

2019 Oklahoma's Education Guide to Nursing

A Guide For Prospective Nursing Students
and Continued Education Advancement



Oklahoma's
Nursing Times

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Getting ready for nursing college *can be easier than you think*

Graduating High School? Thinking about college? There's so much to consider when it comes to getting ready for college: where to go, what to study, how to apply, how to pay for it all, and more.

It's never too early—or too late—to explore your options for college. Inside this Guide are some key steps in preparing for college and resources that can help you along the way. You'll have to take the time to research and understand your options, but you don't have to do it alone. This Guide Can Help!

Why go to college?

More money, more job options, and more freedom. With less than a high school diploma the average income is just over \$34,000 per year. With an Associates degree your earnings jump to more than \$58,000 per year and \$75,000 with a Bachelor's degree. Earnings soar ever higher with a Master's and/or Doctoral Degree at over \$100,000 per year.

Checklist.

As a student or the parent of a student about to start college, the

following checklists will help you get ready.

1. Work hard all the way to graduation—second-semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.

2. Stay involved in after-school activities, and seek leadership roles if possible.

3. As soon as possible after its Oct. 1 release, complete and submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), at fafsa.gov, along with any other financial aid applications



Why Nursing?

Nursing is challenging, interesting, and allows you to make a difference in people's lives every day. Nursing is one of the fastest growing careers in the U.S. and offers a variety of medical settings. Nurses are near the top of the list when it comes to employment growth and income. In short, nursing can offer a career that is both personally and financially rewarding.

your chosen school(s) may require. You should submit your FAFSA® by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying, usually by early February.

4. After you submit the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within three days to three weeks. This document lists your answers to the questions on your FAFSA and gives you some basic information about your aid eligibility. Quickly make any necessary corrections and submit them to the FAFSA processor.

5. If you haven't done so already, register for and take the standardized tests required for college admission. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require. Apply to the colleges you have chosen. Prepare your applications carefully. Follow the instructions, and PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!

6. Well before your college application deadlines, ask your counselor and teachers to submit the required documents (e.g., transcript, letters of recommendation) to the colleges to which you're applying.

7. Complete any last scholarship applications.

8. Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll.

9. Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges' financial aid offers.

10. Contact a school's financial aid office if you have questions about the aid that school has offered you. In fact, getting to know your financial aid staff early is a good idea no matter what—they can tell you about deadlines, other aid for which you might wish to apply, and important paperwork you might need to submit.

11. When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification and deposit by May 1st.

Notes: **a.** Understand the FAFSA better by watching the videos in the "FAFSA: Apply for Aid" playlist at www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid. **b.** Follow or like the office of Federal Student Aid at www.Twitter.com/FAFSA and www.Facebook.com/FederalStudentAid to get regular financial aid tips. **c.** Make informed decisions about student loans. The following resources are important at this point: Federal Versus Private Loans and Federal Student Loans: Basics for Students

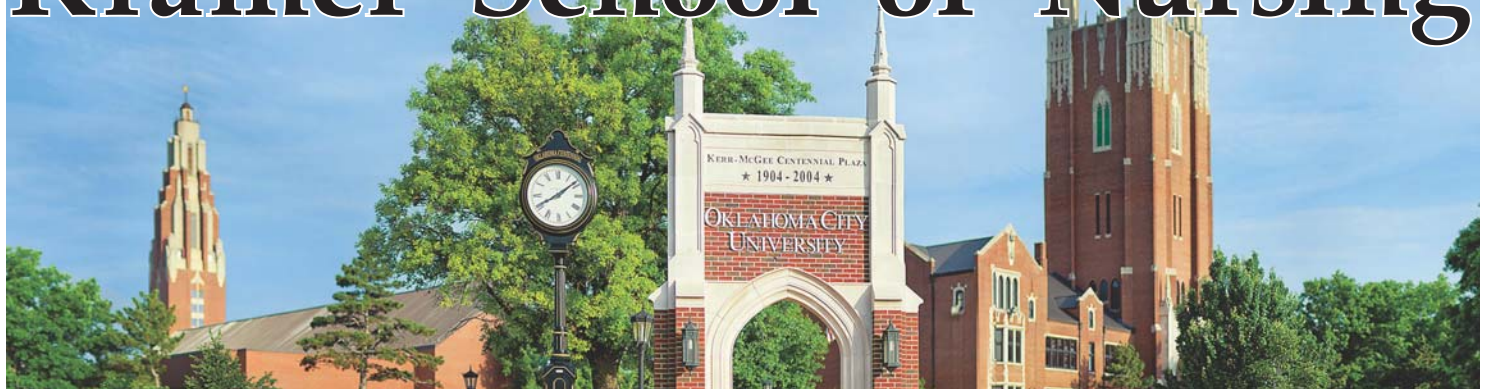
REMEMBER: Register for all tests in advance and be

sure to give yourself time to prepare appropriately! If you have difficulty paying a registration fee, ask your school counselor about getting the fee waived.

For more information go to: <https://studentaid.ed.gov>



Kramer School of Nursing



Professional Advancement with Competitive Price, Substantial Scholarships, and Student Support



Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing (KSN) has announced exciting opportunities to help you become a nurse or advance your nursing skills.

RN-BSN: Competitive Price, Complete in Two Semesters

KSN offers an outstanding RN-BSN program in which RNs can complete their BSN in just two semesters, and for the lowest cost of any degree program the university offers. Classes meet one day per week for four hours. No course prerequisites, nursing exams, care plans, or clinical hours are required. Denise Burton, chair of the RN-BSN program, has particularly reached out to those who attended schools which did not have nursing accreditation, stating "We accept students' RN licenses regardless of whether they graduated from an accredited institution or not." Burton further noted that many of our students go on to earn advanced degrees. RN-BSN classes meet

at the OKCU campus, at Mercy Hospital OKC, and at Norman Regional Hospital.

BSN and MSN: Nearly \$500,000 in Scholarships for New Students

KSN recently received a gift creating "The Kramer Way" scholarship which will provide \$400,000 for ten new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students and \$90,000 for six new Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) students over a two-year period starting in fall 2019. The scholarship is named for the school's commitment to its core values of caring, kindness, and respect.

In addition to helping students earn their first degree, the school's BSN program also allows those who have a degree in another field to earn a BSN in just 18 months. "The scholarship is critical because many candidates exhaust their financial assistance while earning their first degree but this will allow them the financial ability to become a nurse, said Dr. Lois Salmeron, dean of the Kramer School of Nursing.

