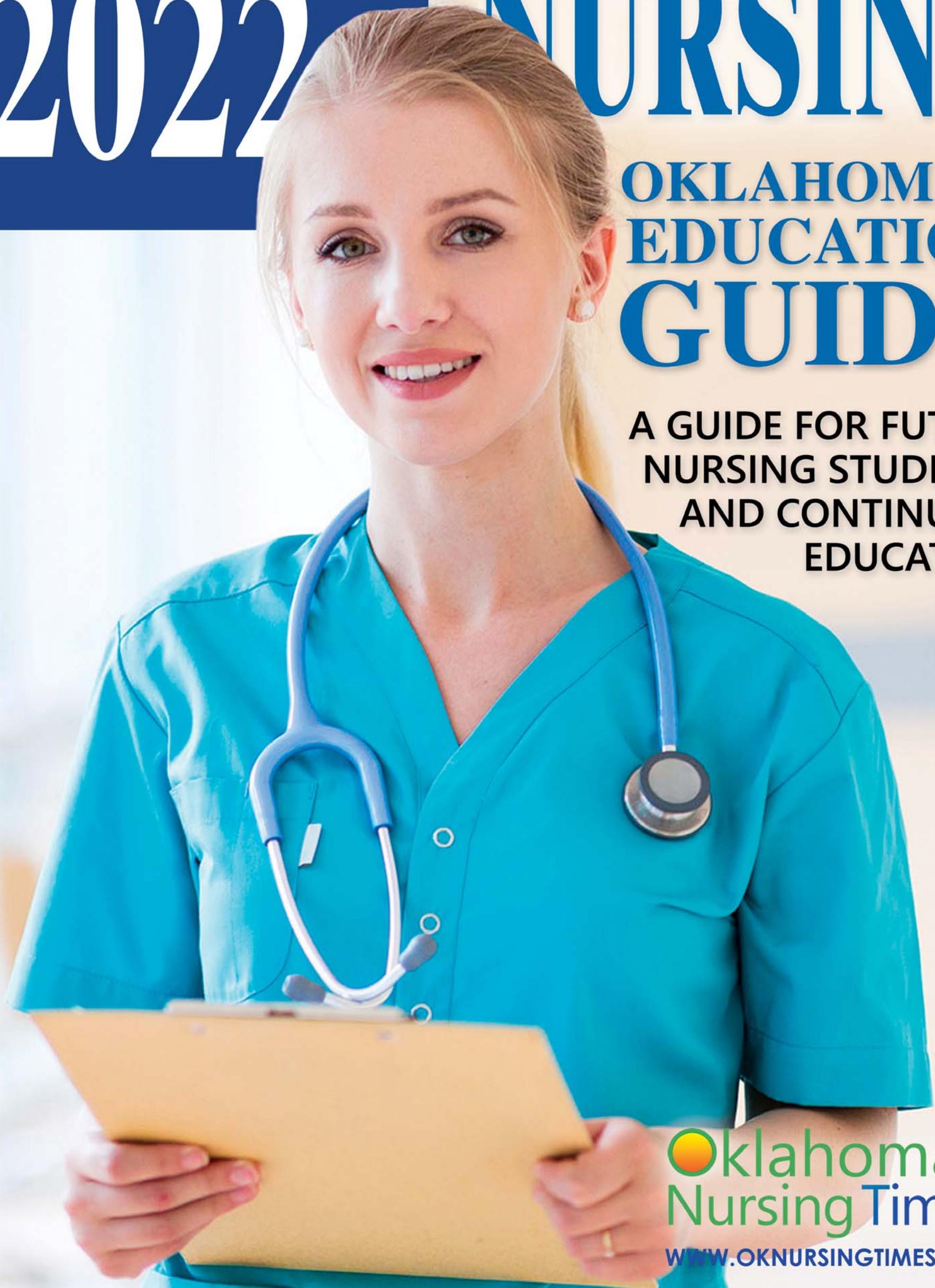


2022

# NURSING

## OKLAHOMA'S EDUCATION GUIDE

A GUIDE FOR FUTURE  
NURSING STUDENTS  
AND CONTINUING  
EDUCATION



 Oklahoma's  
Nursing Times

[WWW.OKNURSINGTIMES.COM](http://WWW.OKNURSINGTIMES.COM)

# OSU's RN to BSN program offers convenience, flexibility

*Oklahoma State University RN to BSN student Sage Holder had long known she was interested in a healthcare career. When two of the most important people in her life – her grandfather and mother – received a cancer diagnosis in the same week during her first year of college, her career path came into focus.*

“I knew I wanted to be in the healthcare system. I just didn’t know exactly where or what that was going to look like when I started college. I knew I wanted to be successful, a person that others needed, and to care for the sick,” Holder recalls.

Holder began taking pre-medicine classes but during the second semester of her freshman year, she had what she calls an “aha” moment.

“I was either in class or in the hospital, spending time with my family during my grandpa’s chemo treatments or my mom’s cancer appointments. I began to notice the nurses. I wanted to be the person that the patient could look to for a smile, a laugh, or a shoulder to cry on.”

Confident in her decision to pursue nursing, Holder completed prerequisite courses and went on to earn an associate degree in May 2021 and become a Registered Nurse (RN). She landed a job at the Emergency Room at Stillwater Medical Center.

Ready to continue her education by pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Holder found the perfect fit in OSU’s fully online RN to BSN program.

“I knew the program would offer flexibility with my lifestyle and allow me to continue working as an RN while taking classes,” Holder said. “The faculty have been approachable and easy to reach and to communicate with. I feel like they want me to succeed.”

OSU’s RN to BSN 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.

OSU students expand their professional nursing knowledge from practical, foundational skills they learned during their associate degree, learning the why behind past education.

“Our students are challenged with a wide array of topics that range from leadership and current trends in nursing to global, cultural and public health, as well as nursing theory,” RN to BSN program director Dr. Alana Cluck said.

Ultimately, the mission of the RN to BSN program is to prepare nurses to practice professional nursing that meets the dynamic



COLLEGE OF  
**EDUCATION AND  
HUMAN SCIENCES**

health care needs of individuals, families, groups, communities and global populations. With this degree, graduates are qualified for leadership roles in a variety of healthcare environments.

OSU’s RN to BSN program enjoys a 100 percent satisfaction rate among its graduates. Faculty offer personalized attention and are committed to student success.

“Faculty communicate extremely well, especially considering it’s an online program. 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,” RN to BSN graduate Lacy Smith said.

Kobey Trower, a 2019 graduate of the program, appreciated the experience of his peers and the collaborative nature of courses.

“All of the students were working full-time jobs,” Trower said. “We had some people who worked in ICU, some in labor and delivery, others in clinic and research settings. The accessibility of the coursework helped us keep on the same page for group projects. It was super convenient for me to work full time and still have a life without being tied down. That aspect of it helped keep my attention and keep me moving through the program.”

Holder’s experience as a student in the program has been first rate. She encourages any RN considering a four-year degree to explore OSU’s program.

“Set up a meeting or a zoom call with a faculty or administrative member and give them the chance to provide information and answer questions that are of concern. That is what I did and it sold me. The faculty were so welcoming and flexible.”

Applications for the BSN program for Summer and Fall 2022 are now open. Visit [nursing.okstate.edu](http://nursing.okstate.edu) for more information, to schedule a meeting with program administrators or to apply today.



