



2023 NURSING

OKLAHOMA'S EDUCATION GUIDE

**A GUIDE FOR FUTURE
NURSING STUDENTS
AND CONTINUING
EDUCATION**

 **Oklahoma's
Nursing Times**

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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
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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 for more information, to schedule a meeting with program administrators or to apply today.



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- 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

OK Wesleyan Molding Healthcare Leaders



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.

A new group of students begins each semester, three times a year. 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.

Visit us here: <https://www.okwu.edu>.



OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

Simulation Suite Prepares OBU Alumna For Various Challenges of Pandemic

The simulation suite of **Oklahoma Baptist University's nursing program** is not only why Abbie Richardson came to OBU, but also why she has returned.

Richardson graduated from OBU in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in nursing and has returned to the School of Nursing as an Instructor of Nursing and the Director of Nursing Simulation.

"I started as a brand-new nurse during COVID, and it was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life," Richardson said. "People were so sick, and I was devastated by loss every day. I thought back to simulation so often during that time because the patients in the simulation lab prepared me to take care of my real patients that desperately needed safe nursing care."

More than that, the students' conversations with faculty in debriefing about caring for grieving families, holistic patient care, and the integration of faith into practice gave Richardson the tools she needed to survive as a nurse in the pandemic.

The simulation experiences enabled her to care for critically ill patients, cope with loss and challenges, and provide hope to others in the darkest of times.

"Without the foundation that our faculty and simulation program gave me, I don't think

I could have fought through the Pandemic alongside my fellow nurses," Richardson said. "That is why I returned as the simulation director at OBU."

OBU is not only preparing students for success in the classroom, but also equipping them for a meaningful career in the medical field.

Home to this cutting-edge OBU program is the **Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall**, a 31,600-square-foot nursing education facility.

OBU's simulation suite has six functioning hospital rooms. The program's three standardized adult mannequins, birthing mother, and pediatric mannequins are the top-tier of high-fidelity simulators. They react like a real patient, capable of breathing, talking, sweating, bleeding and reacting to medications. These display vital signs such as blood pressure, pulse and respiration, preparing students for a full range of healthcare situations they will encounter as nurses. These mannequins are limitless in the disease processes they can portray, meaning faculty can place students in almost any nursing situation and expose them to more complex patient scenarios.

The **OBU simulation lab** is meant to function like a hospital.



During simulation experiences, students get to be the nurse. What is incredible about that is by the time they leave our program, they have spent over 70 hours in simulation thinking like a nurse, making the decisions, and providing patient care. The decisions they make regarding nursing care are their own and that is where the best learning happens. We have audio and visual technology within our simulation rooms that allow observing students to watch the scenario, while actively providing feedback and problem-solving with their peers.

After a scenario is complete, the students and faculty come together for a time of de-briefing.

Richardson said, "As faculty, this is where we see the lightbulbs go off and we get to watch them turn into compassionate, safe, and caring nurses. I owe so much to our simulation program, and I am thrilled to have a front row seat to the student transformations that take place in our program."

For more information about OBU's nursing programs, visit <https://www.okbu.edu/nursing>.

Equipping people who
know how to think with
their heads and their hearts.

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OBU educates students to become professional, caring, competent nurses who are prepared to integrate personal faith with the discipline of nursing.

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Alyssa Rapoport is congratulated by Redlands Community College President Jack Bryant during the nursing pinning ceremony in 2021.

REDLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE *PREPARES NURSING GRADUATES FOR WORKFORCE*

Nursing is a career that attracts graduating high school seniors but also provides a second career for those who are ready for a change.

Some students are ready to enter the field as young adults, but many people see the importance and value of nursing care through their own life experiences and then choose to make a career change.

Redlands Community College in El Reno, Okla., is not only preparing these students for a successful future in health care but also working to address the staffing shortage in rural and tribal health care facilities. The college received a grant that is providing more resources to expand programs designed to support and retain nursing students as well as implement educational programs to attract youth to the field.

With a **100% job placement rate**, Redlands offers a two-year degree program that prepares graduates to successfully take the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) for licensure as a registered nurse and to enter the workforce immediately.

"The benefit of earning an associate degree in nursing at Redlands is that graduates are well-prepared for the licensure exam that will allow them to begin working quickly," said Dr. Jalelah Abdul-Raheem, director of Redlands' Nursing Program. "Once they have completed this stage, they are able to focus on their career as a registered nurse or continue their education at a university to earn a bachelor's of nursing degree."

Redlands has two nursing program options: the **traditional RN program** and a track for **Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)**. Students



Redlands Community College nursing students gain valuable experience in the campus' simulation lab.

who are enrolled in the LPN-to-RN cohort earn articulation credits in the first semester, allowing them to graduate in three semesters instead of four. This helps get them out of the classroom and into the community where they can do the most good.

From a young age, Redlands nursing graduate Cory Michael Williamson knew he wanted to be a nurse. His life had been impacted by a nurse who cared for his father after a terrible car wreck. "When my father was in the hospital, there was a male nurse who really showed kindness and compassion to me during that time," Williamson said.

Since graduating from Redlands, Williamson has worked in different intensive care units while he pursued a bachelor's degree at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, and now he serves as a nursing supervisor in a tribal health clinic. Williamson said his experience at Redlands taught him to look beyond a patient's diagnosis. He learned "to get to know my patients and their families to help them in more ways than just what they came to the hospital or clinic for."

Redlands is a solid, affordable choice for students because of the scholarships available as well as the personal attention and opportunities it provides. The college's partnerships with several area health facilities provide students with challenging, hands-on experience during their clinical rotations.

"Fortunately, our location just outside of Oklahoma City gives our students the opportunity to serve in both rural and urban areas, exposing them to the different types of nursing care available and helping them figure out what is the best fit for them" Abdul-Raheem said.

Alyssa Rapoport chose nursing because she wanted to be able to help others on their worst days and celebrate with them on their best days during recovery. A 2021 graduate, Rapoport appreciated Redlands' convenient location, affordability and caring faculty, especially Professor Kayla Zimmerman.

"She was always there to listen and support me and my classmates," Rapoport said. "I felt like she was someone who respected the students as much as we were taught to respect the staff."

With a Cooperative Arrangement Development Grant from Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) Part A to support outreach and retention efforts and additional funding to update campus simulation labs, the Redlands Nursing Program is providing a high-quality learning experience led by dedicated and well-trained faculty.

"At Redlands, everyone is friendly, and the faculty is excited to be part of students' lives," said Abdul-Raheem. "We are committed to helping our nursing students succeed, and our faculty and staff are dedicated to supporting them throughout their time in the program."

The five-year cooperative grant is designed for Native American and low-income students and is 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Education as part of the NASNTI program.

Visit <https://www.redlandsgcc.edu/nursing-program> for more information and to apply for scholarships. The deadline to apply for the general nursing program is April 15, and the deadline for the **LPN-to-RN program** is December 1. Apply for scholarships by May 31.

