon whether or not they have credits that will transfer to fulfill some program requirements. Up to 9 credits maybe transferred. The certificate must be completed within a four (4) year period.

*Note:* Transfer credit is evaluated based on the student's degree requirements and will be awarded if the evaluator can determine that the course is equivalent to the course required at Aquinas. The comparison is made based on comparison of course descriptions or outcomes or syllabi from the student's previous institution.

## GRADUATE STUDIES ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

#### **Special Graduate Student Status**

There are four types of special students: non-degree students, visiting students, workshop students, and returning students.

1. Non-Degree Students: students who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited university when one is unable to complete full admission requirements prior to the beginning of courses in which the student wished to enroll, or 2) there is uncertainty about program appropriateness by either the student or by the Dean of the School of Nursing or by the Director of Graduate Studies in Education. Non-degree status must be approved by the Dean of the School of Nursing or by the Director of Graduate Studies in Education. Non-degree students complete the Aquinas College Graduate Application.

Non-degree students may take a maximum of 6 hours and are not eligible for federal financial aid. Students admitted to non-degree status are not assured of admissions to the graduate programs in Nursing or Education.

In the event the student later seeks admission to any Graduate Program, the student must submit a letter requesting admission to the appropriate program and complete all admission requirements. Non-degree status courses taken at Aquinas College will be counted toward degree requirements upon admission to the program.

- Visiting Students: students who are pursuing a graduate program at another institution and wish to take courses at Aquinas College must submit a letter from the graduate dean of the home institution indicating that the student is in good standing and has approval to take the specified course(s) for transfer. Visiting students need not submit transcripts or any other credentials and are not reviewed by the M.S.N. Graduate Committee or Graduate Education Program Committee. They are responsible for all fees and tuition costs.
- 3. Workshop Students: students who have not been officially admitted to graduate study but may take certain designated workshops for graduate credit. They must submit a workshop application and pay all applicable fees. Application for a workshop is not to be considered application for admission to a graduate program. Workshop students need not submit transcripts or any other credentials. These students are not reviewed by the Graduate Committee.
- 4. <u>Returning Students:</u> students who previously attended Aquinas College and have been not been enrolled in courses for at least twelve (12) months and must apply for readmissions through the Admissions Office. If they have attended another college since leaving Aquinas College, an official copy of the transcript is required prior to readmission being granted. The student must have left the College in good disciplinary and financial standing to be readmitted.

#### **Enrollment Management**

Marketing, Communications, Admissions, Financial Aid, Office of the Registrar, and the Schools of Education and Nursing work collaboratively to develop, implement and evaluate strategies that focus on admitting, retaining, and graduating students. Community, alumni and employer relations serve a vital role in more efficiently and effectively meeting and exceeding enrollment goals.

#### **Scholarships and Financial Aid**

Finding funds for college can be overwhelming. Many employers have a tuition assistance program which should be investigated.

- 1. Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA: Most grant and loan programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education are based on financial need. In order to receive any assistance through these programs, students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA online at <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">http://www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>. The school code for Aquinas College is (003477) and must appear on student applications.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services
   Administration (HRSA): offers loans and scholarship programs for which individual students can apply. Online site: <a href="http://www.hrsa.gov/scholarshipsloan/indes.html">http://www.hrsa.gov/scholarshipsloan/indes.html</a>.
- The American Association of Colleges of Nursing's website www.aacn.nche.edu is a good resource for graduate and post-graduate financial aid and scholarship opportunities based on specific criteria.
- Tennessee Graduate Nursing Loan—Forgiveness Program: The Graduate Nursing Loan—Forgiveness Program is designed to encourage Tennessee residents who are registered nurses to become teachers and administrators in Tennessee nursing education programs.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a Tennessee resident, a U.S. citizen, have an unencumbered Tennessee nursing license, and be enrolled in a Master degree or a Post-Master's degree program in nursing education at an eligible institution.