Salmeron also indicated that few scholarships are available for

graduate study, further making this opportunity unique. The school's MSN program offers tracks in nursing education or leadership and features distance learning as well as a low-residency model which enables nurses living in communities outside of Oklahoma City to successfully complete their degree.

DNP: Student Support Eases Clinical Placement for FNP and AGACNP Students

KSN offers a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program with two tracks, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP), which can be completed with part-time study over four years. The school also offers certificate programs in each track. Additionally, the school has added a clinical liaison who manages clinical placement for the students.

Dr. Gina Crawford, chair of DNP programs, noted that while online schools have proliferated in recent years, attending a classroom environment allows students to experience individual interaction, hands-on skills workshops, and greater support

from classmates, faculty, and staff. "The faculty get to know students' strengths and weaknesses, and can evaluate their competency. Those in the AGACNP program are well prepared for management of acute, critical, and emergency care; while those in the FNP program are ready for primary care."

Gabrielle Stuehm, a current FNP student added that "the OKCU Kramer School of Nursing FNP program has been such a wonderful experience for me. I believe that having weekly hands-on experience in class has put me at a great advantage in my post graduate education. The faculty has always been available to me when I need further understanding; additionally, the faculty wants us to succeed and do well in the FNP program. I am so grateful that I have been able to continue my education at OKCU."

Information Available

Information about Kramer School of Nursing academic programs, continuing education events, and campus facilities can be found by visiting www.okcu.edu/nursing or calling (405) 208-5900.



ONLINE RN TO BSN APPLY NOW!



Earn Your BSN From OSU

Advance your nursing career with our RN to BSN completion program.
Now accepting applications for Summer and Fall 2019.

- Fully online program
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- Faculty committed to student success
- Transfer scholarships available



“The nursing faculty truly want to see students succeed and they make themselves readily available to help. This makes the whole experience.” — Lacy Smith, Class of 2019

nursing.okstate.edu

OSU RN to BSN:

Powering a better educated, healthier and more accessible world

Lacy Smith, a Texas native, considers herself a Cowboy for life. For her, choosing to complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at Oklahoma State University was an easy decision.

The online program, which launched in Fall 2017 and is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), provides students with a convenient and flexible option to complete their bachelor's degree in as little as one year. With this degree, graduates are qualified for leadership roles in a variety of healthcare environments.

Advancing and enriching her career is exactly what Smith plans to do after she walks across the stage with her diploma next fall. She currently works as a delivery/charge registered nurse (RN) for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at OU Children's Hospital as well as a staff nurse at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital. After obtaining her BSN, Smith plans to apply for a master's or doctoral program so she can become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

"My dream job is to be a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Acute Care (CPNP-AC) as a cardiac intensivist, which means I'd care for infants and children following cardiac surgery," Smith said. "I've always loved medicine. With nursing, I get to do it all. I never have the exact same day, and I love the challenge. I'm a caregiver at heart. I've always been most passionate about

my patients and their families. I see them on their best and worst days, and I always want them to remember the care they received in a positive light, even in a bad situation."

When Smith decided she wanted to complete her nursing degree so she could achieve her professional goals, it was important to find a program that accommodated her busy schedule. The full-time or part-time curriculum option offered at OSU was a huge selling point.

"The program is extremely

"The program is extremely flexible, which is necessary for someone like myself who has a husband, two jobs and no extra time,"

flexible, which is necessary for someone like myself who has a husband, two jobs and no extra time," Smith said.

In addition to flexibility, Smith sought an online learning experience that would be enhanced by personalized attention from qualified and invested faculty. That's what she found in the OSU College of Education, Health and Aviation.

"The nursing faculty truly want to see students succeed, and they make themselves readily available to help," Smith



COLLEGE OF

Education, Health & Aviation

said. "This makes the whole experience."

As most would attest, communication in an online program significantly impacts student satisfaction.

"Our faculty communicate extremely well, especially considering it's an online program," Smith said. "They offer a variety of ways to share information and foster relationships with our peers, which allows us to be successful. It's easy to have a positive experience when you feel your efforts are not only noticed, but also celebrated."

Ultimately, the mission of the RN to BSN program is to prepare nurses to practice professional nursing that meets the dynamic health care needs of individuals, families, groups, communities and global populations. Faculty facilitate the education of students in the art and science of nursing to provide leadership with an emphasis on ethics, wellness, cultural competency and population-based and professional inter-collaborative practice.

The OSU College of Education, Health and Aviation

is proudly preparing leaders who power a better educated, healthier and more accessible world. Oklahoma State nursing graduates truly embody this through their passion, dedication and investment in providing the best possible care to patients and their families.

"There isn't another profession like nursing," Smith said. "My favorite nurses are caring and compassionate. We will do whatever it takes to help our patients be successful."

Applications for the BSN program for Summer or Fall 2019 are now open. Interested students can review admission and pre-requisite requirements and apply online at nursing.okstate.edu.

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Northwestern Powerhouse

University fueling rural health care

There's something special going on with the future of rural healthcare in Oklahoma and it's taking place at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Shelly Wells, PhD, MBA, APRN-CNS, ANEF is the Division Chair and a Professor at the school. A big smile covers her face when she describes how the Alva university is educating nurses to provide healthcare to rural Oklahomans for generations to come.

"We want to keep them out in the high-need areas so our curriculum includes education on rural nursing and that sets us apart from other programs in the state," Wells said. "At this time, we are the only public university in Oklahoma that offers a BSN to DNP."

Northwestern features three different options to advance your nursing education.

The traditional BSN program is offered at four different sites. Students who have earned their LPN may be admitted with advanced standing into the traditional program.

"We have provided access throughout four different sites throughout rural northwestern Oklahoma so that the students don't

have to travel to a main campus to receive their education. They can receive much of it near their home areas."

An online RN-to-BSN program is available with no traditional clinical hour requirements that may be completed in 12 months. This program is designed for working RNs to complete their BSN.

A hybrid BSN-to-DNP program allows students to pursue their family nurse practitioner licensure without needing to obtain a Master's degree first. Coursework is offered online with practicums close to the student's home setting.

"We anticipated admitting six students the first cohort and 10 the second and we have admitted 25 so far in each cohort and it's become a competitive entry process," Wells said of the growing program.

A Nightingale Award of Nursing Excellence recipient from the Oklahoma Nurses Association, Wells takes pride in the program's low faculty-to-student ratio and the relationships the faculty have forged at healthcare facilities across northwestern Oklahoma.

Allowing students to learn in their

communities creates a natural draw for students.