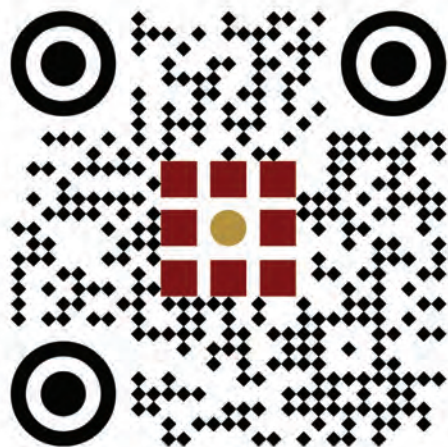
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Nurses Find Home at OHH

A bucket list.

For most, it's a lofty list of things that one day in the future they would like to accomplish.

For nurses and staff at Oklahoma Heart Hospital, the bucket list is a way of life.

"One of the things Oklahoma Heart Hospital is exceptional with is fostering employee culture," said Cindy Miller, RN, MSN, Director of Transformation for OHH. "We have several things in place that assure peoples' opinion matters and nurses have the ability to make change."

The bucket list was developed 18 years ago.

"It's basically a tool that any nurse can put forth of suggestion, comment or complaint and it is reviewed by hospital executives every day. If possible, we make whatever the proposed change is," Miller said. "If it's not something that can be done we let people know why it can't be done at this time and if there's a possibility in the future."

"Over the years it has evolved."

From stocking banana popsicles to new patient safety initiatives, the bucket list has brought forth change throughout the halls of OHH.

"I think it's just a marvelous tool

for people giving feedback and knowing their opinion matters," Miller said. "I think nurses want to take good care of patients. That's why they went into the profession. They see they are able to take care of patients because they have input and they don't have to tolerate what they might feel like are inappropriate policies and procedures that are a barrier to good patient care."

This physician-owned hospital was designed by cardiologists to ensure that patients receive expert, individualized care with utmost comfort. OHH is the first of its kind in Oklahoma and the first all-digital hospital in the United States.

And nurses feel not only a sense of purpose but a sense of ownership.

"I do believe it is because they have a voice in patient care as well as in the workplace," Miller said of the hospital's retention rates. "The patient is the center and that's important for nurses to know they are making a difference. We do have the best nurse-to-patient ratios probably in the nation. That's a big commitment to allow for better patient care and job satisfaction on the part of nursing."

A flexible work schedule is another bonus when it comes to advancing one's degree at OHH. Tuition reimbursement and advanced certifications are two more bonuses.

"We celebrate achievement and progress throughout the profession academically," Miller said. "We also hire many students who are working on their basics to get into a professional program or who are in a program. We have a very robust nurse extern program where we take a large number of nurse externs twice a year. We have a very high retention rate with those externs."

Quite simply, OHH is a place where nurses stay.

"Our mission is serving the state and leading the nation," Miller said. "We are a small hospital but we serve every county in Oklahoma and many of the surrounding states. We've also had patients from other countries who have chosen our hospital. I think it goes without saying this is the place to



Nurses have a voice at Oklahoma Heart Hospital. Photo provided.

work if you want to take good care of people."

And most nurses want that on their bucket list.

For more information about Oklahoma Heart Hospital, visit: <https://careers.okheart.com>.



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The Oklahoma Heart Hospital is physician owned and brings world-class medical expertise and compassion to every patient. As an Oklahoma Heart Hospital team member, you will be a part of an award-winning team of professionals devoted to providing high-quality and compassionate patient care.

Our nurses are involved in every aspect of their patients' care and provide hope, compassion and healing to patients and their families. Nurses have unparalleled opportunities to help shape the way OHH operates with the purpose of providing high-quality, safe, patient-focused care.

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Health Care Training is a Core Area of Francis Tuttle

Among the most highly regarded career training programs 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, many are available to help people 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 explore a healthcare pathway and see what careers are available with additional training. Students gain knowledge about the broad spectrum of health professions. Students can obtain certification as a Nurse Aide (CNA) and an Advanced Unlicensed Assistant (AUA) through the program. The unique **Respiratory Care** program for adult students works cooperatively with Oklahoma City Community College. Upon 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 treating 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 (LPN)** program prepares adult students to provide quality health care in various settings. Three enrollment options are available to best-fit student needs: full-time, blended online, and the 1+1 program. Upon completion, students can take the

National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) to become a **Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)**. 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 healthcare industry. If you're interested or know someone looking to expand their horizons through the expanding medical care field, check out these and other programs at: <https://www.francistuttle.edu/> and get started on your future today!

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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 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

<https://www.youtube.com/federalstudentaid>

b. Follow or like the office of Federal Student Aid at <https://twitter.com/FAFSA> and here:

<https://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.gov/>

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.

OU Health Nurse Residency Program



OU Health is a leading destination for new nurses because they recognize the strength of our programs, the level of challenges they will face and the collaborative and supportive environment we provide. Our goal is to get you started right through our Nurse Residency Program, then offer limitless opportunities to change and grow over the course of your nursing career.

OU Health Nurse Residency Program

OU Health's Nurse Residency Program provides new graduate nurses with resources and experiences that will serve as a strong foundation for a successful nursing career. With guidance from a preceptor and an Residency Coordinator, Nurse Residents are given the support necessary to successfully bridge the transition from student to practicing nurse.

The 12-month program includes:

- Experience in our unique Collaborative Care Models
- Social networking and support
- Ongoing continuing educational opportunities
- Certification review programs
- Involvement in interdisciplinary and collaborative programs
- Research and evidence-based practice opportunities
- Monthly nurse residency seminars
- Mentor relationships to support professional development
- Evidence-based projects, with time allotted within the seminars to gather project information
- Opportunities to provide and evaluate care, incorporating evidence-based practice, research and quality data



Scan the QR code to learn more about OU Health's nurse residency program



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 97.4% first-time

NCLEX-RN pass rate since 2018 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 97.3% 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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Half-century success

Northern Oklahoma College going strong

Northern Oklahoma College nursing turns half a century this year and the success keeps coming.

Northern Oklahoma College, the State's first public community college is a multi-campus, land-grant institution that provides high quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities and services which create life-changing experiences and develop students as effective learners and leaders within their communities in a connected, ever-changing world.

Northern offers a two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree for the RN. A two-year RN's focus is providing care at the bedside regardless of whether the bedside is located in the hospital, clinic, doctor's office, hospice, nursing home or community.

The program also focuses on how to manage care for groups of patients.

To celebrate the 50-year milestone, a two-day event at NOC Tonkawa's Renfro Center was held where faculty, staff, and nursing alums gathered to share their experiences.

The event included time with NOC President Dr. Clark Harris, attendance at a campus jazz concert, and campus tours culminating in a dinner for the attendees.