Those who accept the award must sign a promissory note and in doing so incur an obligation to enter a faculty or administrative position at a college or university in Tennessee in a nursing education program. The obligation is equivalent to four (4) years of full-time employment to have the loan forgiven, immediately upon completion of the education program. If recipients do not meet this obligation, the award must be repaid.

Visit <a href="www.tn.gov/collegepays">www.tn.gov/collegepays</a> for additional information or to apply. Awards are very competitive and based on funding. Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) must receive the application by March 1.

- 5. Tennessee Nurses Foundation—Memorial Educational Scholarship Program: The Memorial Educational Scholarship Program is an educational scholarship fund for eligible registered nurses in the State of Tennessee. The scholarship is awarded once a year in the amount of \$1000. For more information visit <a href="www.tnaonline.org/Media/pdf/tnf-mem-ed-scholarship-program.pdf">www.tnaonline.org/Media/pdf/tnf-mem-ed-scholarship-program.pdf</a>.
- <u>FastWeb www.fastweb.com</u> is a scholarship search engine that can match up a nursing scholarship based on specific criteria.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant positions will be available working with faculty of the Department
  of Nursing. Students will be selected based on their interest and ability to work. Students may apply
  for positions when they are announced.
- 8. <u>Troops to Teachers</u> Aquinas works in conjunction with programs that benefit Veterans. Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a federally funded program. The purpose of TTT is to assist eligible military personnel to transition to a new career as public school teachers in "high-need" schools. Counseling, referral, and placement assistance in Tennessee is provided through the Office of Teacher Licensing, Tennessee Department of Education.

#### TUITION AND FEES

Financial arrangements for tuition and fees for each term are due by the payment deadline published on the <u>Student Portal</u> and Academic Calendar. This includes confirmation and acceptance of financial aid awards and scholarships. Students receiving financial aid, scholarships, and third-party payments are responsible for any remaining balance on their accounts in excess of the amount awarded or applied. Students are officially registered after all financial arrangements have been completed.

Students who register after the published payment deadline must complete financial arrangements within two (2) business days.

Payment information and options are available on the Aquinas College website and in the Business Office located in the White House on the Aquinas College Campus.

Students are responsible for any outstanding balance on their account. This obligation includes balances that result from loss or reduction of financial aid funds due to changes in eligibility and/or enrollment.

All financial obligations must be fulfilled according to contractual agreements before final grades for any term are released, transcript requests are honored and/or registration for subsequent semesters/sessions is official.

A charge of \$25.00 will be assessed for returned checks and/or declined credit cards.

## **Regular Tuition**

## **Regular Fees**

Application Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$25.00
All Students' Universal Fee (Non-Refundable per semester)	\$300.00
Change of Schedule Fee (per transaction)	\$25.00
Graduation Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$125.00

## **Program-Specific Fees**

Computer Laboratory Fee	\$50.00
Science Laboratory Fee	\$55.00
Teacher Education Students' Liability Insurance (per year)	
NUR 603P (malpractice-liability insurance)	\$20.00
NUR 605P (malpractice-liability insurance)	\$20.00
NUR 612 (lab)	\$50.00
NUR 615 (malpractice-liability insurance)	\$20.00

# DELINQUENT PAYMENTS

Delinquent payments require cash, cashier's check, or money order. Students with delinquent payments must contact the Business Office within 10 days of notification.

## REFUNDS

If the College cancels a course, all tuition and fees paid for that course will be refunded in full. The application fee is not refundable.

A student dismissed from the College for any reason will not be eligible for a refund.

Fees are not refundable.