"That's the plan," Wells said. "We have students completing clinical rotations in those four sites with the thought and hope they will stay in those sites to serve their home communities."

The NWOSU Nursing program is nationally recognized for its accessibility, affordability, and program outcomes.

The BSN program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN) and is approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing (OBN).

The BSN-to-DNP program for Family Nurse Practitioners has received provisional approval from the Oklahoma Board of Nursing and has applied for national accreditation through the Commission on Collegiate Education (CCNE) with a site visit scheduled in November 2019.

The yearly application process for the traditional BSN program begins each October. The Online RN-to-BSN program enrolls students year-round and the annual application cycle for the BSN-to-DNP program opens every January.

With more than 30 years of teaching experience in nursing, Wells has closely followed the national trend calling for more BSN-prepared nurses.

"All the hospitals we have talked to in Oklahoma prefer to hire BSN-prepared nurses and they are encouraging their staff to go back and complete their BSN," Wells said. "We're seeing those numbers increase."

A BSN provides the foundation of study that can serve as a basis for pursuing advanced education in nursing.

And Northwestern provides options to do that close to home.



Shelly Wells, PhD, MBA, APRN-CNS, ANEF, Division Chair and Professor at the school.



Northwestern

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All of our programs are noted nationally for their high quality, convenience and affordability.

A program that **ENABLES** you to be **WHO** you want to be, **WHERE** you want to be and **HOW** you want to learn.

Northwestern Nursing is recognized by NurseJournalORG as one of the best all-around nursing schools in the central United States for quality, affordability, convenience, satisfaction and value.



Traditional BSN, Online RN-to-BSN and BSN-to-DNP

- The traditional BSN is offered at 4 sites: Alva, Enid, Woodward and Ponca City. Students learn close to where they live instead of traveling to a main campus. All sites have low student to faculty ratios.
- The Online RN-to-BSN program is a 12-month online program with no traditional clinical hours requirement. Students enter in the Fall, Spring, or Summer and no campus visits are required.
- Both the Traditional and Online RN-to-BSN programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).
- The BSN-to-DNP Family Nurse Practitioner Program is a hybrid model offering online courses and local clinical practicums. Students are admitted every Fall semester. This program is scheduled to be reviewed for accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in November 2019.



www.nwosu.edu/school-of-professional-studies/nursing

For BSN Program (Traditional and Online) Information: 580-327-8493

For DNP Program Information: 580-327-8442

SWOSU is One of Oklahoma's Best Universities

By any measure, Southwestern Oklahoma State University with campus locations in Weatherford and Sayre is considered by many to be the home of one of Oklahoma's best universities. SWOSU is known for its quality programs having 14 nationally accredited academic programs—most among the senior regional universities in Oklahoma.



The SWOSU School of Nursing offers five programs: the traditional BSN program taught on campus and four online degrees for students who are already RNs: RN to BSN, MSN in Nursing Education (graduate), MSN Nursing Administration (graduate), and MSN Nursing Informatics (graduate).

SWOSU also offers online professional programs in Health Information Management, Healthcare Informatics and Information Management (graduate).

The university also has two contractual agreement programs between SWOSU and Caddo Kiowa Technology Center for the Occupational Therapy Assistant and the Physical Therapist Assistant Programs.

Six of SWOSU's nationally accredited programs are in Health Information Management, Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiologic Technology and Medical Laboratory Technician.

The university boasts professionally and academically qualified faculty who mentor students towards accomplishment of their goals.

SWOSU boasts one of the most diverse selections of academic college course options and the university is top rated in affordability. As always, SWOSU is dedicated to providing its students with a quality education while preparing them for the career of their dreams.

Weatherford is very accessible—located on Interstate 40, less than one hour west of the Oklahoma City metro area. The location is convenient for commuters and traditional students.



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Must have a 2.5 GPA

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OBU Recognizes Nursing Graduates

Oklahoma Baptist University honored 28 graduating nurses during the College of Nursing's Pinning Ceremony Thursday, May 18, at 3 p.m. The ceremony took place in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium on the OBU campus in Shawnee.

Dr. Nichole Jackson, assistant professor of nursing and OBU alumna from '07 and '11, led the invocation. OBU President Dr. David W. Whitlock welcomed the graduates and their guests.

Dr. Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, dean of the OBU College of Nursing, made introductions and greeted the graduates and guests, while Pam Malloy, '74, director of end-of-life nursing education with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, addressed the graduating students.

A group of senior nursing students presented "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong as a musical reflection during the ceremony.

Graduating nurses then received their pins from McHenry, including April Cannon, Tulsa; Bridget Burton, Springdale, Arkansas; Hannah Christian, Elk City, Oklahoma; Rachel Detweiler, Corn, Oklahoma; Miranda Dozier, Denver, Colorado; Ashley Eubanks, Dallas, Texas; Hannah Evans, Chandler, Oklahoma; Christine Ferguson, Fort Worth, Texas; Bailey Garrett, Sand Springs, Oklahoma; Christin Garvey,

Gainesville, Texas; Kyra Gilbert, Oklahoma City; Cory Grant, Denton, Texas; Kirsty Green, Joplin, Missouri; Kelsey Hays, Tecumseh, Oklahoma; Jennifer Holdridge, Moore, Oklahoma; Alexandra Lanphear, Independence, Missouri; Maci Lewis, Elmore City, Oklahoma; Catherine Lingo, Yukon, Oklahoma; Kierra Mattingly, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Jennifer McMartin, Mankato, Minnesota; Morgan Minx, Enid, Oklahoma; Kristi Neighbors, Marland, Oklahoma; Macy Palmer, Sand Springs, Oklahoma; Gracelyn Perkins, Colorado Springs; Brittney Roberts, Shawnee; Tucker Schultz, New Castle, Colorado; Katie Stiles, Denton, Texas; and Jade Young, Belfast, N. Ireland.

Megan Smith, '14, assistant professor of nursing, delivered the charge to graduates, and Dr. Karen Cotter, '94, assistant professor of nursing, led the benediction.

The OBU nursing program was the first baccalaureate nursing program in the state of Oklahoma and the first baccalaureate program in Oklahoma accredited by the National League of Nursing. It has maintained continuous accreditation, currently through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, throughout its history. Founded in 1952, the first graduation took place in 1956 with 10 students. Since then, the OBU College of Nursing



OBU honored 28 graduating nurses during the College of Nursing's Pinning Ceremony Thursday, May 18, in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium. Pictured: Dr. Lepaine Sharp-McHenry (right), dean of the OBU College of Nursing, pins graduating senior Gracelyn Perkins.

has graduated more than 1,200 nurses with baccalaureate nursing degrees. The College of Nursing is housed in the new Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall located to the north of Shawnee Hall on OBU's Campus.