NOC is also participating in The Daisy Award, an award that recognizes extraordinary faculty. Students, faculty, staff, and alums may nominate anyone deemed worthy of the prestigious award.

NOC instructor Kim Brewer earned the award in 2022, the first year for the program at NOC.

Fifty years of success include more than a few accolades including:

- Top 10 Nursing Program in the state, according to Nursing Hub
- RN Associate Degree Program (Traditional Pathway or LPN to RN Pathway)
- Partnerships with RN-BSN Programs
- Academic Practice Partnerships with Paid Clinical Internships in Final Semester
- High NCLEX Pass Rates
- High Employment Rates and Employer Satisfaction

- The associate degree nursing program at Northern Oklahoma College is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

NOC offers programs at the Tonkawa, Enid, and Stillwater campuses.

Under the direction of Dr. Nikole Hicks, NOC Nursing Division Chair, the program is rigorous and innovative.

Academic Practice Partnership opportunities are available for select students in Tonkawa, Enid, Stillwater, and Tulsa with paid clinical internships in the final semester of the nursing program.

Graduates of NOC's nursing program earn an Associate degree in Applied Science and are eligible to apply for licensure as a registered nurse. There is an entry pathway for current LPNs to enter the program with advanced standing.

NOC partners with several RN-BSN programs to provide graduates with opportunities for advanced education. Additional majors include the Associate in Science Pre-Baccalaureate/Pre-



Dr. Nikole A. Hicks, PhD, RNC, CNE, Nursing Division Chair - Northern Oklahoma College

Professional Program.

Nursing students are also a part of the Student Nurses Association and Alpha Delta Nu National Associate Degree Nursing Honor Society.

NOC also received grant funding that will improve technology in the nursing practice and simulation labs to provide state-of-the-art equipment to prepare practice-ready graduates.

For more information, please contact the nursing program at nursing@noc.edu or 580.628.6679 or at NOC's web site at: <https://www.noc.edu>.



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Partnerships with RN-BSN Programs

Academic Practice Partnerships with Paid Clinical Internships in Final Semester

High NCLEX Pass Rates

High Employment Rates and Employer Satisfaction



NOC Nursing. Just Exceptional.

Nursing Pioneers:

WOSC a leader in SW Oklahoma

Diane Fairchild, MSN, RN had a recent conversation with a former graduate.

A smile crossed her face as the graduate related heartfelt thanks for the learning opportunities he had received at Western Oklahoma State College.

And by the time the school's nursing program director finished the conversation, she had a volunteer for IV skills lab day walking down the hall to meet with their former instructor.

"He wanted to be a part of that because he felt like he had received an excellent education here and he loved nursing and wanted to give back to the students by letting them stick his arm," Fairchild said. "He appreciated the relationship that he had developed with his instructors and they were so caring and kind to him that he just wanted to give back."

"It's a wonderful feeling, very fulfilling."

It's stories like these that keep Fairchild and her faculty going.

Western Oklahoma State has one of the only ADN programs in southwest Oklahoma and has three campuses.

Established as Altus Junior College in 1926, it is the oldest original municipal two-year college still in existence in Oklahoma.

The Nursing Program at Western Oklahoma State College was established in 1981 and has an outstanding success rate for preparing qualified nurses.

The WOSC nursing program is offered at three campus sites: Altus, Lawton, and Elk City. Western's ADN program has several program tracks.

Face-to-face classes for both general and advanced standing entry students are available as well as online classes with a face-to-face clinical component for advanced standing students. Students in the face-to-face track are able to take daytime classes at all three campuses.

"One of our major goals is to meet the needs of Altus and the surrounding areas by having a high-quality nursing program and having nurses go into our communities and stay and help with the nursing needs of the people in that community," Fairchild said.

One of the school's most popular programs is the online LPN-to-RN track.

"We even have students coming from Texas and Oklahoma City," she said. "With this program and testing you can complete the program in one year and still be able to work as an LPN while you are completing the program."

NCLEX pass rates for the LPN to RN have exceeded the national average for the past two years.

"I feel like we have excellent support with our clinical sites, the different hospitals in the area that allow us to do clinicals there," Fairchild said. "We have excellent clinical adjunct instructors that provide very good clinical teaching to our students where they can really build on their bedside skills and bedside interaction with patients. They really build upon their ability to care and give compassion to patients."

Fairchild said oftentimes clinical instructors are employed at the facilities where clinicals occur which only adds to the learning



experience.

"They know what they need and are able to teach that to the students. A lot of our hospitals do nurse intern programs during the summer and it's very beneficial to the student and it's beneficial to the school because they're continuing their education through work in the summer," Fairchild said. "The students are getting to know the nurses there and developing relationships and when they graduate and become nurses a lot of times they are hired in those facilities and help with the nursing shortage."

Springtime is always an exciting time for healthcare facilities in and around campus.

"I know they say it's very difficult to find RNs to come to southwest Oklahoma so they're always thankful when it comes to graduation time and they know some of those RNs are going to be able to stay in that area," Fairchild said.

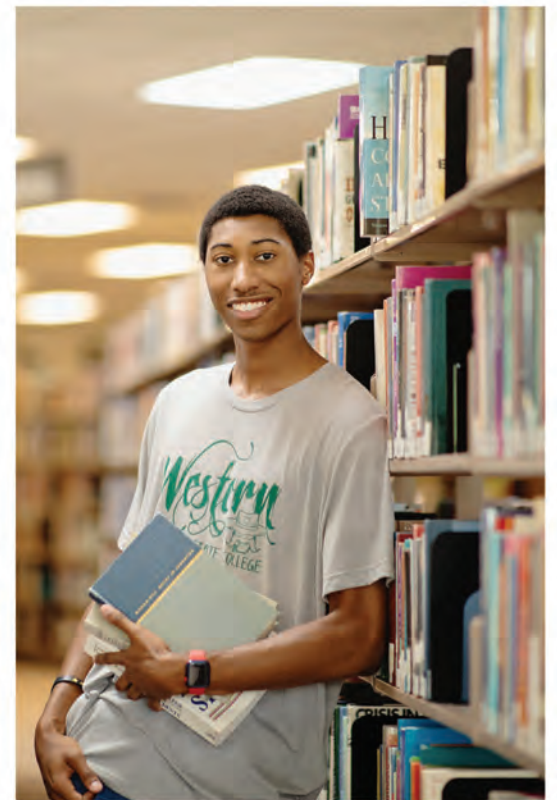
And some even come back to their alma mater to pay it forward.

Visit <http://www.wosc.edu/nursing> for more information.



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Stillwater Medical

Changing the Landscape for Healthcare for Moms and Babies in North Central Oklahoma

In 2019, construction began on a state-of-the-art addition to the main hospital at Stillwater Medical. The new three-story addition would add much needed surgical suites, an updated labor and delivery unit to include 14 birthing suites, and expansion of the Intensive Care Unit.