# 2012-13 REFUND SCHEDULE GRADUATE CLASSES

	COUR	SE INFO						REFUNDS  Last Day to Receive			
Course #	Course Name	Course Start/ End Dates	Class Day(s)	Class Times	Last Day to D/A	w	WP/WF	100%	80%	50%	25%
2012 EDU 600 / NUR 601	Education in the Dominican Tradition	9/6/12 - 11/8/12	Thurs	5:30 - 9:00	9/5	9/6 - 9/26	9/27 - 10/24	9/5	9/19	N/A	N/A
EDU 680	Learning & Cognition	9/14/12 - 11/3/12	Fri Sat	5:30 - 8:00 9:00 - 3:00	9/13	9/14 - 10/11	10/12 - 11/1	9/13	9/14	N/A	N/A
SPRING 2013											
IDS 640	Moral Communities	1/31/13 4/27/13	Fri Sat	5:30 - 8:00 9:00 - 3:00	1/30	1/31 - 4/26	N/A	1/30	1/31	N/A	N/A
EDU 630 / NUR 604	Modes of Instruction	2/1/13 - 3/16/13	Fri Sat	5:30 - 8:00 9:00 - 3:00	1/31	2/1 - 2/21	2/22 - 3/14	1/31	2/1	N/A	N/A
EDU 620	Data Driven Decision	2/7/13 - 4/18/13	Thurs	5:30 - 9:00	2/6	2/7 - 2/27	2/28 - 4/10	2/6	2/13	N/A	N/A
SUMMER 2013											
EDU 610 / NUR 617	Human Dignity & Diversity	5/31/13 - 6/29/13	Fri Sat	5:30 - 8:00 9:00 - 3:00	5/30	5/31 - 6/13	6/14 - 6/27	5/30	5/31	N/A	N/A
EDU 660	School Law	6/17/13 - 6/21/13	Mon - Fri	9:00 - 3:00	6/14	6/17	6/18	6/14	6/17	N/A	N/A
EDU 650 / NUR 608	Scholarly Inquiry & Research	7/9/13 - 7/25/13	Tues Thurs	5:30 - 9:00	7/8	7/9 - 7/15	7/16 - 7/22	7/8	7/10	N/A	N/A

The student is responsible for any balance resulting from changes of schedule including withdrawal from the college. This obligation includes any balance resulting from required return of financial aid funds both private and federal.

#### POLICY ON ACADEMIC PROGRESSION AND FINANCIAL AID

Successful academic progression of students determines continuance of financial aid.

# GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

#### COURSE SCHEDULES

Prior to the beginning of each semester, and summer sessions, a schedule of courses is published. Aquinas College reserves the right to alter the published schedule at any time. In addition to the course listings, the schedule contains calendar information, registration procedures, financial information and the schedule for drop, add and withdrawal including the refund policy.

#### COURSE LISTINGS/OFFERINGS

Individual courses under course schedules are subject to change or cancellation at any time and may not be offered each semester or every year. Any course may be cancelled from current offerings if the number of registrants does not justify its offering.

#### COURSE SCHEDULE CHANGES

During the fall and spring semesters, should a student decide to change his/her schedule, official changes will be accepted only during the times stipulated on the College calendar. Deadlines for these changes during summer sessions will be posted prior to the beginning of each session. Changes must be made with the consent of the student's advisor, the Director of Financial Aid, the Business Office and the Registrar. (See Dropping/Adding Courses).

Students who fail to make financial arrangements at the time they register for classes will not be considered officially registered until financial arrangements have been made through the Central Business Office. These students will be automatically deleted from the system according to dates published in the fall, spring and summer session schedules, if financial arrangements are not made by the designated date (or the first day of class, if no date is specified).

**STUDENT COURSE LOAD** – Student course load varies according to programs. All graduate courses follow a pre-determined schedule. The ordinary course load for:

M.Ed. - 6 hours a semester

M.A.T. – 12 hours a semester

M.S.N. - 6 hours a semester

Post-Master Certificate in Nursing Education – 3-6 hours

## ORIENTATION/REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

An orientation/registration program for graduate students is held on a specified date in the fall.

#### ADVISEMENT AND REGISTRATION

Advisement decisions are made on the basis of the student's designated course of study. All students, upon acceptance into the College, will be assigned an advisor. The purposes of advisement are to guide the student in terms of course selection and to provide academic counseling.

It is important to note that the student is entirely responsible for completing the requirements for the degree program in which he/she is registered. It is up to the student, in consultation with his/her advisor, to select the correct courses, maintain the required GPA and carry the required hours in preparation for graduation.