For more information on the OBU College of Nursing, visit www.okbu.edu/nursing.

With its campus in Shawnee, and locations in Oklahoma City and Broken Arrow, OBU offers 10 bachelor's degrees with 88 fields of study and five master's degree programs. The Christian liberal arts university has an overall enrollment of 2,073, with students from 40 states and 35 other

countries. OBU has been rated as one of the top 10 regional colleges in the West by U.S. News and World Report for 25 consecutive years and has been Oklahoma's highest rated regional college in the U.S. News rankings for 23 consecutive years. OBU is one of three universities in Oklahoma and the only private Oklahoma university listed on Great Value College's rankings of 50 Great Affordable Colleges in the Midwest. Forbes.com consistently ranks OBU as a top university in Oklahoma and the Princeton Review has named OBU one of the best colleges and universities in the western United States for 12 consecutive years.



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From fighters to healers

Two military men set sail for nursing

He has spent 22 years training to fight for his country. Now, instead of firing a high-powered rifle at enemy combatants a thousand meters away, Craig Wheeler - a master sergeant in the U.S. Marines and father of four - is about to embark on a career focused on healing the wounded and comforting the sick.

Wheeler isn't the only military man about to graduate from the University of Tulsa's BSN program. After four years serving as boatswain mate second class in the U.S. Coast Guard, Daniel Chavarin is making a similar transition.

Essential skills for soldiering and nursing

For both men, military training provided skills and attitudes that have proven valuable for their nursing studies. "The biggest thing I learned in the Coast Guard was adaptability to change," Chavarin says. "I also learned about leadership and communication. Nurses must be able to lead a team and advocate for a patient's needs. You also have to be there at the bedside, listening to and communicating with your patient, trying to understand their goals - for life and treatment."

Wheeler echoes his friend's insights, adding that in the Marines "my job required me to learn a lot of complex things very quickly, and use them in challenging and dynamic situations. Both soldiers and nurses require this skill."

Core values

Part of nursing is about skills; part is about core values: "If you're not here to provide compassion and care to a patient, then you're here for the wrong reason," says Wheeler. "Anyone coming into this field needs to provide care and dignity for a patient who may have given all their vulnerabilities to you. You need to be able to take those vulnerabilities and be protective of them. And be vulnerable yourself, as well." Chavarin expresses similar sentiments. Toughened on the exterior from years of chasing down drug smugglers and other criminals on the high seas, on the inside this father of two boys reveals an unexpected tenderness when he speaks of the affective dimension of nursing care: "The biggest thing you have to realize is you have to give part of yourself up to help take care of people who rely on you to be there for them. If you can't do that, you're going to fail at this job." Chavarin



Craig Wheeler and Daniel Chavarin, 3rd-year students in TU's BSN program.

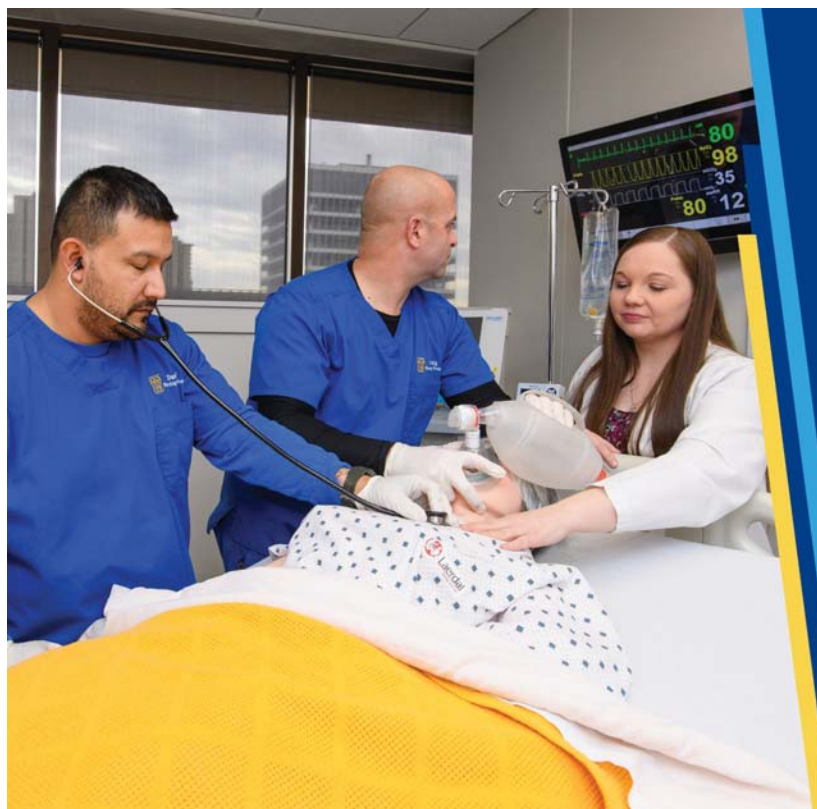
pauses and continues, "we have to give our utmost respect and love to these patients in order to give them the best treatment and outcomes they deserve."

Two nurses, two futures

Despite their similarities and what they both describe as a "brotherhood" discovered during their nursing studies, once they receive their diplomas Wheeler and Chavarin will pursue different paths. For the Marine, a new life as an ensign in the U.S. Navy will open up. After that, Wheeler foresees coming back to TU to become a nurse practitioner (NP) and then returning with his family to his

roots in western Oklahoma to set up a country practice.

For the former Coast Guard sailor, however, civilian life beckons. Chavarin plans to stay in the city (his wife's hometown), where he recently accepted a position in the emergency department at St. Francis Hospital. "My nursing path is in critical care," says Chavarin. "Maybe someday I will look into becoming an NP. For now, though, I am eager to acquire specialized certifications, such as CFRN (certified flight registered nurse), and to build a career working in medical, surgical or trauma ICUs."



TU School of Nursing:
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- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- RN to BSN



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OSU Institute Of Technology provide both personal satisfaction and great income

There is no better place to earn an RN degree than by attending OSU Institute of Technology and receiving an Associate in Applied Science Degree. The OSUIT Registered Nursing Program is approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

"Our nursing labs feature advanced simulation mannequins - enabling practice for a wide range of nursing procedures. OSUIT's Nursing Program provides: hands-on learning environments, experienced faculty, numerous employment opportunities with excellent salary potential, smaller cohorts, caring faculty, and faculty that want you to succeed," states Dr. Jana Martin, dean School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

"We're very proud of our graduates and the quality of our program. Upon successful

completion of the degree program, faculty continue to monitor the student and their NCLEX-RN preparation. We guide them for success on licensure," Martin states.