In early 2022, the original plans were updated when Stillwater Medical President & CEO Denise Webber announced that the hospital would also be elevating newborn care by adding a Level II NICU in partnership with Oklahoma Children's Hospital as part of the Women's Health Center expansion. This addition would allow Stillwater Medical to care for babies born as early as 32 weeks and those that require extra care, such as breathing and feeding support and IV medications. The NICU will include 10 beds, a nursery, 2 family sleep rooms, a waiting area, hospitality room, and bereavement room.

"Not only will the addition of a newborn intensive care unit at Stillwater Medical help keep babies closer to home, it will also allow Oklahoma Children's Level IV NICU to have room for the most critical cases. This is important for families in Stillwater and surrounding areas," said Pediatrician Melinda Webb M.D. "The addition means that families can stay together and be closer to home. And we know that this increases positive outcomes for babies and mothers. Bonding, breast feeding rates, and healing all improve when families can be together."

Trent E. Tipple, M.D., F.A.A.P., chief of neonatology at Oklahoma Children's Hospital and chief of neonatal-perinatal medicine at OU College of Medicine explained that premature babies often must be sent out of state because there are simply not enough NICU beds to keep Oklahoma families together. The 98-bed Level IV NICU at Oklahoma Children's Hospital is frequently operating at maximum capacity.

Level IV NICUs offer the most comprehensive care to the most seriously ill newborns needing complex medical and surgical care. Tipple said Oklahoma Children's Hospital receives many patients from Stillwater Medical and surrounding hospitals who need Level II care, underscoring



how the creation of a Level II NICU at Stillwater Medical makes perfect sense.

The Stillwater Medical Foundation quickly jumped to the task of assisting the hospital with the funding of the new NICU. Understanding the need and the funds required to make a Stillwater NICU a reality, **Stillwater based OnCue knew they wanted to help and contributed the single largest gift in history to Stillwater Medical of \$1,000,000.**

OnCue President, Laura Aufleger said, "We knew our gift would make the NICU a reality and our commitment would have an impact on children and families in Oklahoma for decades to come. Our stores have been serving the Stillwater area for 55 years, and I am beyond grateful that we can make this investment to save lives in our community."

Michal Shaw, Stillwater Medical Foundation Executive Director explained that along with the historic gift, OnCue will have the sole naming rights to the NICU.

"Stillwater Medical and the Stillwater Medical Foundation are grateful for OnCue's vision and generous investment in Stillwater and all of north central Oklahoma," said Shaw. "We are excited to say that the OnCue Neonatal ICU is scheduled to open in the spring of 2024."

For more information about Stillwater Medical, visit <https://www.stillwater-medical.org/>





OU partnering for nursing's future

When Julie Hoff, PhD, MPH, RN, first stepped into her role as dean of the **University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing**, she understood the need for nurses in Oklahoma. "I needed to build relationships and understand priorities," Hoff said of her first order of business. "You can't address big complex problems alone. As the flagship college of nursing, I am responsible for nursing workforce development in Oklahoma and regionally.

So Hoff decided to take a three-pronged approach. The first was to build academic programs that aligned with the health sector's needs. From there, Hoff focused on building and strengthening the nurse workforce through enrollment and established academic pathways that advanced the education of practicing nurses.

Finally, she aligned the college with other sectors through strategic partnerships to drive change and influence policy.

The approach was dubbed OK-WINS, which stands for Workforce Innovation in Nursing, and healthcare entities and nursing students throughout the region are reaping the benefits.

"Addressing the nursing workforce shortage takes coordinated efforts of many with the goals of increasing the number of nurse faculty, supporting students through academic success programs and scholarships, and strengthen the nursing education infrastructure," Hoff said. "We have to collaborate across the state and work together with a unified vision of all that is necessary to strengthen the nursing workforce and how doing so will improve the quality of care and health outcomes for all patients." There is little doubt of the vital role nurses play in

keeping our families, friends, and communities safe and healthy. Nurses are indeed the oxygen of the healthcare system and the impact they have on society is significant.

"Often on the frontlines of crisis, it is nurses who provide unconquerable spirit, clinical expertise, revolutionary thinking, and healing needed to rally those around them," Hoff said. "We saw this during the pandemic when nurses were involved in changing how care was delivered; nurses created many new products and processes, and nurses found solutions to connect patients to their loved ones." That's the everyday focus for Hoff and OU. In the last few months, OU has announced a number of exciting partnerships to reach that goal.

Most recently, USAO and Murray State partnered with OU to create a pathway to nursing through a direct entry program. Murray State Associate degree nursing graduates can now complete a baccalaureate degree in nursing online at OU.

OU also established a Nurse Intern Program that supports clinical education through paid internships. More than 400 nursing students have participated, and practice partners report a narrowing of the academic-practice gap and improved recruitment and retention post-licensure.

OU has also added new nurse practitioner programs to meet

specialty care needs in neonatology and mental health.

Just a few months ago, Hoff announced partnerships with Norman Regional Hospital and Duncan Regional Hospital to increase access to OU nursing education by opening programs at those locations.

The expansion adds to the college's existing locations that offer the traditional BSN – the **OU Health Sciences Center** in Oklahoma City, the **OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center**, and **Cameron University in Lawton**.

"At OU, OK-WINS means we collaborate to build and strengthen the nursing workforce," Hoff said. "Last year OU committed to accept all qualified candidates to our baccalaureate nursing program, increasing prelicensure enrollment by 103 students and overall total enrollment by 185 students.

Hoff pointed out this year's incoming prelicensure nursing class — which has grown from 341 students in Fall 2021 to 439 students in Fall 2022 — is the largest it has ever been.

Tapping multiple resources, OU established the **Degree Accelerator Program**, a tuition-free, workforce investment program for practicing nurses to **earn a BSN, MSN, DNP or PhD degree**.

"This program dismantled financial, social, and attitudinal barriers to enable practicing nurses to advance academically and professionally, thus positioning them to exercise their knowledge and power to transform care and improve health outcomes for all Oklahomans," Hoff said.

That partnership across sectors is helping to drive synergistic change, influence policy to modernize nursing regulation, and foster collaboration to ensure sustained investment in nursing education.

"To ease the nursing shortage in Oklahoma it takes all of us working together innovating, integrating, and strengthening academic programming, workforce development, and policy," Hoff said. And it's all been a part of the plan.

For more information about the University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing, visit <https://nursing.ouhsc.edu/>.








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Kramer School of Nursing

Offering Wide Variety of Career Opportunities



From Left to Right: Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt, Tammy Powell, President of SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital and OCU Board of Trustees member, OCU President Kenneth Evans, Dr. Gina Crawford, Dean of Kramer School of Nursing and Interim Dean of College of Health Professions, Elain Richardson, Regional Chief Nursing Officer for SSM Health St. Anthony and Kramer School of Nursing student and Saints and Stars scholarship recipient, Joy Warlick.

Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing continues to implement opportunities that enhance the future of its students, staff and faculty.

One such venture is the Saints and Stars Partnership.

Saints and Stars is a five-year agreement between **SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital** and **Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing**. The partnership allows OCU students to work part-time with SSM Health while they complete their nursing degree, while also receiving a \$3,500 annual scholarship from SSM Health and a \$5,000 annual discount from OCU.

In addition to employment and financial benefits, the partnership will allow OCU nursing students the opportunity to take part in clinical rotations at SSM Health; to engage in paid leadership clinical hours; to participate in a summer nurse extern program; to complete service-learning hours at SSM Health; and to be assigned a nurse mentor.

In addition, up to two SSM Health employees may enroll in OCU's Master of Science in Nursing Education program. OCU will reciprocate by emphasizing the hiring of the program's SSM Health graduates to serve as clinical adjuncts to supervise Stars and Saints students completing their rotations at SSM Health.

"As one of the nation's leading nursing education programs, we are invested in helping address the nursing shortage," OCU President Kenneth Evans said.

Casey Cassidy, PhD, RN, CMSRN, CHSE, Associate Dean & Associate Professor School of Nursing said the Saints and Stars program has gotten off

to a good start.

"So far, really well, our students are just very appreciative of the financial assistance, but also the opportunity to, you know, gain more experience while they're in," Cassidy said.

The Kramer School of Nursing also focuses on Community Based Public Health which positions KSN to meet the future health care delivery needs of individuals within the context of population focused care.

Nurses interested in a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with a Community Based Public Health (CBPH) focus are typically employed in non-acute care settings such as public health departments, school health settings, faith-based health programs, occupational health clinics, volunteer health organizations, community health centers, and out-patient care clinics.

These degrees are designed to provide advanced nursing education through the synthesis of nursing and public health theory applied to promoting and preserving the health of populations.

"We have a well-established Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program and a Doctor of Nursing Practice program," said Toni Frioux, DNP, APRN-CNP, FNP-BC, CNE.

Associate Professor School of Nursing.

Nurses with a CBPH focus are ideally positioned to help achieve prevention-oriented care by addressing:

- The social determinants of health
- Increasing access to care across the care continuum
- Engaging systems facilitators and identifying barriers
- Bridge delivery of health care needs in the community
- Strengthen diversity among the nursing workforce

Frioux said the advanced CBPH leader will be provided the tools to improve the populations health to prevent problems from happening or recurring, limit health disparities, promote healthcare equity, quality, and accessibility by exploring the application of public health actions through nursing practice.

"There's increasing awareness that we need to do something about the extensive amount of dollars that are spent in acute care, disease treatment at the end of life and, so we really need to change that paradigm where we are doing more health promotion and disease prevention services so that we are helping people maintain their health longer and keeping them out of those expensive hospital-based services



to capitalize on saving dollars," she said.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice, community based public health track is designed for advanced nurses with careers in non-acute care settings who already hold a master's degree in nursing, master's in public health, or similar master's degree. The program is 32-credit hours.

Frioux said the Master of Science in Nursing degree with a CBPH focus is a good fit for nurses with a minimum of a bachelor's degree who are interested in applying and integrating public health science into their nursing skill set to improve the health of the community and the population through out-patient practice settings.

Kramer School of Nursing's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Doctor of Nursing Practice Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (DNP-AGACNP) students collaborated with Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students to care for a client in the acute-care setting while focusing on patient safety, teamwork, and communication.

In January 2023, the **Kramer School of Nursing** joined the Physician Assistant Program and Physical Therapy Program in viewing the OCU's theater department performance.

After the performance, breakout sessions with students from all three departments were led in an interprofessional discussion.

"We had a great response, and we had over 100 students that participated," Frioux said. "We had the theater students. In addition to that, who actually read the play. It just gave us an opportunity to introduce in a very different way some of the concepts that we have to deal with in healthcare."

For more information visit:

<https://www.okcu.edu/nursing>

Dressing for Success: Uniform Shoppe Prepares Nurses

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Green Country Technology Center Director of Nursing Darlene Baker, RN, MSN, has seen it firsthand for more than two decades.

There's a special day every semester at the Okmulgee nursing school.

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 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."

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.

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

Riding in the back seat was their daughter, Jody.

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

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

The Tulsa location moved around the corner to **6044 S. Sheridan Road** a while back but 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, and daycare workers - every profession that requires durable-yet-professional attire while working with people.

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"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 lends 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 Valley students and faculty in comfort and fashion.

"When you're online you don't know how it's going to fit," Baker said. "So when they come here they 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 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."

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(Adults only)*

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- Includes 500+ clinical hours

Students are prepared to deliver quality patient care before, during and after surgeries.

Experience a variety of surgical procedures and clinical settings.

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(Adults only)*

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MNTC – Proudly Supporting Nurses, Every Step of the Way



Oklahoma ranks in the top 5 states for the highest concentration of Licensed Practical Nurse employment according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Oklahoma ranks in the top 5 states for the highest concentration of Licensed Practical Nurse employment according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This field is expected to grow up to 12% in the next five years, making jobs in nursing both high-demand and readily available to individuals looking to join or advance in this rewarding industry. Moore Norman Technology Center is dedicated to training the next workforce generation of nurses and continuing to provide continued classes for existing RNS to grow in knowledge, technical skills, and experience.

High school students considering a career in nursing or healthcare,

can start training junior year. MNTC offers multiple career programs that utilize a realistic clinical setting for training students in basic nursing care. Students have the opportunity to participate in clinical rotations at local medical facilities and offices, and upon completion, sit for industry certifications leading to employment. High school students enrolled in the Moore and Norman public school districts can start applying in November for classes that start in August of the following year.

Adults making a career shift into the health field can complete their training between 10 - 16

months. MNTC full-time adult-only classes focus on developing more advanced skillsets, preparing nurses to have practice in a clinical setting, hospitals, home health, and assisted living facilities for a direct patient care experience. Applications for adult-only health programs typically open in January and close in April.

MNTC advanced training for nurses doesn't stop after they join the work force. We believe in the power of technical skills development at every stage. Existing nurses can take a variety of continuing education classes to renew certification like CPR BLS for HealthCare Providers, DDMAT Update, Opioid for Healthcare Providers, and 30+ other options to improve their skills and enhance their career. Short-term classes are offered both online and in-person to meet the needs of individuals with full-time demanding careers.

For organizations looking to

invest in their employees, MNTC's Workforce and Economic Development team is prepared to help nursing professionals keep up with rapidly changing health and medical advances. MNTC Workforce and Economic Development training covers everything from certification maintenance to staff education on emerging technologies within this field. Group training can be conducted on site at your facility, or in one of our many state of the art health labs.

Wherever you are in your nursing journey, MNTC is available to support you through technical training by qualified instructors who know what it takes to get trained, get certified, and get hired. If you are considering a nursing career, or looking to develop existing skillsets, visit [mntc.edu](https://www.mntc.edu) to learn more.