# ONLINE RN TO BSN APPLY NOW!

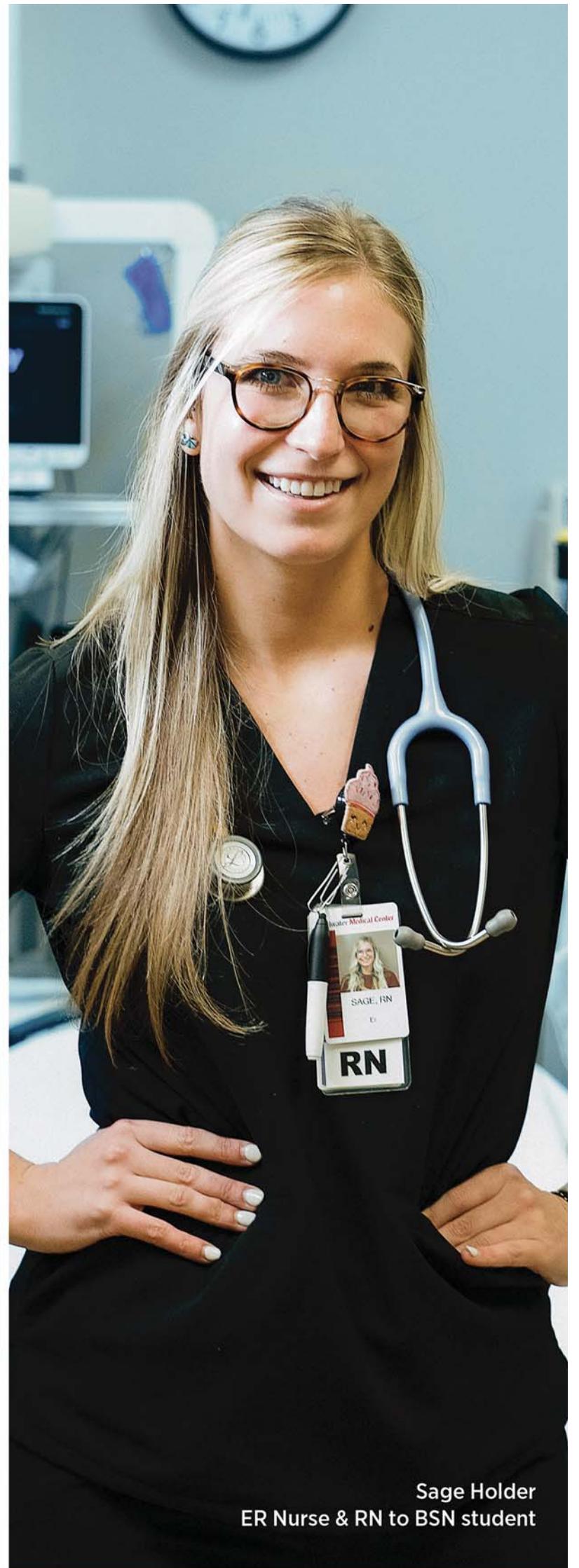
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- Flexible and collaborative learning environment
- Faculty committed to student success
- Transfer scholarships available



"I was truly blown away by the level of professionalism and commitment from the faculty and staff. The knowledge and support I received are unparalleled."

- Kayce (Tuter) Brown, RN to BSN student



Sage Holder  
ER Nurse & RN to BSN student

[nursing.okstate.edu](https://nursing.okstate.edu)

# RSU Building Legacy of Compassionate Nurses

The RSU Department of Health Sciences offers programs in nursing and pre-allied health fields. Nursing programs include the Traditional BSN in nursing, leading to RN licensure; the RN2BSN online program which allows registered nurses with an associate degree to complete a bachelor's degree; and the bridge to Traditional BSN entry for LPNs or paramedics to earn their bachelor's degree. Allied Health sciences options include pre-athletic training, pre-physical therapy and pre-occupational therapy. The Masters of Business Administration (MBA) program at RSU now offers a concentration in Healthcare Management.

With a history of over 40 years of academic excellence, RSU's nursing program provides academic rigor and a reputation that gives RSU graduates an edge in the competitive job market. Upon graduation, RSU nursing graduate NCLEX pass rates exceed the state and national average. Approximately 95% of students report having obtained an RN position before graduation. These outcomes are credited to a quality curriculum, caring and dedicated faculty. RSU's nursing faculty have more than 130 years of experience in both

academic teaching and practical experience. Several low and high-fidelity laboratories are utilized to provide hands-on learning so that students are well-prepared to deliver safe, high-quality nursing care in a variety of settings.

Students interested in attending medical school, complete their undergraduate studies in medical/molecular biology. RSU's biology program has seen more than 150 students move on to professional schools pursuing medical and healthcare careers.

RSU consistently earns national recognition for affordability, both for traditional classes and its online programs. The university is consistently recognized for having one of the region's lowest student debt load with nearly half of its graduating class earning a diploma without any student loan assistance.

The Traditional BSN and the RN2BSN online programs received full accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) last year. Being the only public residential university in the metropolitan Tulsa area, RSU gives students a traditional college experience. With the university's



proximity to Tulsa, RSU is strategically positioned geographically, fiscally and reputationally to be Oklahoma's first choice in BSN education.

RSU is committed to building a legacy of compassionate and virtuous

nurses who advocate for their patients and serve the community for years to come. For more information about RSU's nursing programs or to schedule a campus tour, visit [www.rsu.edu/nursing](http://www.rsu.edu/nursing) or call 918-343-7631.



## RN **2** BSN

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Starts in January & August

- ✓ Nursing program courses completed in 2-3 semesters\*
- ✓ Each nursing course 5 weeks, one at a time
- ✓ Corequisite courses may be taken before, during or after nursing program courses
- ✓ No written exams
- ✓ Must have valid RN license
- ✓ Pay-as-you-go option available

\*Length of time required to complete degree will vary depending upon student's transfer credits.

### CONTACT INFO

Dr. Amy Richards | [arichards@rsu.edu](mailto:arichards@rsu.edu) | 918-343-7641

Dr. Marla Smith | [marlasmith@rsu.edu](mailto:marlasmith@rsu.edu) | 918-343-6887



**ROGERS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

# OK Wesleyan molding healthcare leaders



**OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY**

Healthcare is changing and nurses are at the forefront.

That's why Oklahoma Wesleyan University is proud to offer a doctoral program designed to help create tomorrow's nursing leaders today.

Rosa Ketchum, DNP, RN is an associate professor and director of the school of nursing's new DNP program.

"One thing that is exciting is just the role of the DNP," Ketchum said. "It's becoming more evident in view of the pandemic that nurses have a very important voice in health care and they are a huge piece of the puzzle and their experience and value and perspective on health care is needed to help address practice and policy development."

Designed for working adults, this program offers two doctoral learning pathways: a Post Master's DNP and the BSN to DNP.

The Post Master's Pathway enables Advanced Practice Nurses, Nurse Informaticists, Nurse Educators, Nurse Administrators, and other master's prepared specialty nurses to obtain a DNP in Executive Leadership. Additionally, BSN-prepared nurses with a master's degree in a related

field may also enter this pathway.

Similarly, the BSN to DNP Pathway allows bachelor's prepared nurses to earn their doctorate of nursing practice.

Within this pathway, students choose a focus in either Nursing Administration or Nursing Education. OKWU has designed this curriculum for experienced nurses seeking terminal degrees in practice-focused areas. Moreover, OKWU prepares nurses to function as an advocate and leader, improving healthcare and patient outcomes through innovation and involvement in practice and policy.

Most importantly, both pathways provide graduates with advanced practice skills to serve as providers and organizers of the healthcare delivery process, or as faculty members in a nursing education program.

Translating that bedside knowledge and pairing it with evidence-based practice is the focus of the DNP program.

Ketchum completed her DNP in 2019.

"I wanted a degree that focused on patient outcomes. That's where my nursing heart is, helping the



patient whether it's one patient or a population, I wanted to impact patient outcomes," Ketchum said.

"That is part of the focus of the DNP and I wanted a piece of that. I wanted to be better able to do that whether it be through teaching students or through direct patient care."

OKWU's Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Leadership program is designed to equip nurses to serve at the highest level of nursing practice. The DNP program develops nurse leaders who improve patient outcomes and health systems by translating research into practice, all from a Christian worldview.

Enrollment for the program began last fall. A new group of students begins each semester, three times a year.

The initial 15 students came from a variety of backgrounds. While most programs only accept advanced practice nurses, Oklahoma Wesleyan accepts any kind of master's prepared nurse.

"Their ideas and perspectives may be a little broader because we have nurses that are coming

from an administration background, or education background or advanced practice background so we're getting to see them all together," she said. "The perspective is broader than some programs but they all want to impact health care and they all want to make our health care system a little bit better."

Delivery of the program is 100-percent online with no required visits to campus. Classes are delivered one at a time, eight weeks in length.

"Our program is designed for the working adult and that's better facilitated because they are only taking one class at a time. For eight weeks they can focus on one class at a time and I think that helps them be able to balance life, work, family, school better than if they were in a more traditional semester setting," Ketchum said.

The BSN to DNP program is 54 credit hours with anticipation of three years to graduate. The post-master's DNP is 36 hours allowing for completion in roughly two years.

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# The Uniform Shoppe

## Catering to nurses for 60 years



There's a special day every semester at Green Country Technology Center in Okmulgee.

It occurs right after LPN students finish their Introduction to Nursing course and just before their Anatomy and Physiology course.

It's the day Jody Weise from The Uniform Shoppe comes to visit and Green Country Director of Nursing Darlene Baker, RN, MSN, says no one ever misses.

"They are so excited. They feel like they're real nurses," Baker said. "They're trying things on, looking at the stethoscopes and picking out their colors."

For nearly 60 years now, The Uniform Shoppe has had nurses' back - and their front - literally bringing a professional look to their doorstep.

Baker has been at Green Country Technology Center for 22 years now. The school uses The Uniform Shoppe for all its LPN and CNA uniforms.