Upon successful completion of the NCLEX-RN, graduates are eligible for employment as a registered nurse helping people in a lifelong career that provides both personal satisfaction and great income. Dr. Martin said in the last several years OSUIT's NCLEX pass rate has improved, and the trend seems to be continuing. Our graduates are normally offered a job before they graduate.

"We have a rigorous program. It has to be rigorous— we are dealing with patients' lives, your family member's life." Martin said students who come to the nursing program are almost always surprised by how difficult and challenging it is, even for those who excelled in

high school or other college programs.

"It's a new way of learning that they're not used to. It's a different type of memorization that adds application of the critical thinking process. There is a large amount of reading required and commitment from the student. It requires organization, flexibility, the ability to make tough decisions and prioritize. As one of our previous graduates, Carolyn Casey stated, "you must make choices to succeed."

Students need a wide array of support at home as well to be successful. The training and education are tough because the profession is hard work, Martin said, and the faculty in the nursing program are continually working to ensure the program improves while also meeting the

needs of the industry. "Our faculty make sure this is a quality program. They make sure we maintain our standards."

"Everything we have done, and our accomplishments are because of our faculty," she said. "They stay up to date on best practices and new technologies." It's all in service in making sure the students are prepared and knowledgeable when they start their careers. "We believe that our program prepares them for success not only in passing NCLEX-RN but the career of nursing as well," Martin said.



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Take Your Career to the Next Level

Strengthen your skills, impact lives and take your nursing career to the next level at Wichita State University. Our accredited bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs prepare tomorrow's leaders for nursing practice in a variety of settings and help meet the demand for all levels of nursing services. We offer traditional and nontraditional programs, giving students a variety of ways to earn a degree in nursing.

Our undergraduate programs prepare students for professional nursing positions in a variety of healthcare settings and provide a foundation for graduate study in nursing. We offer a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN), including an accelerated 13-month program and fully online registered nurse (RN) to BSN program. We also offer an early admission option for high school students that provides an opportunity to bypass traditional application processes.

Our graduate programs develop nurse leaders for roles in advanced practice careers. Our full or part-time master of science in nursing (MSN) program offers two concentrations: Nursing



Education (fully online) or Nursing Leadership and Administration (hybrid). We also offer a doctor of nursing practice degree (DNP) with two program entry points; post-baccalaureate or post-master. The post-baccalaureate program has Nurse Practitioner specializations in the areas of Adult Gerontology Acute Care, Family and Psychiatric/Mental Health, as well as the DNP advanced curriculum. The online post-master program provides students already nationally certified in a specialization opportunities to advance their knowledge in multiple areas, including healthcare systems, policy/politics, and evidence-based practice.

Our quality programs exceed national pass rates on the Registered Nurse national exam and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse professional certification

exams.

Wichita State provides students with the best applied learning experiences in the state. Our location in Kansas' largest city means students benefit from opportunities to make connections and work beside some of the best professionals in their fields through clinical rotations, interprofessional education and community outreach. Our on-campus applied learning lab has state-of-the-art simulation mannequins that can realistically simulate a variety of symptoms and scenarios, including childbirth,

seizures, blood pressure problems and bleeding. The lifelike actions of the mannequins give students a realistic learning experience in a safe environment.

Our programs combine CCNE accreditation, experienced instructors, exclusive scholarships and applied learning in Kansas' health care hub. A nursing degree from Wichita State University will give you the knowledge and practical skills for high-paying, high-demand nursing careers in diverse health care settings such as hospitals, primary care clinics, nursing and residential care facilities, schools and government. Visit wichita.edu/nursing to find a program that's right for you.



Visit nursing.ouhsc.edu to learn more and apply.



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Oklahoma's
NursingTimes

Saint Francis Health System Provides Learning Opportunities for Nurses at Every Level

Saint Francis Health System actively encourages its nurses to grow professionally

Saint Francis Health System, Oklahoma's largest healthcare provider, has more than 10,000 employees at more than 90 locations throughout eastern Oklahoma. Nurses in the Saint Francis Health System network—which includes Warren Clinic, the state's largest physician group—can pursue careers in large communities (Tulsa, Broken Arrow, McAlester, Muskogee) and small (Vinita, Glenpool, Coweta, Owasso, Sand Springs).

Wherever they choose to work, nurses can enjoy the benefits of a locally owned, locally operated, not-for-profit health system that is dedicated to high-quality, patient-centered care. To this end, Saint Francis Health System has established a wide range of programs and services to help its nurses grow professionally, which ultimately serves to help maintain the health system's high standards of clinical excellence.

In short, the success of Saint Francis Health System and the quality of its nursing program go hand in hand.

The Pursuit of Excellence

Nurses can take advantage of Saint Francis Health System opportunities

even while they're still pursuing a degree.

The health system offers a registered nurse scholarship that funds up to \$8,000 of education at an accredited school of nursing. There is also the Saint Francis Extern Program, a nine-week shadow program designed for students in their final year of an accredited RN program. Both the RN scholarship and the extern program are great ways for aspiring nurses to get their foot inside the door.

Making the Transition from School to Vocation

Once accepted into the Saint Francis Health System nursing program, new nurses embark on a yearlong nurse residency program (NRP), a sophisticated program that is designed to help recent graduates transition from the classroom environment to clinical bedside experiences and real-world professional nursing practice. The NRP consists of professional nursing orientation, unit-specific orientation with a preceptor, specialty classes and a variety of nurse residency seminars.

The NRP is tailored specifically to the education needs of newly licensed nurses, and is based upon Quality and

Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) competencies. During orientation, new nurses become familiar with Saint Francis Health System policies, procedures and equipment, and participate in specialty classes specific to the patient population they will be caring for.

Help Along the Way

Once an RN position is accepted, Saint Francis Health System offers a free NCLEX (National Council Licensure Exam) review course, as well as: specialty classes offering patient-focused content that emphasizes application of clinical knowledge and principles relevant to individual specialties (e.g., pediatric, ICU and cardiac classes); nurse residency

seminars that focus on communication and teamwork, critical thinking, patient/family-centered care, case management and discharge planning, plan for self-development, evidence-based practice and quality improvement; continuing education classes, including both baccalaureate- and graduate-level courses; and a wide range of national certification programs, including IABP, CRRT, LVAD and ECMO.