For more information visit: <https://www.mntc.edu/>



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Graduates Among Best in State, Nation

For more than 50 years, the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) has provided Oklahoma with highly skilled and educated nurses. Graduates of UCO's nursing programs are among the best prepared and most sought after in the state and the nation.

Fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), UCO bachelor's and master's programs prepare tomorrow's leaders in nursing through a variety of settings, which helps meet the demand at all levels of nursing services needed in Oklahoma. Central offers traditional and nontraditional programs to support any student who wants to pursue a career in nursing or further their nursing education.

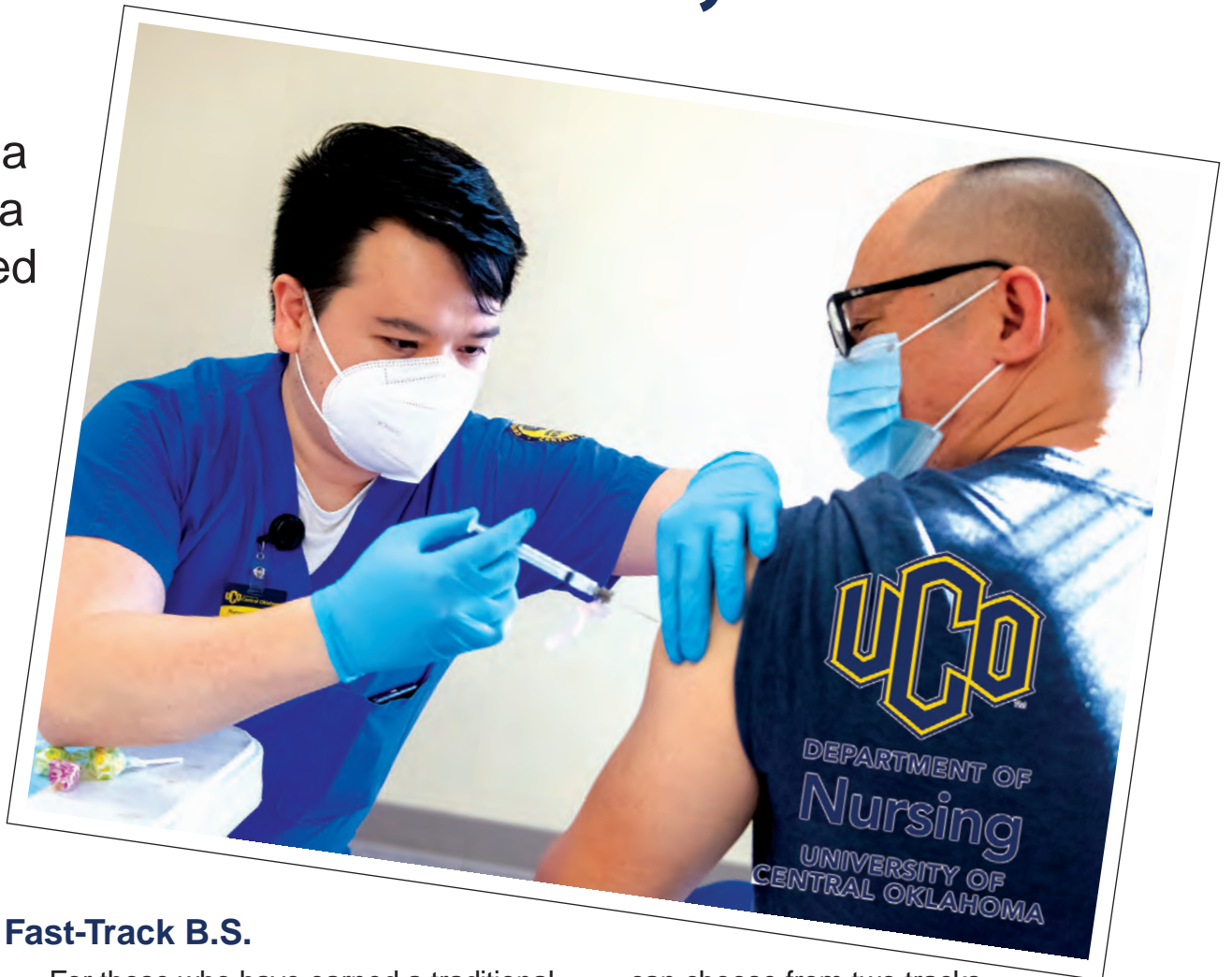
Traditional Nursing Program

Central's traditional, on-campus nursing program is for students who are not yet licensed to practice nursing as an RN.

Online RN to B.S. in Nursing Track

Central's RN to B.S. track is available 100% online for RNs who want to further their nursing education. Upon successful completion, nurses earn a Bachelor of Science in nursing. With both part and full-time options available and for as low as \$8,500, Central's program is designed to provide flexibility for students, with the option to complete the track in as little as 10 months.

When Rachel Jones, nurse manager for IMC at Integris Baptist, knew she wanted to pursue nursing she would need a program that was focused on flexibility and the success of students. "I appreciated the flexibility of the online program – I was running a COVID-19 + only unit in the middle of a pandemic, working two jobs and raising two kids while trying to get my B.S.," she said. "The online program at UCO provided the flexibility I need that allowed me to work when I could. At UCO, I knew the standards I would be held to would help make me a better nurse and stronger leader."



Fast-Track B.S.

For those who have earned a traditional bachelor's degree in another field and are ready for a career in nursing, Central's Fast Track in nursing is for them. Upon successful completion, students will have earned a B.S. in nursing. The fast-track program can be completed in just 16 months and provides the flexibility of hybrid courses.

Garrett Collins graduated from Central's fast-track program in 2022, he currently works as a nurse resident at Integris Baptist in the transplant ICU. For Collins, the clinical opportunities available gave him first-hand insight into hospital culture and specialties. "Having the opportunity to do clinical hours at different hospitals across the metro prepared me for deciding where to apply for work," he said. The clinical rotations also helped me learn how to apply the skills I was learning in class to real life."

Online M.S. in Nursing

The Master of Science in nursing degree program at UCO offers working RNs flexibility through fully online courses with both part- and full-time options available. The program can be completed in as little as 16 months, if pursued full time. The online Master of Science in nursing can be completed for as little as \$15,000. Nursing graduate students

can choose from two tracks – nursing education or nursing leadership.

Kiersten Snider is a registered nurse at OU Children's Hospital in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. After receiving her B.S. in nursing from UCO in 2020, she began pursuing her master's in nursing at UCO in nursing education. To Snider, the passion the faculty have for success is unparalleled. "You are more than just another student to the faculty members in this program," she said. "They strive every day to think of different methods they can use to improve the content they are providing to ensure that each student holds a high standard of knowledge that will be used in their careers."