No one goes to clinicals until they've visited Weise.

"We're very strict with our dress code when they go into the clinical setting," Baker said. "Jody kind of knows what we like. She does the groundwork."

"Obviously, they are dependable. It helps us out because instead of us having to load students up or send students one at a time they actually come to our facility. If there are any changes they let me know well in advance."

Since 1962, The Uniform Shoppe has been a family affair.

Albert and Elaine Weise opened the Uniform Shoppe in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

They traversed the Oklahoma highways and backroads bringing comfortable, affordable quality uniforms to nurses at their facilities.

Riding in the back seat was daughter, Jody.

She learned the business from the best and now co-owns and manages the company.

While the styles on the rack may change, little else has changed about this Oklahoma gem.

The Tulsa location moved around the corner to 6044 S. Sheridan Road a while back and the Oklahoma City store is still located at 10503 N. May Avenue.

The Uniform Shoppe has hands-down always had the largest stock of scrubs for nurses, health care workers, daycare workers - every profession that requires durable-yet-professional attire while working with people.

Service has always been the focus.

"We work with many schools to get their students started on the right track - nursing, dental, cosmetology, culinary, veterinary, physician assistants, physical therapy, chemistry, health careers and information, paramedics, lab tech, nutrition, occupational therapy, pharmacy, radiography, respiratory and surgical," Weise said. "We've even had quite a few adolescent classes of 'future leaders' going into scrubs and lab coats."

"Most schools want their students to look professional which leads to acting professional."

Starting a new career is exciting. Looking like you belong is important, too, that's why Green Country students love it when Weise comes to campus.

The Uniform Shoppe also provides students with monogrammed lab coats, their first stethoscope, hemostat, and bandage scissors.

"It's a very convenient, one-stop-shop for us," Baker said.

Baker relies on Weise to keep Green Country students and faculty



For 60 years now, The Uniform Shoppe has helped nurses and other professionals throughout their careers.

in comfort and fashion.

"When you're online you don't know how it's going to fit, Baker said. "So when The Uniform Shoppe comes here our students have the opportunity to actually try them on so you know. Not everyone's body looks exactly the same so Jody makes sure we have different fits so that everyone is able to be satisfied."

The Uniform Shoppe helps students present a professional and polished look while working clinical rotations in the hospitals and offices, representing the student and the schools in the best light.

"Cheap uniforms tend to look that way, and when out in public, it reflects on the student as well as the school," Weise said. "There are many well-made, quality uniforms that are very budget-friendly, and working with a local uniform store supports the very community that supports the students and schools in the real world."

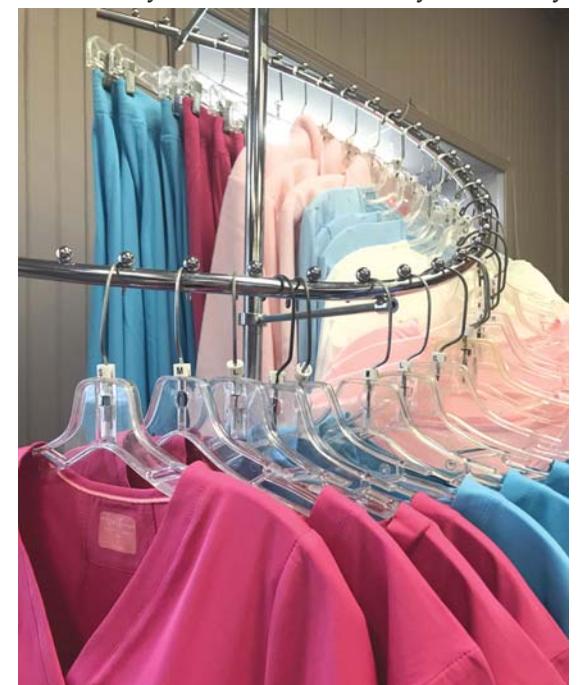
Baker said as graduation nears, students go up to The Uniform Shoppe as a group to select their first set of white scrubs as well as a new pair of white shoes.

The staff are very knowledgeable about fabrics, fit and size availability and make it their business to learn the positive features of various brands so they can work with school administration and students regarding fit, wear and care.

It's more than a product, it's a relationship.

"They're just like family," Baker said. "They seem to be as excited as the students are so it's pretty cool."

Visit: [www.theuniformshoppe.com](http://www.theuniformshoppe.com) or come by our store in OKC at 10503 N May Ave or Tulsa at 6044 S Sheridan Road.



 **THE UNIFORM SHOPPE**  
Think of US first!

# Health Care Training is a Core Area of Francis Tuttle

Among the most highly regarded of the many career training programs offered at Francis Tuttle Technology Center are those in the health sciences. From programs for adults looking for a new career, to those designed to prepare high school students to earn a living while exploring other health career options, there are many available to choose from to help people who are considering pursuing a career in the helping professions of health care. Francis Tuttle has experienced faculty who have worked extensively in the industry, with state of the art equipment used in health and medical facilities throughout the metro area and around the country, and a dedicated focus to help fill a looming skills gap. Below is a brief description of each of Francis Tuttle's program offerings.

The **Pre-Nursing** program for adult and high school students is an exciting opportunity to begin exploring a health care pathway and see what careers are available with additional training. Students gain knowledge about the broad spectrum of health professions. Through the program,



students can obtain certification as a Nurse Aide (CNA) and an Advanced Unlicensed Assistant (AUA).

The unique **Respiratory Care** program for adult students works cooperatively with Oklahoma City Community College, whereupon completion, students receive a Certificate of Completion from Francis Tuttle and an Associate of Applied Science degree from OCCC. Students are trained to assist with the treatment of individuals with pulmonary and cardiac disorders, and obtain eligibility to take the national examinations to earn a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential and apply for an Oklahoma Respiratory Care Practitioners License.

The **Practical Nursing** program prepares adult students to provide quality health care in a variety of settings. Three enrollment options are available to best fit student needs: full-time, blended online, and the 1+1 program. Upon completion, students are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

The unique **Orthotic & Prosthetic Technician** program, along with certification in Pedorthics, each for adult students, is a hands on program to prepare students to assist the disabled by fabricating the orthopedic braces (orthoses) and artificial limbs (protheses) necessary for their rehabilitation. Pedorthics offers

specialized training to manage comprehensive pedorthic patient care for all injuries and pathologies involving patient feet. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the American Board of Certification (ABC) national certification exam to be recognized as a Certified Technician in Prosthetics and Orthotics (CTPO). After training and one thousand hours of work experience, students may take the Pedorthic Certification Exam (ABC or BOC) to be a Certified Pedorthist (C.ped).

The **Dental Assisting** program prepares adult students to become members of the dental health care team. Dental assistants have the opportunity to enhance the efficiency of the dentist in the delivery of oral health care. Upon completion of the program, students can obtain certification as a Dental Assistant (CDA).

Each program offers the potential for a high paying career and Francis Tuttle is dedicated to serving the growing demand for a highly qualified workforce in the health care industry. If you're interested, or know someone who is looking to expand their horizons through the expanding field of medical care, check out these and other programs at [www.FrancisTuttle.edu](http://www.FrancisTuttle.edu) and get started on your future today!

Visit [www.FrancisTuttle.edu](http://www.FrancisTuttle.edu) for more information.

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**FRANCISTUTTLE**  
 TECHNOLOGY CENTER

# Equipping servant 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 healthcare setting.

## What 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
- 16-month hybrid, accelerated first or second degree program located in Northwest Arkansas. Classes are online, and laboratory experiences are held on site. Clinical sites include local hospitals and community health centers.
- 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

The **graduate** tracks are designed to meet the individualized needs of professionals, resulting in a Master of Science in nursing.

These include:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
  - \* Full-time and part-time options
  - \* Admissions three times a year: spring, summer or fall
  - \* Customizable options for those who already have an Master of Science in nursing
  - \* Eligibility to sit for national certification exam upon program completion
  - \* Delivery: hybrid format, with online courses and three on-campus intensives throughout the program
- Master's Entry into Professional Nursing
  - \* Traditional bachelor's entry or accelerated bachelor's to master's options
  - \* Eligible to sit for NCLEX-RN exam upon program completion
  - \* Delivery: on campus with some online classes

**What sets Harding trained nurses apart?** The undergraduate nursing program has a 98.8% first-time NCLEX-RN pass rate since 2017 and has been ranked the No. 1 Nursing Program in Arkansas by RegisteredNursing.org for four years in a row. This ranking is based on how well a program supports students toward licensure and beyond.

Harding's nursing graduates are well-equipped to enter the field, with high job placement rates and a 97.5% first-time Family Nurse Practitioner National Certification pass rate since the program's first graduates in 2017.