Saint Francis Health System invests heavily in its nurses and encourages them to grow professionally in order to fulfill its mission: To extend the presence and healing ministry of Christ in all we do.

Education Opportunities in Action

Susan Roach, RN, is grateful to have taken advantage of Saint Francis Health System's many educational opportunities. In 2011, while in nursing school, she started working as a nurse technician, which allowed her to take advantage of a Saint Francis scholarship that helped pay for her education. She was a nurse extern during her final year of nursing school, an experience that helped her develop a strong interest in labor and delivery. After graduation, she was hired into the nurse residency program by her labor and delivery manager. She is currently a member of the labor and delivery department and has worked up to clinical ladder III.

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Whether you're in nursing school, thinking about the nursing profession or have an established nursing career, Saint Francis Health System—Oklahoma's largest healthcare provider—offers unmatched opportunities for continuing education and career growth.

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Exciting Times at SNU School of Nursing

The Southern Nazarene University (SNU) School of Nursing has graduated nurses since 1982. SNU graduates have established a reputation for not only being well educated but having those most important qualities of caring, empathy, and sympathy towards their clients. SNU graduates are known for their ability to address the spiritual or holistic aspect of patient care.

Over the 37 years of the SNU School of Nursing, many great faculty have contributed to the education of these students. Many have dedicated their professional life with passion and in-depth understanding of the profession and the healthcare system within which most nurses work.

SNU faculty recently reviewed and refreshed our curriculum to meet the current advanced state of education expected from the regional employers. In addition, the importance of recognizing the global health environment has come to the forefront. Nursing

students at SNU have a number of outreach opportunities, both local and international. These opportunities will expand in the upcoming years.

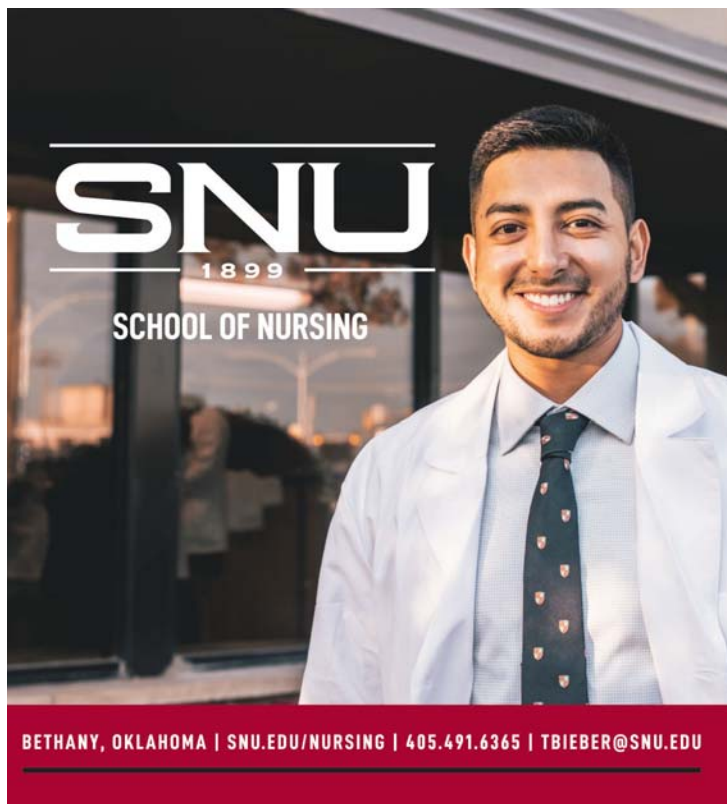
As far as the SNU campus, one of the most well-known "faculty" is housed in the School of Nursing. Tillie Mae, the Mini Australian Shepherd who has now worked for 8 years, continues her H.A.L.O Therapy Dog work with students on an almost daily basis. She can be found in the lobby of the Don Beavers Science Building greeting students, in the classroom prior to exams to bring a sense of calm, or waiting at the door to greet the next visitor to the office.

SNU currently meets state and national standards for Board Pass Rate and Accreditation.

Learn more about the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and the value the of an SNU education at snu.edu/nursing. Schedule a campus visit at snu.edu/campus-visit.

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Excellent Career Starts With Excellence in Education



Devin Davis is continuing the family business at Heartland CPR which allows nurses to keep their skills certifications up to date.

Heartland CPR offers American Heart Association (AHA) certified BLS, ACLS, PALS as well as lay-rescuer training (known as Heartsaver CPR/AED/First Aid) in the state of Oklahoma. A small, woman-owned, family-operated local business that offers more than just certification training, but unparalleled service every step of the way, taking training to the customer throughout Oklahoma and welcoming individuals that don't get training at their workplace to regularly scheduled classes at their OKC location.

By limiting class sizes and offering more class choices than anyone in the state, retaining instructors whose styles minimize anxiety while encouraging a genuine understanding of the material, an all-inclusive pricing structure, and taking every opportunity to exceed expectations, Heartland CPR engages participants with a fresh approach to training. It's why the business has such a huge following of medical professionals and an unmatched return rate of repeat customers and referrals.

Flexibility and customer responsiveness have always been the cornerstone of Heartland CPR's business model. One popular offering is the S.T.A.T. program, or "Sequentially Timed Accelerated Training" which offers discounts for customers that take multiple classes as well as stacked scheduling to best use precious time. Nurses and other medical professionals can renew the entire BLS, ACLS and PALS certification suite in a weekend or complete first-time 2-day ACLS or PALS along with pre-requisite BLS in a couple of days.

Heartland CPR was an early adopter of the new feedback manikin technology that becomes mandatory in all AHA classes in 2019; additionally they opted to begin issuing AHA near-immediate digital e-cards well ahead of the mandate to eliminate the issue of lost, destroyed or stolen cards and provide 24/7 access to training records for its customers. Customer requests led to the company expanding into AED equipment sales; a variety of quality AEDs from trusted manufacturers can be offered at pricing that can't be touched even by online distributors.

Among the contracted instructors, Heartland CPR has former lifeguards, professors, a military veteran, four firefighters, two EMTs pursuing paramedic educations, four paramedics, two firefighter/paramedics, a Level III paramedic, two first responders to the OKC bombing, an EMS Sergeant, an EMS Chief, a "Dinosaur of EMS" with a 30+ year (and counting) career in EMS, and a combined total of AHA instruction experience of over half a decade!

A minimum class size of six participants applies to training at customer locations in the OKC metro area; other minimums apply to customer locations statewide. Don't have 6? Join one of the public classes offered at Heartland CPR's OKC location. Emergency & individual classes are available as well.