The Future of Nursing

All UCO nursing programs offer real-world instruction from supportive nursing faculty who are experts in their field of nursing. Graduates from UCO nursing programs are recognized within the health care community for their knowledge, professionalism and leadership potential. Central prides itself as a smart investment for success and for preparing future leaders in an opportunity-rich environment. For more information about Central's nursing programs, visit: <https://www.uco.edu/nursing>.



Advance Your Career

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

A traditional, on-campus degree for students who are not yet licensed to practice nursing as an R.N.

Online RN to BS in Nursing

For RN's who want to advance their careers with a bachelor's degree

- 8-week courses
- Finish in as little as 10 months for as low as \$8,500

Fast-Track BS in Nursing

For students who have earned a bachelor's in another field and want to shift to a career in nursing

- On-campus and hybrid classes
- Finish in 16 months

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DEPARTMENT OF
Nursing
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CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Ranger Pride *Northwestern grows healers*

Leslie Collins, DNP, MS, RN still remembers the conversation with her Northwestern Oklahoma State University mentor.

"They said you educate every day and I think you could make a difference in students' lives," Collins recalls.

From there, she took a job in her alma mater's nursing program skills lab. Thirteen years later, she's chair of **Northwestern Oklahoma State's Charles Morton Share Trust Division of Nursing.**

And she couldn't be more proud of the impact her faculty has on students.

"I love it because of our ability to make a difference, to be one-on-one with the student and really help them," Collins said. "I stay here because of the faculty and our administration. Our administration's support is like no other."

"It was a starting point for me and I love being that starting point for students."

Northwestern Oklahoma State University is a public regional university that has received national acclaim for its combination of

a high quality academic program and affordability. While Northwestern primarily serves the vast geographical area of northwest Oklahoma and the Panhandle, its students come from more than 40 states and 20 countries.

Northwestern offers a bachelor's of science in nursing, an **online RN-to-BSN program**, as well as a hybrid BSN-to-DNP program.

Collins matriculated from Northwestern not only debt-free but with a solid nursing foundation forged by instructors who poured into her.

"I think it makes all the difference in the world, specifically when it comes to nursing," Collins said of the personalized instruction she received. "It's something we do at Northwestern across our degrees and programs and it makes a difference in the student. It makes them know they are more than a number. It's about their education and what they need."

"We find more and more students need to know the way they learn so they can continue to be lifelong learners, far past their graduation. That's so important for nursing and we can work with them one on one to help them be more successful. Caring

is a component that is threaded throughout our program, we feel it is important for students to be caring in nature and to learn resiliency in this process. We hope this, and have seen in the past, will translate into what type of nurse they become."

Collins said many Northwestern students go on to practice in rural settings, but others go on to larger facilities.

There's a common thread in the employer feedback Collins receives.

"They speak on how well-prepared our graduates are," Collins said. "Also, they speak about how professional they are, how caring they are and how they work well with the teams. Not only are they a good nurse, prepared and ready for patient care but they're also good team members and ready to make a difference in the nursing world."

Collins said the university is looking at expanding its offering to help meet existing needs throughout

healthcare, in whatever setting that may be.

"I feel like we do a really good job of ensuring students put patients and their families first and we also include how to have self care as a nurse and how important that is," Collins said. "For so long, it's been all about the patient and the client and it should continue to be, but we also have to remember we have to care for ourselves as well."

For more information about Northwestern Oklahoma State University, visit <https://www.nwosu.edu/school-of-professional-studies/nursing>





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Wichita State Providing

For High-Demand Nursing Careers

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 our 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, fully online registered nurse (RN) to BSN program and the **Wichita State/Kansas State University Pathway to Nursing Program**, a unique dual degree program that gives students the opportunity to earn both a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree from K-State, and a BSN from Wichita State. We also offer a guaranteed placement program for high school students that provides an opportunity to be guaranteed entry into our competitive traditional

undergraduate nursing program.

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. 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 Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult Gerontology Acute Care (the only program of its kind in Kansas), 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 unparalleled access to applied learning experiences. 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 and community outreach. Our state-of-the-art applied learning labs have simulation manikins that can realistically simulate a variety of symptoms and scenarios, including childbirth, seizures, blood

pressure problems and bleeding. The lifelike actions of the manikins give students a realistic learning experience in a safe environment.

Our programs offer individualized faculty advising, diverse applied learning opportunities in Kansas' health care hub, high post-graduation employment rates and exceptional success in advanced careers. A nursing degree from Wichita State 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 <https://wichita.edu/nursing> to find a program that's right for you.

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- Fully online - affordable and convenient
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- Build foundation for advanced degrees

Priority application deadlines
July 1 for fall; Dec. 1 for spring

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN)

- Nursing Education (*fully online*)
- Nursing Leadership and Administration

Application deadline May 1 for fall

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

Earn specialization in:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (only program of its kind in Kansas)
- Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- DNP Post Master (APRN) (*fully online*)

Application deadline Oct. 15 for spring

The baccalaureate degree in nursing, master's degree in nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice at WSU are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (www.ccnaccreditation.org).

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OKLAHOMA CITY

New Admission Criteria

In our nearly 55-year history, OSU-OKC has committed itself to providing high-quality nursing education to help meet the workforce demands of the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area and the state. Our graduates report a 100% job placement rate with starting salaries more than **\$52,000** per year. Future applicants to the program will notice a new pre-admission testing process and points structure, moving away from costly pre-admission testing requirements for students and placing a larger emphasis on science GPA, which has been revealed as the most consistent predictor of student success for graduation and successfully passing the NCLEX-RN licensure examination.

Career Ladder & Traditional

OSU-OKC welcomes LPNs and Paramedics looking for a pathway to being eligible for Registered Nurse licensure. With proof of active, state licensure and required prerequisite courses, LPNs and Paramedics will complete a transition course, then the final two courses in the program. Upon successful completion of the transition course, students are awarded 17 credit hours of advanced standing credit for their licensure. The coursework for this pathway is provided online. Students come to campus for testing, simulations, and laboratory experiences on Fridays. Students will complete clinical experiences on the weekends. This hybrid design was at the request of our program advisory committee to meet the needs of working adults.

Simulation Center

OSU-OKC boasts having one of the largest and most sophisticated simulation facilities in the metro area. Students will experience realistic hospital environments with simulation mannequins that can mimic human patients. The goal was to make the learning environment as close to an actual hospital as possible to increase students' comfort when they enter our partners' facilities and begin to take care of patients. This decreases student anxiety and boosts student confidence in their ability to care for patients.

Interprofessional Simulation

OSU-OKC nursing students, OSU-OKC paramedicine students, OSU-OKC diagnostic imaging, and OSU-Center for Health Sciences resident physicians come together to rescue, triage, and treat patients with a variety of injuries and illnesses. The goal is for these different groups to learn to work together as they will in the actual healthcare arena. Student volunteers and staff take on the role of patients and may simulate suffering anything from a traumatic injury requiring being rescued by our paramedic students to a mental health crisis and any other healthcare emergency in between. Not only do students learn to work together as a team, but they will also learn to prioritize care based on the severity of the simulated patient.