The first of its kind in Arkansas, the master's entry into professional nursing program prepares graduates for eligibility to take the national licensing exam to become Registered Nurses. The program provides on-campus, state-of-the-art simulations and diverse clinical experiences in Searcy, Little Rock and surrounding areas to aid students in understanding patient clinical skills, administration and leadership in nursing. Applicants with any undergraduate

degree can apply. There are Arkansas nursing prerequisites.

**What if I have a degree in another field but have decided healthcare is my passion?** The Master of Science in nursing - master's entry into professional nursing option is a great path for students who already have a bachelor's degree in another area of study. The accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing in Northwest Arkansas is a good option as well.

**How do the programs interact with the community?** Students assist in a variety of community clinical settings that serve diverse patient populations. 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 for careers not only in traditional healthcare settings but also 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.

For more information visit: <https://www.harding.edu/academics/colleges-departments/nursing>



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## OU NURSING ADVANCING HEALTH SOONER

### WHY OU?

- Nationally ranked as one of the Best Graduate Nursing Programs by *U.S. News and World Report* for 2022
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Certifications and NCLEX pass rates exceed state and national averages
- Over \$500,000 in scholarships provided annually
- PhD scholarship opportunities - up to \$150,000
- Clinical practice and research mentoring across bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs
- Post-graduate certificate programs geared to working professionals
- Expanded clinical simulation experiences with state-of-the-art lab – anticipated opening fall 2022
- Student Success Center launching in fall 2022
- And many more exciting opportunities in 2022

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our programs and  
apply now!**



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FRAN AND EARL ZIEGLER  
**COLLEGE OF NURSING**  
*The* UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

# OU helps nurses take next step

When Hannah Rames, RN, decided to go back to school for her BSN she knew it would require some sacrifices.

But going back to school through the Fran and Earl Ziegler University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Nursing's RN to BSN track, she had no idea how flexible it was going to be.

"I think we really just work to try to meet the students where they are," said Dr. Lori McElroy, DNP, RN, CNE, and RN to BSN track coordinator. "We know these are working students, often a little older than the traditional student who sometimes have families, children, elderly parents - just all kinds of life circumstances they are working through. "We realize that in the beginning and I think our focus is to be as student-centric and self-directed as possible."

Rames earned her associate's degree from Oklahoma City Community College in the winter of 2015. She began working as a labor and delivery nurse at OU Health Children's Hospital in March of the following year.

She spent three years there before moving to the Prenatal Diagnostic Center for another three years. "I grew up in Norman and started my college career at OU and really wanted to finish with my BSN from OU," said Rames, who now works in the nursery at Lakeside. "I chose this program because there was a part-time track and it was all online, which made it much easier to continue working full-time while also taking care of my son." Tuition assistance while working for OU was also a big draw that helped her complete her next degree.

One-hundred percent online course offerings helped Rames fit everything into her schedule. And



OU helps students advance their careers.

another big draw was the ability to complete practicum hours at her own job site.

"It helps them feel very comfortable in an atmosphere they know and they can find someone in their leadership like their charge nurse or someone in administration to actually supervise their clinical experience," McElroy said.

The program can be completed within a year, or longer if a student needs more time. "We don't require any brick and mortar, face-to-face type of interactions but we really try to communicate frequently with these students and offer encouragement and support along the way because we do realize this second degree is sometimes difficult and challenging even though it is a flexible pace. More and more,

McElroy said she's finding nurses coming back to advance their degree as a way of opening up more opportunities both at the bedside and away from it.

"This is just a stepping stone that often these students once they get back into the academic setting they do take their BSN further and get an advanced degree, either a nurse practitioner or even their Ph.D.," McElroy said.

OU's nursing programs have earned high honors in nationwide rankings. In its 2022 rankings, U.S. News & World Report placed OU No. 29 in its list of best online master's in nursing programs, and No. 58 for best bachelor of science in nursing programs.

OU's RN to BSN online program is ranked No. 2 in the nation by

<https://nurse.org/>.

A nurse for more than 30 years, McElroy said each time she advanced her degree it opened up more possibilities she never thought possible.

"I don't feel like I realized the opportunity at the time and I think the students now have a much more realistic perspective of healthcare, of technology, of informatics and I think nursing programs have had to shift to keep up with the healthcare community," she said. "The opportunities are just endless now." Rames has realized it too as she moves closer to her BSN. "I have appreciated that all of my professors have been very flexible and made themselves accessible throughout the semester," she said. "After I finish this program I'm going to continue my career as a bedside nurse and focus on my family. When my child is older I might consider getting my Master's or Doctorate."

For more information on the Fran and Earl Ziegler University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Nursing's RN to BSN program visit: <https://nursing.ouhsc.edu/>

**OU's nursing programs have earned high honors in nationwide rankings. In its 2022 rankings, U.S. News & World Report placed OU No. 29 in its list of best online master's in nursing programs, and No. 58 for best bachelor of science in nursing programs.**

# OCU continues to lead

Long regarded as one of the top nursing programs in the state, Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing will expand its offerings this fall, offering two fully online options for the Master of Science in Nursing and RN-BSN programs.

"We recognize that post-licensure nurses may need or desire more flexibility and convenience when returning to school to obtain a higher degree," said Dr. Gina Crawford, Interim Dean, OCU Kramer School of Nursing and the College of Health Professions. "We believe our online options will allow for a greater number of nurses to advance their education in a way that best fits their needs and busy schedules. While being more convenient, the quality of our programs and the dedication of our faculty continues to be nothing less than outstanding."

The MSN program at Kramer School of Nursing provides students with the opportunity to obtain a Master's Degree focused on Education or Leadership. The program is 33 credit hours offered in the spring, summer, and fall.

The majority of students complete the program in five semesters while maintaining full-time employment. The MSN program is intentionally designed to support the needs of the adult learner and will be offered completely online starting in the Fall of 2022.

"To me, what makes Kramer so unique is the authentic, caring relationships among faculty, staff, and students. It creates an environment where true learning can occur, and students thrive. In turn, we see this positively affect patient outcomes and advance the discipline," said Vanessa Wright, PhD, MSN, RN, Chair of Graduate Education.

The RN-BSN track is designed for working nurses to attain their BSN. It is 30 credit hours, 18 credit hours in nursing, and 12 general education electives.

"We are proud of the relationships formed between

RN-BSN faculty and students and we look forward to continuing those relationships within the fully online platform. We will continue to offer an in-person option for nurses who prefer in-person instruction," said Professor Pam Tucker, Chair, RN-BSN. "The RN-BSN faculty are supportive and accessible to the students. We recognize the students as adult learners and value the experience each student brings with them to the RN-BSN track. Being part of the journey as RNs achieve their goals is an honor."

