

Dear Manhattanville Community:

I am pleased to share the good news of the official launch of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences! The school received approval this week of its curriculum plan from the New York State Education Department. More details in the press release below.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Manhattanville College Receives Approval to Establish Nursing School

*School will offer high-tech, high-care nursing education;  
State grant will enhance simulation labs*

**PURCHASE, NEW YORK, January 29, 2020** – Manhattanville College has received approval to launch degree programs through its new School of Nursing and Health Sciences from the New York State Education Department.

Manhattanville now offers two degrees in nursing: Bachelor of Science in Nursing for traditional 4-year and transfer students as well as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing for second-degree students who already hold a bachelor's degree. The college is accepting applications immediately for the fall. More information is available at [www.mville.edu/nursing](http://www.mville.edu/nursing).

Manhattanville President Michael Geisler, Ph.D., recognized the assistance of community partners and elected officials during the approval process. He specifically thanked New York State Senator Shelley Mayer, New York State Assemblyman David Buchwald, and President and CEO of the Business Council of Westchester, Marsha Gordon, for their support.

"Empathy and collaborative spirit are central Manhattanville qualities that are integral to success in nursing, and these qualities are enhanced through the College's foundation in liberal arts and commitment to design thinking," said Geisler. "Creating a School of Nursing and Health Sciences is an exciting step for the future of Manhattanville."

Senator Mayer said, "Congratulations to Manhattanville College on receiving approval to establish the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. A career in nursing offers competitive salaries and benefits, job security, career flexibility and the personal satisfaction that comes with helping and serving others. I was pleased to support Manhattanville's efforts to establish the School of Nursing, which will help more students build fulfilling careers in an in-demand and growing field. Thank you to my Education Committee Director, Georgia Ascitutto, for your work and advocacy to ensure Manhattanville College had the necessary support to move forward. The school is in great hands with Dean Debra A. Simons and President Michael Geisler."

"The Business Council of Westchester is fully supportive of educational programs that meet the critical needs of our region's employers, especially in the area of health care which has long faced a nursing shortage and will continue to need nurses as the population ages," said Gordon. "Congratulations to Manhattanville College on their award from the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council in support of their initiative to supply a pipeline of qualified nurses so our healthcare organizations in the Hudson Valley."

The new school will help meet a growing national demand for nurses. The nursing field continues to grow at an accelerated rate, with the federal government projecting an expansion of 17% each year through 2028. With increasing emphasis on preventive and end-of-life care as well as an upsurge in chronic conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity, nurses will populate more areas of the healthcare field than ever before.

According to the [American Association of Colleges of Nursing](#) (AACN), nursing school enrollment is not growing fast enough to meet the projected demand for nurses. Though the AACN reported a 3.7% enrollment increase in entry-level baccalaureate nursing programs in 2018, this remains insufficient to populate many nursing services, including nurse faculty, researchers and primary care providers. A recent survey by the AACN found that 46% of employers require, and 88% strongly prefer, new hires to have a bachelor's degree. An estimated one million registered nurses will retire by 2030, creating a consistently high demand for a trained workforce.

Simons, Ph.D., R.N., C.C.M.R., dean, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Manhattanville College and Fellow, New York Academy of Medicine, said the programs will prepare students to be patient-centered providers, able to balance "high tech and high care," which will impact quality of care and health outcomes as well as enhance the patient experience.

"Our mission is to educate health professionals from a holistic framework in preparation to meet the needs of humanity in a complex health system locally, nationally and globally," said Simons. "Nursing and health science are complementary to Manhattanville's rich history in the liberal arts. Nurses who graduate from Manhattanville will be design thinkers, patient-centered, holistically educated nurses." Students will be educated in population health and value-based health care as well as palliative care. They may also attain certification in end-of-life care and will be eligible to sit for certification in holistic nursing.

Christine Dehne, MFA, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, anticipates the influx of nursing students will bring an increased vibrancy and energy to campus and a renewed interest in Manhattanville's already popular science courses. "We are looking forward to welcoming the nursing majors," said Dehne. "Plans are underway to enhance our facilities in order to support their specific needs and to offer opportunities for faculty to collaborate."

According to Dehne, the School of Arts and Sciences offers an invaluable foundation for future nurses. "Manhattanville's nursing students will benefit from our general education courses, some of which the faculty developed specifically with them in mind," said Dehne. "The liberal arts curriculum will teach them to be nimble, consider multiple perspectives and to work collaboratively, which ultimately will prepare them for success."

Manhattanville recently received a \$60,000 grant to create state-of-the-art Clinical Learning Laboratories, equipped with human simulators and clinical simulation environments that emulate all levels of care.

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing is pursuing initial accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education ([www.ccnaccreditation.org](http://www.ccnaccreditation.org)). Applying for accreditation does not guarantee that accreditation will be granted.

Michael E. Geisler, Ph.D.  
President