APPLICATION TIMELINES

FALL ADMISSION Feb 1 - April 1 • Traditional Students | April 1 - July 1 • Career Ladder Students

SPRING ADMISSION July 1 - Sept 1 • Traditional Students | Sept 1 - Dec 1 • Career Ladder Students

For more information, including program outcomes, program costs, admission points, and general contact information please visit osuokc.edu/nursing.



EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

- LPN/Paramedic-to-RN track
- Traditional track
- Expanding enrollment
- Updated admission requirements
- 100% job placement rate



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— OSU-OKC —
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.

A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DEGREE OFFERED IN THE WAY YOU WANT IT.

The School of Nursing offers an **accelerated 18-month face to face BSN-RN program** in a commuter campus setting and for the busy RN, we have online options to pursue your **RN-BSN degree**. You will complete your pre-nursing requirements at a community college, on the Graceland residential campus in Lamoni, IA, or at another accredited university or college of your choice prior to transferring to the School of Nursing in Independence, MO.

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.



Graceland's commuter campus in Independence, MO

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.



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The world is different. SO ARE WE.

Our focus is on providing an education that fits you and the world we live in. With face to face and online programs that have been in place for decades, Graceland's **nationally-acclaimed School of Nursing** is uniquely positioned to offer programs tailor-made for today.

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with **multiple specialty tracks**

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)



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Murray State Offers Paramedic to RN Career Mobility Program

Murray State College offers a hybrid online fast track program that is Murray State College offers a hybrid online fast track program that is designed for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs,) Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) and Licensed Paramedics. It allows them to advance their careers by earning a registered nursing (RN) degree.

This Nursing Paramedic to RN Career Mobility track was ranked number one as the best in the nation for 2022, according to <https://www.registerednursing.org>.

Certified paramedics who have been licensed within the last three years do not have to take the challenge exam prior to applying for the program. The hybrid online track includes a nursing role transition course to address the responsibilities of a nurse versus a

paramedic.

"This pathway has been a very successful program for us and our students," said DeAnn Priddy, RN, Murray State College Nursing Program Director. "Our goal is to guide each learner and assist them in rising to his or her maximum potential."

Graduates of this program are eligible to apply for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). At the completion of the program, students will graduate with an Associates of Applied Science (A.A.S) degree. From there, students have the opportunity to continue their education toward earning a bachelor's and master's degrees, and doctorate.

Murray State's nursing faculty are dedicated to helping their students achieve their personal best in all areas of nursing. The



nursing program's mission is to provide exemplary nursing education to a diverse student population for the development of tomorrow's healthcare leaders who focus on the unique needs of patients, families and communities.

"This program truly represents Murray's motto, "From Here, Go Anywhere," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College president. "To have the opportunity to provide a resource that can help current professionals advance their career

is what makes Murray State the nursing education provider for southern Oklahoma."

Murray State College, located in Ardmore, Oklahoma, and Tishomingo, Oklahoma, provides opportunities for student learning, personal growth, professional success and community enhancement. Murray State serves more than 3,000 students annually. The College offers associate degrees in arts, science and applied science.

Come visit us at either of our locations or check us out online at <https://www.msoc.edu/academics/departments/nursing>. You can also contact Cindra St. Clair at cstclair@msoc.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 Master 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, outstanding students, and a 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 routinely recognized for having one of the region's lowest student debt loads with nearly half of its graduating class earning a diploma without any student loan assistance.

The traditional BSN and RN2BSN nursing program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). 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 <https://www.rsu.edu/nursing> or call 918-343-7631.



RN BSN

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Starts in January & August

- ✓ Nursing program courses completed in 2-3 semesters*
- ✓ Each nursing course 5 weeks, one at a time
- ✓ Fully online
- ✓ 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 | 918-343-7641

Dr. Marla Smith | marlasmith@rsu.edu | 918-343-6887



ROGERS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Discover Your Path to Nursing Excellence at Southwestern Oklahoma State

Are you considering a career in nursing? Look no further than Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), one of the best universities in Oklahoma known for providing top-quality programs. With 14 nationally accredited academic programs, SWOSU is a senior regional university that offers an exceptional education.

The SWOSU School of Nursing has a reputation for excellence, offering five different nursing programs to fit the needs of all students. If you're looking to start your nursing career, the traditional BSN program taught on campus is an excellent option. Alternatively, if you're already an RN looking to advance your career, SWOSU offers four online degrees, including an RN to BSN degree and graduate degrees in nursing education and nursing administration.

But the nursing programs at SWOSU don't stop there. The university also offers online professional programs in Health Information Management and Information Management at the graduate level. Additionally, SWOSU has two contractual agreement programs for Occupational Therapy Assistant and Physical Therapist Assistant Programs in partnership with Caddo Kiowa Technology Center.

SWOSU is proud to have six nationally accredited programs in Health Information Management, Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiologic Technology, and Medical Laboratory Technician. The university's professionally and academically qualified faculty are dedicated to mentoring students and helping them achieve their goals.

At SWOSU, students have access to a diverse selection of academic college courses and are rated as one of the most affordable universities in the region. Additionally, SWOSU's location in Weatherford is conveniently located on Interstate 40, less than one hour west of the Oklahoma City metro area. Whether you're a commuter or a traditional student, SWOSU provides accessibility and convenience.

SWOSU's nursing program is more than just traditional classroom learning. The university also boasts a nursing simulation lab that provides hands-on experience in a controlled environment. The lab features high-tech manikins that can simulate a wide range of medical conditions and scenarios, allowing students to practice and develop their clinical skills in a



safe and supportive environment.

SWOSU's nursing programs have a strong emphasis on community service and engagement. Nursing students can participate in various community-based programs and initiatives, such as health fairs and clinics, providing valuable service to the local community while also gaining practical experience and skills.

SWOSU's nursing faculty are experienced professionals who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the classroom. They are dedicated to helping students succeed and are committed to providing a supportive and inclusive learning environment. Additionally, the university offers a range of scholarships and financial aid opportunities to help nursing students achieve their academic and career goals.

In summary, SWOSU's nursing programs provide students with a comprehensive education that prepares them for a successful career in nursing. With a strong focus on hands-on experience, community engagement, and academic excellence, SWOSU's nursing programs provide students with the skills, knowledge, and experience they need to make a positive impact in the world of healthcare. Join us at SWOSU and pursue your dreams of becoming a nurse while receiving a top-quality education. We are dedicated to helping our students succeed. For more information on SWOSU's nursing programs visit:

<https://www.swosu.edu/nursing/>.





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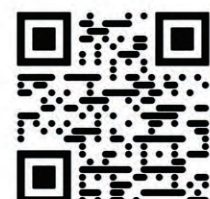
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