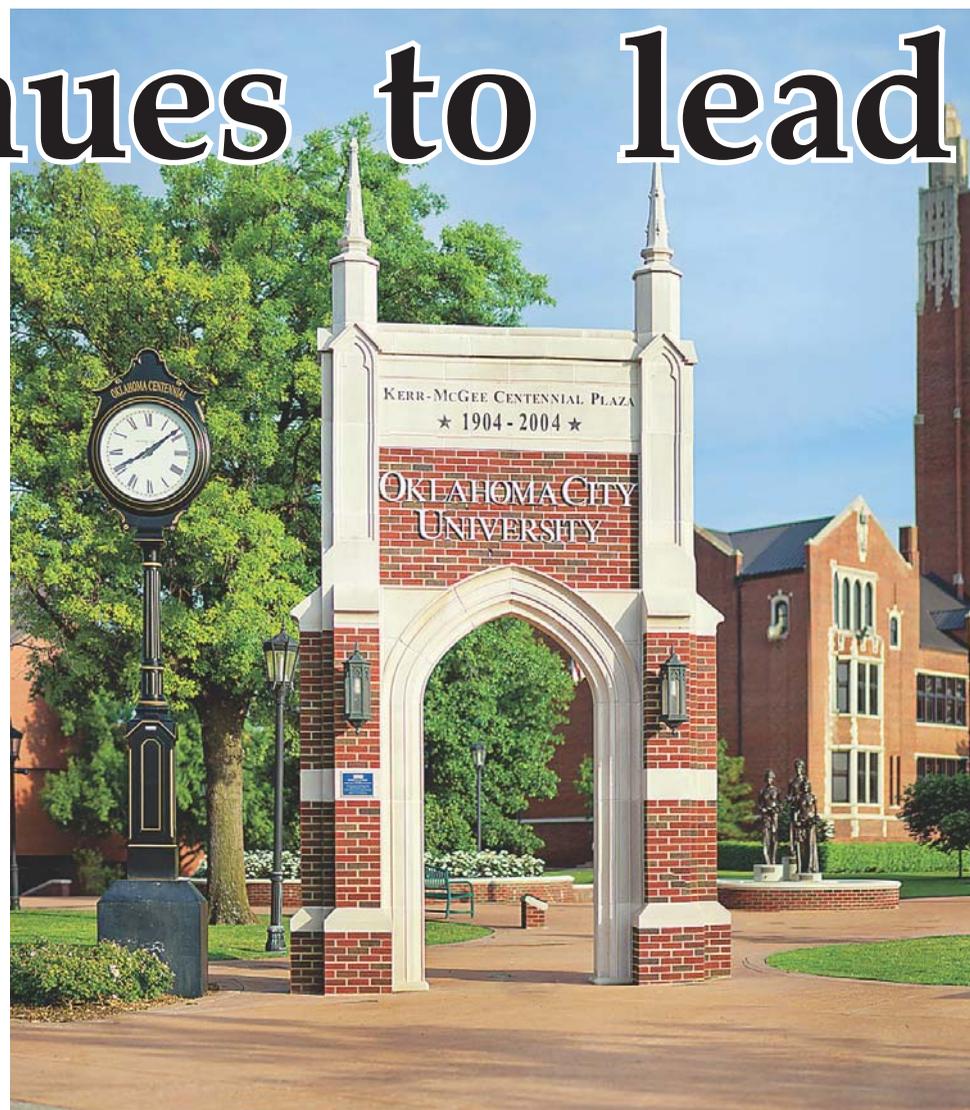
RN-BSN alumna, Connie Benhmda, RN stated, "I have been a professional nurse for 21 years and my lifelong goal of earning my BSN seemed out of reach. I discovered the opportunity to achieve my dreams by attending OCU KSN's RN-BSN program. The professors and staff at KSN understand the unique challenges that working adults encounter when deciding to return to school. My nursing instructors embraced me, encouraged me, and celebrated my achievements."

Those seeking a terminal degree are well-served at OCU.

The PhD degree prepares expert nurses in nursing education, research, and leadership to serve the community, state, and nation.

The PhD program combines educational delivery methods, allowing students to keep full-time jobs and live in their own communities. Through hybrid course design, students meet on campus for 2-3 days at the beginning of each semester and complete courses online over the remainder of the semester. The program requires 57 post-master's credit hours.

The DNP program at KSN provides a blend of in-person instruction and distance education.



The BSN-DNP program tracks include family nurse practitioner (FNP), adult-gerontology acute care (AGACNP), and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP). All three tracks are also offered as post-master certificates (PMC).

DNP-Completion options are also available for MSN-prepared nurses seeking a terminal degree. "Faculty and staff are very proud of the quality, collaborative care provided by our graduates to their communities," said Dr. Cene' Livingston, Interim Chair of Advanced Practice Programs.

"I am very grateful to take part in OCU's first PMHNP post-master class," said student Dyanna Johnston (PMC PMHNP). "This program allows me to work full-time and receive quality education

from experienced instructors."

BSN-DNP alum Christin Tomlinson, FNP, echoed that sentiment.

"I highly recommend the program to anyone seeking a graduate nursing degree," she said. "The professors helped me understand the material, secure clinical placement and were always available for a kind word of encouragement."

OCU Kramer School of Nursing invites you to visit their upcoming College of Health Professions Open House on June 28 at OCU.

Virtual information sessions are also available on May 10 and July 12. Application deadline for the PMC PMHNP track is April 1.

You can find more information online at [www.okcu.edu/nursing](http://www.okcu.edu/nursing)





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By any measure, Southwestern Oklahoma State University with campus locations in Weatherford, Sayre and Yukon 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.

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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.

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area. The location is convenient for commuters and traditional students. Visit <https://www.swosu.edu> for more information.

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# Eastern Oklahoma State College nursing graduates regularly exceed national NCLEX



## EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE

Eastern Oklahoma State College's nursing program is often ranked one of the top nursing schools in the state based on the percentage of graduates who pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). The NCLEX is used by all state boards of nursing across the nation to assess a student's competency and graduates must pass the exam to become licensed registered nurses.

Gina Bullock, director of Eastern's Nursing Division, said the program consistently sees high

pass NCLEX-RN pass rates that are well above the state and national averages. Most recently, Eastern's graduates achieved a 97.5 percent pass rate compared to the national pass rate of 88.18 percent for first-time test takers at the associate degree level.

"Our graduates' reliably high NCLEX scores speak volumes for the quality of nursing education provided at Eastern. This achievement is a direct reflection of our faculty's commitment to train and prepare the next generation of registered nurses and our students' dedication to providing quality care for patients," Bullock said. "We are extremely proud of our graduates and the impact their skills and knowledge will make in the communities they serve."

Eastern's nursing program offers an associate of applied science degree for students to become registered nurses. The program has two tracks - a basic licensure program and a LPN/EMTP



transition program for students who have been practicing as a licensed practical nurse or paramedic.

For more information, visit [eosc.edu/nursing](http://eosc.edu/nursing) or call 918-465-1794.

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# Rose State leads the way

Connie Kuebeck, RN, MS, MBA is the associate dean for health sciences at Rose State University.

She'll celebrate 43 years in nursing this May.

And every day she gets to be a part of molding the next generation of nurses at one of the most student-centric programs in the metro.

Located in Midwest City, Rose State has long been home to one of the most popular nursing programs in Central Oklahoma.

Class sizes are small, offerings are flexible and the faculty invests in students.

Rose State prides itself on working with students.

"If a student is compelled to only come to classes in the afternoon or early evening we have a cohort we can put them in. If they prefer to come during the day we offer that, too, and at least once a year we have an online option," Kuebeck said. "It just makes it more available for those

students who already have family or work obligations or it just doesn't fit with their schedule to come during the day all the time."

Students pursuing their associate's degree in nursing have access to clinical sites throughout the metro during the four-semester program.

Nursing courses are centrally located in one of the newest buildings on campus.

"I think we're in a good location for students throughout the metro area and also the outlying areas" she said. "They don't have to come all the way close to downtown or even go through downtown if they live anywhere on the east side. We're also convenient for students living North and South because we have a great number of those.

"And we have smaller class sizes than some of the other programs that offer the same degree that we do."

Kuebeck said that for roughly every 13 students there is one faculty



member.

And, Rose State NCLEX pass rates are consistently above state and national averages.

Kuebeck shifted to education in 1998 and has seen educational offerings change with the times. The focus at Rose State has always been on the student and Kuebeck says that's why faculty focus on making those bonds.

She saw it daily during the early stages of the pandemic when hospitals kept students out of the hospital.

The encouragement was there on a daily basis, which helped students stay focused on their ultimate goal of becoming nurses.

"For the students who got to go back in and do clinicals I was amazed at their resilience," she said. "They were willing to get in there, pitch in and help. The students were watching from the sidelines at home and we all felt kind of helpless."

"When they eased up restrictions on students they were happy to get back in there and be part of the solution. It made them want to be more a part of nursing even more than before."

Kuebeck said the school welcomes applications from any and all prospective students.

"We have great advisors here with our health science division who are experts in helping people plot out their education path in the most efficient manner and to get them to their goal in the least amount of time," Kuebeck said.

"We welcome anyone to call the advisors, call the division office and get some information and start looking at the path to a new career."

For more information about the Rose State Nursing Program visit: <https://www.rose.edu/nursing>



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# Educate with purpose

## ADON leads with experience

Jenifer Presley stresses the importance of on-the-job learning as an LPN and the assistant director of nurses at Golden Oaks Village, located in Stillwater.

Presley has served for three years at Golden Oaks Village and been a nurse for seven years. She graduated from nursing school at Meridian Technology Center in Stillwater and did undergraduate studies at Oklahoma State University.

"We learn something new every day," Presley said. "It's not just something where you go to school every day and learn everything. For years there is always something else to know."

Studying for a career in nursing gives you a good base of skills for an active career, she continued. Having performed clinical work in school proved to be a valuable resource to draw from early in a nursing career.

She understands how families feel when depending on competent health care workers to assist ailing loved ones. She was 19 when her father became ill, and her family called for

an ambulance.

"I think that's what sparked it. I love taking care of people," she said.

Presley would tell nursing school students to pay close attention to dedicated nurses in the field. Nurses who love their careers stand above the rest, she said.

"You can always point out who's a hard worker and wants to be there," she explained. "They are who you should follow and look up to. Watch the things that they do and how they deal with their patients."

Residents at Golden Oaks Village are individuals so it's good to take time to listen and learn from them, she continued.

"It makes it easier for them and for you during the process of their care," she said.