Continually leading the way while striving to be the single solution for life-saving skills training and equipment, you are invited to experience the Heartland CPR difference!

Unique Online RN to BSN

Oklahoma Christian University features premier program

Oklahoma Christian University combines three key features to create a unique program. OC's School of Nursing helps registered nurses achieve a bachelors of science in nursing degree that is competency-based education (CBE), 100% online and offers a GPA transcript to create a RN-to-BSN program that has thought of everything.

CBE means a registered nurse's training, education and work experience allow them to earn college credits for what they already know. Skip class for skills mastered on the job by testing out of that segment and earning college credit. Start an online, four-month subscription to the course material and test out of as many classes as possible for \$4,000! Most students graduate within 12 months or three subscription periods.

Online degrees are for flexibility and convenience, not independent study! An Oklahoma Christian academic coach supports each student in all aspects of gaining a degree. Coaches are faculty members of the School of Nursing who communicate with students at least once each week to provide resources, answer questions and challenge deeper thought. Nurses use online classes to accommodate work schedules and hospital shifts, but still develop relationships within Oklahoma Christian's online community of nursing students.

Oklahoma Christian's RN-to-BSN perfectly prepares students for graduate school. Your courses will require writing scholarly papers and preparing professional presentations to fully equip you to pursue a master's degree. Many schools offer BSNs using a pass/fail grading system, OC students earn grades and graduate with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) and a full transcript. Graduate schools require a GPA for admittance and Oklahoma Christian makes sure students graduate with all they need to advance their careers even further.

Oklahoma Christian helps undergraduates gain admittance into prestigious graduate schools around the world. It's something we're



really good at. Share your dreams and goals with your mentor so we can join you on your journey and celebrate your successes.

OC Financial Services can help you navigate the cost of education. If you are currently employed as a nurse, check with your human resources department about tuition benefits that your employer may offer. Oklahoma Christian's caring staff will help direct you to federal student loans, nursing grants or nursing scholarships, and payment plans.

Oklahoma Christian earned national nursing accreditation after meeting high standards of quality, peer review, and establishing self-regulation. A degree from an accredited program makes graduates more competitive in the job market. Employers prefer to hire accredited practitioners who are trained under nationally established standards for nursing education. Graduates from accredited nursing school programs qualify to attend other accredited schools to pursue advanced studies and master's programs.

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Equipping leaders in a professional community

Since 1975, the mission of Harding University Carr College of Nursing has been to develop nurses as Christian servants. Faculty and staff are eager to get to know new students and nurture their journey through the program. The University's mission permeates classroom and clinical instruction taught by highly trained professionals from a Christ-centered worldview. Close faculty-student relationships and mentorships foster personal, academic and professional growth. Offering undergraduate and graduate programs prepares students to perform well in any health care setting. Read more to see why you belong at Harding.

What sets Harding trained nurses apart from other nursing schools?

Harding's nursing graduates are well-equipped to enter the field, with high job placement rates and a 100 percent first-time Family Nurse Practitioner National Certification pass rate since the program's first graduates in 2017. The undergraduate nursing program has a 100 percent first-time NCLEX-RN pass rate since 2015 and has been ranked the No. 1 Nursing Program in Arkansas by RegisteredNursing.org for two years in a row. This ranking is based on how well a program

supports students toward licensure and beyond.

What undergraduate nursing tracks does Harding offer?

The undergraduate tracks are designed to meet the individualized needs of students, all leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

These include:

- Four-year, full-time/part-time traditional track
- 18-month accelerated second-degree program
- Individualized track for students who hold a current unencumbered nursing license without a bachelor's degree. An individualized degree completion plan is collaboratively designed with the student (full-time/part-time available)
- Honors classes

What if I have a degree in another field but have decided health care is my passion? Harding University has launched an Accelerated Second Degree BSN option and it is a great path for students who already have a bachelor's in another area of study.

What graduate programs are available? For our fast paced, online world, Harding offers a Master of Science in Nursing (FNP) Family Nurse Practitioner program in a



hybrid format. Students gain the required knowledge via weekly online lectures plus on-campus intensives three to five days per semester. Upon completion, students have the opportunity to sit for the national certification exam.

How does the program interact with the community? Students assist in a local Christian clinic that serves the medically and economically disadvantaged. They also provide health screenings at area churches

and various university sponsored events.

Does Harding offer a study abroad program? For more than 40 years, Harding has been training nurses not only for a career in traditional health care settings but also to work in health missions. Medical mission opportunities exist locally and abroad in short-term and long-term options. Opportunities are open to graduate and undergraduate students.



Harding University Carr College of Nursing FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM (Online Master of Science in Nursing)

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Dr. Dona Clarin, DNP, APRN, FNP,
at 501-279-4859.

harding.edu/fnp

RSU Program Provides Path to Success

Nursing and health care are among Rogers State University's hallmark academic programs, which includes bachelor's degrees on its Claremore and Bartlesville campuses.

RSU is a dynamic regional university providing its students with the complete college experience where students can live on campus (both traditional and family housing options) and participate in a myriad of student activities, including student organizations dedicated to health sciences.

The university supports a rigorous academic program that attracts many students who plan to attend medical school complete their undergraduate studies through RSU's program in medical/molecular biology. RSU's nursing program produces students who consistently score better than the state and national averages on the RN licensure exam.

Rogers State's health sciences programs are some of the most rigorous in the region, producing graduates that are in high demand. RSU nursing graduates maintain a nearly 100% placement rate, securing excellent jobs throughout the region.

RSU's nursing faculty with a collective total of more than 130 years of experience in both academic

teaching and practical experience. The university offers several lab environments to give students skillful training for residential environments, hospital beds, isolated acute care, and high fidelity simulation.

For those who want or need to work while attending school, almost 8 in 10 RSU students work while attending school allowing them to achieve their educational goals while balancing financial and family obligations. While RSU is the only public university with on-campus housing in the Tulsa metro area, the university has a large number of commuter students who live at home while attending RSU.

RSU consistently earns national recognition for affordability, both for traditional classes and its RSU Online program. U.S. News and World Report has noted RSU has one of the nation's top 10 lowest, in-state tuition rates, and also highlighted that RSU Online was among the nation's 10 least expensive public online programs. The university also has been consistently recognized for having one of the region's lowest student debt load for graduating students with nearly half of last year's graduating class earning a diploma without taking a student



loan.