Being team oriented in a compassionate setting makes Golden Oaks Village the favorite place that Presley has ever worked, she said. As a charge nurse, Presley is a team leader offering her support to ensure care is being provided that the residents need. She said there is always help



Jenifer Presley, LPN, and the assisted director of nurses at Golden Oaks Village in Stillwater is always open to a new learning opportunity.

when she needs assistance. She leads the team whenever there is a nearby emergency.

"We have a good group of girls here," Presley said. "And, if I ever need help or must do something in another room, I never have to worry about it. It feels good knowing you have support and knowledgeable people who want to be here to help."

Golden Oaks Village is located on 40 acres in Stillwater in a wooded country setting that is filled

with ponds and wildlife. A peaceful view accompanies a paved walking trail. Independent and assisted living facilities serve more than 100 seniors and the elderly every day.

"Take your time and get to know them," she said. "It can make as much difference in your life as you can in theirs. That makes for a meaningful job."

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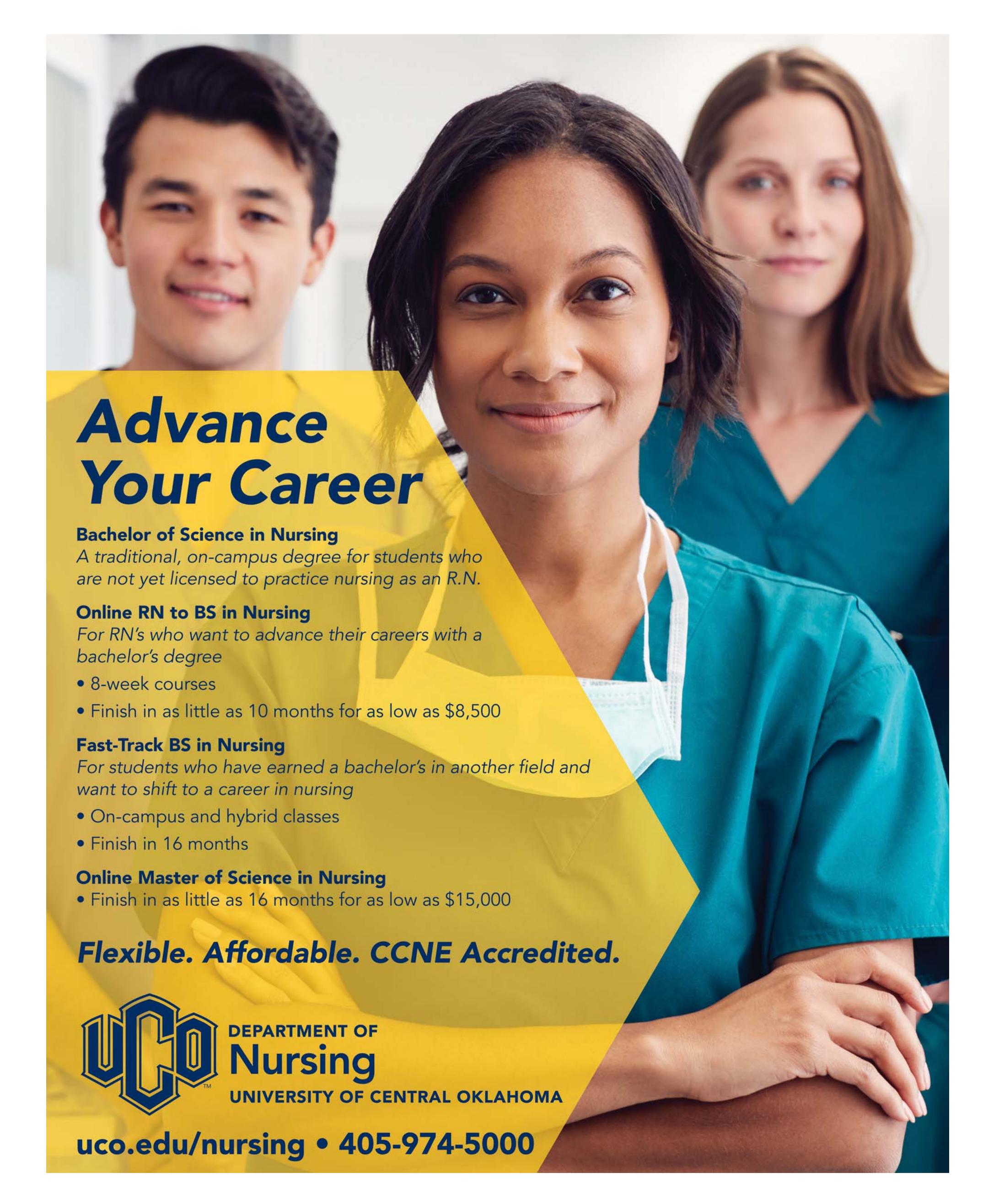
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# UCO prepares tomorrow's leaders



A UCO nursing degree opens up a myriad of possibilities.

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Both are cornerstones of advancing your nursing career through the University of Central Oklahoma's graduate programs.

Leann Laubach, Ph.D., is an assistant professor and the baccalaureate program coordinator in the Department of Nursing at the University of Central Oklahoma.

She has been teaching at UCO since 2005 and has 22 years of experience as a nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

"They set their own goals so it's a more personalized experience. It's not the goals I set for you as the instructor," Laubach said of the program's online offerings. "They are related to your ultimate goal for your degree. I think that's really where we pride ourselves both in our RN to BSN and our master's program is the personalization of the degree and maintaining that close contact with our students so we can help you be successful in our programs."

The master's degree directly addresses the University of Central Oklahoma's mission to contribute to the intellectual, cultural, economic, and social advancement of the communities and individuals it serves.

The inclusion of 100 practicum hours facilitates the participation of students in transformative educational experiences that directly benefit the Oklahoma City metro community.

Nursing graduate students can choose from two-course pathways: nursing leadership or nursing education. A master's degree in nursing education will prepare students for academic positions in nursing education or positions in clinical staff education. The leadership pathway allows students to meet individual goals in areas such as health care leadership or administration.

The program is offered at a \$15,000 flat fee, even if a student is out of state.

"It's protecting students against inflation," Laubach said.

Laubach noted the flexibility of the program benefits students in ways

that make it possible to advance their degrees.

"There's great value in that for someone who maybe is working full time and or has a family, they can carve those hours out in a time frame that works for them. I see that as very valuable for both programs. It makes it so students can do the work when they need to do the work and not at a time that works better for me."

The recent pandemic has created a divide for many nurses who enjoy their chosen careers but may feel burnt out in their current roles.

"I think now has challenged people to think outside of being at the bedside that whole time," Laubach said. "I think they are seeking education because they want that change. I think that's the future of where nursing is going that nurses are realizing they want to stay in nursing but they don't know if they want to stay at the bedside the whole time."

There is a definite opportunity for nurses to use their experiences to better the next generation of nursing through education or mentorship.

"I think for nurses who find they are passionate about teaching new nurses it's an advantage to come back and get an education or leadership degree," Laubach said. "A leadership degree would allow students to be the clinical leaders, the charge nurse and give them the skillset they need to be successful."

"The advantage of coming back to get your master's degree or even your bachelor's degree is expanding the way you think. The biggest thing is the growth mindset that occurs from the next degree to the next degree."

The first nursing class from the nursing department at the University of Central Oklahoma graduated in 1972. Since that time, more than 3,500 well-qualified graduate nurses have entered the workforce.

Graduates of this program are known for being some of the best nurses in the state of Oklahoma.

For more information visit: <https://www.uco.edu/cms/academics/nursing/>

# Graceland University School of Nursing

Whether you are beginning a career in nursing or advancing your career, we are dedicated to preparing you as a professional nurse to meet the health care needs of your community.



Established in 1895, Graceland University has a long history of educating future leaders, healers and engaged global citizens. That mission continues within the Graceland School of Nursing. Our nursing program offers prospective students a variety of undergraduate and graduate level degrees offered face-to-face on our Independence, MO campus and online. The School of Nursing's outstanding faculty and staff are eager to assist you in reaching your educational goals.

Graceland University's history of educating nurses dates back more than 50 years. The Division of Nursing became the sixth academic area of Graceland in 1969 when administrators of the diploma nursing program at the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital in Independence, Missouri, collaborated with Graceland to move its educational base into the four-year collegiate setting.

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The Nursing curriculum is carefully designed to integrate professional education with liberal arts and sciences. The program accommodates students beginning their education in nursing as well as

students eligible for advanced placement. Our asynchronous online RN-BSN degree includes specific areas of study allowing registered nurses to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in approximately one year with an organized and supportive learning environment. Faculty and student support counselors at Graceland University in Independence, Missouri, are there to help you from application to completion of the online RN to BSN program. The result is a quality nursing degree that will put you in high demand, our students graduate with nearly 100% job placement.

## A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DEGREE FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD.

The world of nursing is constantly changing, and Graceland's programs have evolved to keep up. Based on our decades-long experience in RN-BSN distance learning, our Master of Science in Nursing degree programs combine online directed asynchronous learning with a short on-campus focus session.

*All programs are fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)*

First introduced in 1994, Graceland offers **Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)** program. The FNP program track prepares the RN to care for individuals and families in a wide variety of health care settings, including clinics, community-based settings, long-term care facilities, and hospitals.

The **Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP)** program was developed to prepare today's RN to assess and manage acutely ill patients within the in-patient or hospital setting working across departments from hospital environments such as ER, ICU, acute care and many other specialties.

As Graceland's newest MSN offering, the **Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)** program will prepare you to work across the lifespan with pediatric to geriatric patients providing mental health care and substance abuse treatment in all types of healthcare settings in both rural and urban communities in a field that is not only growing, but extremely needed in today's world.

## TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH A DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE.

In response to societal needs and a strong commitment to nursing education excellence, Graceland offer the **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Organizational Leadership degree**. This highly sought after online terminal degree will prepare you for a wide range of high-level responsibilities in patient care, health care systems, academics and policy making.



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In 2021, the U.S. News & World Report ranked Graceland University's Master's in Nursing online programs #1 in the nation. To learn more about the Graceland School of Nursing, visit our website at [www.graceland.edu/nursing](http://www.graceland.edu/nursing).



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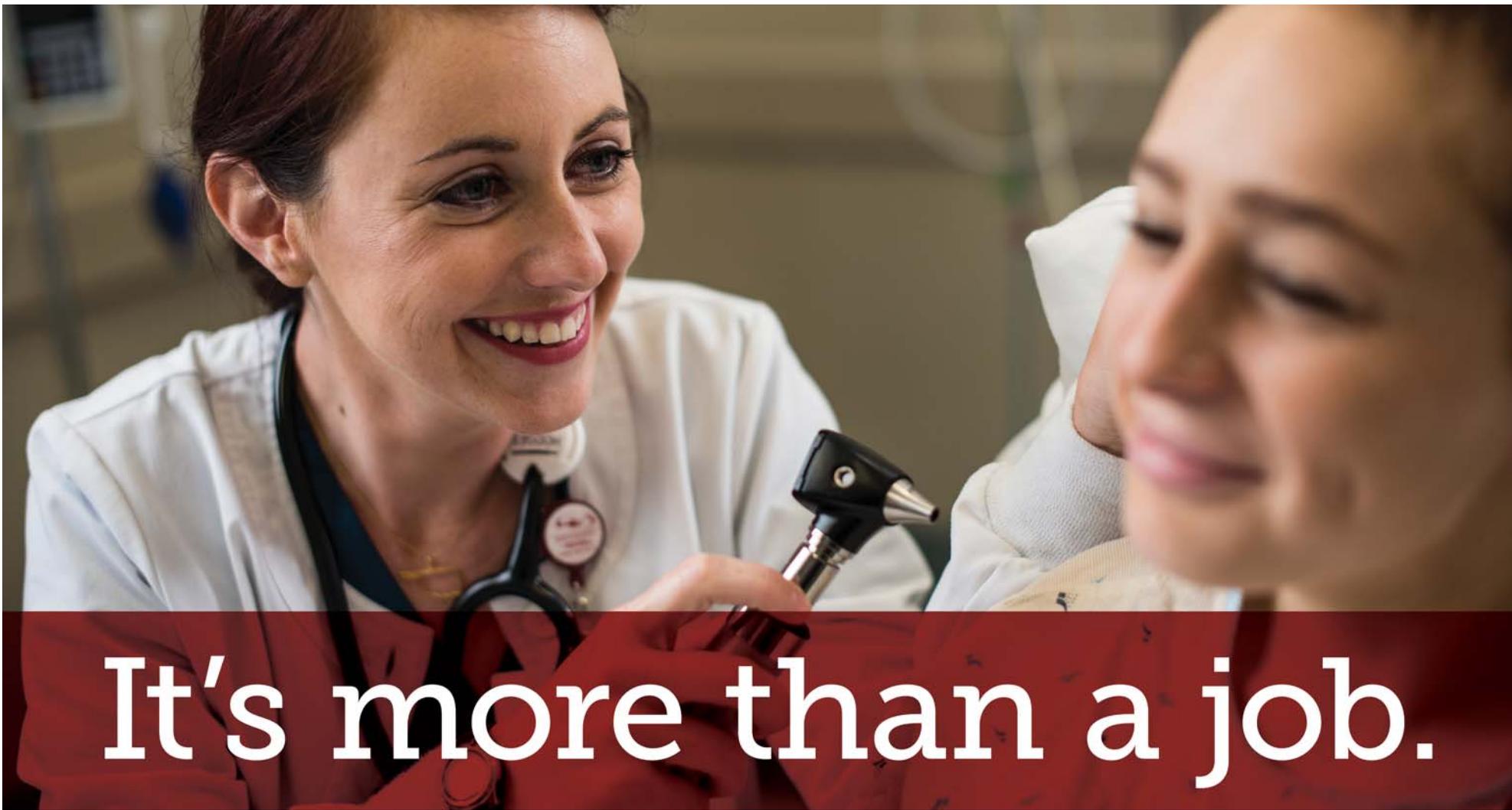


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# Rewarding and Compassionate Care at Karman Legacy Hospice



Nursing is considered one of the most noble and compassionate professions in the world. Those who choose nursing as a career have a strong desire to help others heal and return to normal life. But what about those patients who will not be returning to a normal life, and instead have received a terminal diagnosis? How can taking care of patients at the end of their life be rewarding? The staff of Karman Legacy Hospice in Stillwater answer the questions that many healthcare providers have about the challenges and rewards of providing hospice care.

Sherry Crockett, Director of Karman Legacy Hospice, has been a nurse for 32 years. When asked how she became a hospice nurse, she said, "I was a home health nurse working in quality assurance. A friend called me to discuss the idea of joining her to work at a local hospice agency. After being allowed to shadow my friend on a few patient visits, I was hooked."

Sherry said that while she has worked in many aspects of nursing over her career, she feels most fulfilled when she has the honor to provide her patients with the best quality of life in their final days.

"Being a hospice nurse is the greatest job," said Sherry. "Our patients give us more than we give them. I have a sense of purpose working with hospice patients and

their families."

With nearly 20 years of hospice experience, Mary Vanzant, LPN, has found her passion serving as an urgent care/on call hospice nurse. She remembers that during her first year of hospice nursing, she experienced a whirlwind of feelings and emotions.

"You realize you are only here for a short time, and not invincible," she said. "It will humble you to see the importance of living life everyday as though it was your last, enjoying the little things and how precious time is."

Kristie Talley, RN, has been part of the hospice family at Karman Legacy for just over 5 years. She was first introduced to the hospice process after her grandmother was diagnosed with cancer and there were no longer any paths for active treatment. Kristie had heard of hospice but was not sure what all it entailed. She said she quickly realized that hospice is not where patients just go to die, but where they go to live.

"Let me clarify that my grandmother did die, but hospice helped her live out the remainder of her time on earth the way she wanted to, on her terms, with dignity and respect, with little to no pain, and surrounded by loved ones and not machines," said Kristie.

Tiffany Myers, LPN, has worked as a hospice nurse for 2.5 years. She was first introduced to hospice when her grandfather was a hospice

patient.

"I saw the love, care and exceptional compassion that went into keeping him comfortable, and my family was part of the nurse's concern as well," said Tiffany. "I wanted to be a part of that most important time in a person's life."

Tiffany said that she loves her job, and she is proud of the end of life care she is able to provide for her patients and their family.

Danielle Vargas, RN, has been providing hospice care for about 6 months. Like a lot of other hospice nurses, she was introduced to hospice care when a family member was receiving care.

"I had an uncle that was sick with cancer that was receiving hospice services," she said. "Something just clicked during that experience for me, and I felt drawn to it."

She said that after a difficult day at work, she refills her bucket by

spending time with her family. "I have two little girls that are absolute blessings."

Angela Garcia, RN, has been a hospice nurse for just 2 months after previously working as a CNA. She advises anyone considering hospice to make sure you are doing it for the right reasons.

"You have to be open-minded to everyone's beliefs and center your care around what is best for each individual," said Angela.

She continued to say that hospice team members are special people with the ability to spread love and comfort to those most in need.