The main campus in Claremore features the Stratton Taylor Library, new student residences with bed space for more than 800, the Chapman Dining Hall complete with inclement storm shelter, renovated historic buildings and the 50,000 square-foot Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center,

which features ballroom space for community events. Rogers State also is home to RSU Public Television and RSU Radio FM 91.3.

Find your own path to educational success by visiting www.rsu.edu/nursing or call 918-343-7631 to learn more or to schedule a campus tour.



PREPARED FOR YOUR SUCCESS

The Rogers State University Nursing Program gives students the tools they need to be successful healthcare providers.

The program's academic rigor and reputation gives RSU graduates an edge in the competitive job market. Most students are recruited for top jobs at hospitals and medical facilities in Oklahoma and beyond.

Nursing degrees available from either our main Claremore campus or branch campus in Bartlesville.

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↳ Option: Bridge NREMT/Paramedic/LPN to BSN)

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For more information, visit www.rsu.edu/nursing or call 918-343-7631.

Nursing Powerhouse

Redlands graduates tomorrow's nurses

Last year, Redlands Community College graduated 25 nurses.

As Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, Rose Marie Smith, RN, MS, CNE oversaw the education of every single one.

There's no doubt in her mind that each will be successful in whatever setting they may choose.

Smith says Redlands' focus is always on the individual.

Quite simply, it's success by design.

"We feel it's the best because I truly believe (students) get a lot more clinical opportunities because we know the people," she said. "We know who needs what and we're there kind of guiding and pushing them to get to the learning experiences. They can't just hide in the numbers."

This May, Redlands is expecting its largest graduating class in 15 years. That could be as high as 38.

Closing in a quarter century of nursing education, Smith smiles when she sees former students. The administrator of Kingfisher Hospital is a Redlands graduate. The director of the Canadian County LPN program is

a Redlands graduate. The director of the Carnegie Hospital is a Redlands graduate.

"You see how long I've been in nursing education and it blesses my heart," she said. "Our graduates take care of patients and do well but they also go on."

Last year, Redlands partnered with Oklahoma Panhandle State University and their RN-BSN online program. Any graduate of Redlands can enroll in the program at the Redlands tuition rate.

"And we're one of the lowest tuitions in the state of Oklahoma," Smith said. "Because our graduates are so successful they are courted if you will. Directors seek them out. I just feel proud when I walk around and see graduates caring for patients and graduates in administration."

Smith first began her career at Redlands in 1985 as faculty. She progressed through team leader and director of nursing program roles before stepping away in 2006.

She helped lead two other nursing programs in that time before coming back home in 2015 to Redlands.

She wanted to make the Redlands



Redlands Community College nursing graduates are some of the most sought-after, community-minded in the state.

experience unique for each individual and that begins by investing time.

Community support is huge in Canadian County for the school and vice versa.

The Canadian County Health Department has requested Redlands students work with their OB nurse practitioner.

Students have adopted a mission in El Reno treating recently released inmates and recovering drug and alcohol addicts. Students serve in the

twice-monthly, bilingual health clinic

"Our students get a wealth of experience," Smith said. "We screen and provide health care advice, teaching and things they've never really had in their life before."

Redlands students also go into local schools to help teach pediatric curriculum.

"Our students get opportunities to not only learn public speaking but also teaching at appropriate grade

See REDLANDS Page 19

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REDLANDS

Continued from Page 18

levels," Smith said. "The students carry those experiences with them in life. Those are tools they can use, soft skills if you will."

Some students drive nearly an hour and a half from rural, Western Oklahoma to attend Redlands.

There's a definite investment.

"We have rural students who graduate and return to rural areas and with the demographics of Oklahoma changing we wanted to provide them with equipment to contributors to their cities, towns and counties," Smith said.

Bed transfers and feeding skills are taught down the street at a local five-star long-term care facility.

"We do a lot more live learning labs to learn how to care for that population as well," said Smith, who notes Redlands nursing students also help with annual flu vaccinations for the entire campus. "We don't just stop at the classroom we try to engage them throughout their education."

Redlands admits students one time each year to the traditional day program. LPN to RN admission occurs for a handful of individuals in the spring.

"What we do really well is student first, smaller classes with master's prepared faculty," Smith said.



Rose Marie Smith, RN, MS, CNE, Dean of Nursing and Allied Health at Redlands Community College.

The program threads theory and simulation together to help build understanding of the specific content being taught.

Simulations enhance student understanding, build confidence prior to clinical as to what to do, say, and provide appropriate interventions for patients.

Redlands Nursing Program graduated its first class in 1981. The program is a two-year nursing

program with new classes beginning in the fall of every year.

Students graduate with an Associate in Applied Science Degree and, upon graduation, are eligible to take the NCLEX exam to become a Registered Nurse.

Redlands also offers options for LPNs attending the nursing program. LPNs with one year of experience are given credit for Fundamentals of Nursing. Visit: www.redlandsc.edu or call 405-262-2552 for more information

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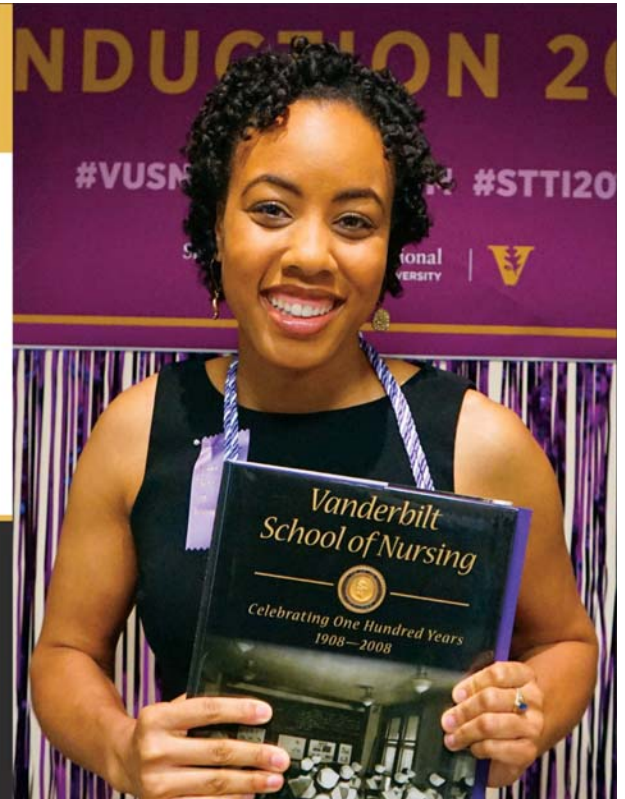
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