"There's no better reward or feeling in the world like being able to fulfill someone's dying wishes and letting their loved ones see them die peacefully," she said.

For more information visit:

[www.stillwater-medical.org/locations/karman-legacy-hospice](http://www.stillwater-medical.org/locations/karman-legacy-hospice)



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# Integris make practice transition easier

Without a doubt, the first year of a nurse's career can be one of the most stressful.

With so many questions from daily practice to advancement of skills to self-care where is a new nurse to turn?

Integris Health realizes that first-year may be difficult. That's why there's a nationally-accredited Nurse Residency Program in place to not only ease the transition to practice but to help you thrive.

"We try to help them recognize they aren't going to know everything right out of school and that's OK," said Sandy Hill, MSN, RN, NPD and Integris manager for Transition to Practice. "We're going to help them get there. We also help them learn about their specialty or population-specific patients they are caring for because in some settings they don't get a lot of experience in specialty areas during school."

Transitioning to RN practice can be difficult and evidence supports

Nurse Residency programs increase retention and job satisfaction among newly graduated RNs.

That's why Integris Health hosts a year-long Nurse Residency Program for RN graduates and those with less than six months of licensure as an RN.

The Nurse Residency Program is an expanded orientation designed to help the new RN graduate make a smooth transition from student to a professional member of a healthcare team. This program is designed to help nurses more fully contribute to delivering the Most Challenging Healing.

"There are other people like you in the same situation and there are resources we can direct you to if you are starting to feel overwhelmed or uncertain," Hill said. "The nurse residency does focus not only on the skills but also on that emotional and wellbeing journey in what I consider probably the hardest year of your nursing career."



Recently the Integris Health Nurse Residency Program was awarded Accreditation with Distinction as a Practice Transition Accreditation Program (PTAP) by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Left to Right: Kerri Bayer, MSN, RN-CNL Chief Executive Nurse INTEGRIS Health; Sandy Hill, MSN, RN, NPD, Manager, Transition to Practice; Lisa Benfield, MSN, RN, NPD Supervisor, Transition to Practice.

## INTEGRIS Health Offers Nursing Student Opportunities



**NURSE TECHS:** Gain experience working PRN with INTEGRIS Health while in your nursing program.

**SUMMER NURSE EXTERNSHIP:** This five-week program provides clinical experience under the supervision of a nurse preceptor. Apply for this externship with two semesters left in your nursing program.

**NURSE RESIDENCY PROGRAM:** This program transitions nurses from students to professional members of the INTEGRIS Health care team.



Apply online at [integrisk.jobs](http://integrisk.jobs).

INTEGRIS Health considers all qualified applicants regardless of protected status as defined by applicable laws, including protected veteran or disability status. AA/EOE.

Hill has been with the nurse residency program since 2007, giving Integris the distinction of having one of the longest-running residency programs in the state.

"I think we're doing a good job with that," Hill said. "I think we really are helping them learn the practice of nursing not just the tasks of nursing. We can see that our retention has improved because they are feeling more comfortable in their role."

"I think it has helped with retention in the profession and in our facility."

Recently the Integris Health Nurse Residency Program was awarded Accreditation with Distinction as a Practice Transition Accreditation Program (PTAP) by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). The distinction is the highest recognition awarded by the ANCC's Accreditation Program.

With the ongoing Covid pandemic, nurses entering the profession are faced with obstacles many of their

predecessors never had to face. That's why special importance is placed on taking care of the whole nurse.

"The wellbeing and resiliency portion of what we try to encourage and try to provide resources for has increased during Covid," Hill said. "We also have in place some nurses where transition to practice is their title and those nurses are specifically for those new grads right after they come off orientation with their preceptor... to help continue to support them."

"We've seen that really blossom and take off as a much-needed and appreciated role."

Hill said the transition-to-practice nurses are available to round on their new nurses and provide an extra set of eyes or simply serve as a sounding board for what the new employee is going through.

And to help make that first year as easy as possible.

For more information visit: <https://integrisk.com/careers>

# Southern Nazarene School of Nursing

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The traditional **Bachelor of Science in Nursing** program is one of the fastest-growing programs at SNU! Since 1982, Southern Nazarene University's Liberal Arts-based program has been preparing well-rounded graduates to work as professional nurses in today's fast-paced, technologically advanced healthcare environment.

Given the increasing complexity of patients in a rapidly transforming healthcare system, preparing nurses to enter the profession and be successful in the field is vital. A goal of the university and the SNU School of Nursing (SON) is to prepare nurses to be servant leaders, focusing on the growth and well-being of the people and the communities where they live and work. Feedback from employers about SNU graduates include that they are well prepared, compassionate, caring, and have a drive to learn how to best take care of their patients. SNU graduates

embody the philosophy of the School of Nursing, which can be summarized in the words **"THINK. DO. LOVE!"**

*"To be a part of the SNU School of Nursing is to be part of a family. There are many great characteristics that the SNU SON encompasses. The faculty advocate for students and make us feel valued. We are fortunate enough to attend a nursing program that not only helps us become great nurses, but also well-rounded people. I feel confident that my education at SNU has equipped me to serve others and lead in love. There is so much compassion that is felt while attending the SNU School of Nursing." ~ Student Nurses' Association President and Senior Nursing Student, Ciara Lackey.*

SNU welcomes all inquiries about the program!

To learn more, please visit our website at [snu.edu/nursing](http://snu.edu/nursing), or schedule a campus visit at [snu.edu/campus-visit](http://snu.edu/campus-visit)



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# NWOSU continues to turn heads

The hits just keep on coming for Northwestern Oklahoma State University when it comes to national recognition of its nursing programs.

The past year has seen the school's nursing program recognized by several groups for everything from flexibility to accessibility to cost and reputation.

"We've had some really great recognition nationwide," said Dr. Shelly Wells, professor of nursing and chair of the Charles Morton Share Trust Division of Nursing. "Those are just a few. We're working hard."

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's hybrid BSN-to-DNP nurse practitioner program was recently named the best in the country out of 203 accredited colleges and universities in the nation evaluated by [Intelligent.com](http://Intelligent.com).

Criteria used for the ranking included flexibility, faculty, course strength, cost, and reputation.

[Intelligent.com](http://Intelligent.com) created a Top 35 Nurse Practitioner Programs list from their evaluations.

Other factors [Intelligent.com](http://Intelligent.com) used to evaluate each program included program strength, student readiness,

return on investment, cost, and student engagement.

According to their website, they looked at how easy it would be to earn back the cost of each degree program. They calculated the average weekly wages of the occupations that a particular degree leads to versus the cost of the program.

Northwestern is one of only two public universities in Oklahoma to offer a Family Nurse Practitioner program, was the first public university with a BSN to DNP offering, and the only program in the state with an emphasis on nursing in rural communities.

Wells, a former March of Dimes Nurse of the Year and Nightingale Award of Nursing Excellence recipient from the Oklahoma Nurses Association said the school's faculty is the driving force in its success.

"We have a very caring faculty. Being a small program, our faculty know our students - across all our programs," Wells said. "We're known for our faculty quality, caring and one-on-one relationships with students and that's what I think leads to our success."

This past year also saw NWOSU rated in the top 100 for affordable RN to BSN programs in the country by [UniversityHQ.org](http://UniversityHQ.org).

[Registerednurse.org](http://Registerednurse.org) tabbed NWOSU as the No. 1 RN to BSN program in Oklahoma.

Mometrics.com put Northwestern in the top 30 among all programs in the Southwest based on affordability.

Wells - who also serves as ONA's President - pointed out the NWOSU Nursing program is among the top in the state in terms of national RN licensing examination (NCLEX) pass rates.

The most recent BSN-DNP Family Nurse Practitioner class boasted a 100-percent pass rate on all certifications and 100 percent job placement.

"Maybe that's how we're getting all this recognition," Wells laughed. "We lay a foundation of unique needs for rural nursing care and

providership. We start on day one with that and go throughout the program focusing on those unique needs."

A diverse, caring faculty is the backbone for it all.

"We are extremely proud of our faculty and staff members who work hard to give our students the best experiences to maximize learning," said Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president. "Receiving affirmation from outside sources shows that our students learn from the best through an affordable program, and gain employment after graduation."

Wells stressed the availability of funds for traditional nursing students and the university's long history of philanthropy and scholarship that yields many students graduating with little to no debt.

For more information visit: <https://www.nwosu.edu/school-of-professional-studies/nursing>



Northwestern's Award-Winning Nursing programs are nationally recognized by [Intelligent.com](http://Intelligent.com), [RegisteredNursing.org](http://RegisteredNursing.org) and [Mometrix.com](http://Mometrix.com) for affordability, accessibility, flexibility, and high-quality program outcomes.

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