

www.oknursingtimes.com

Serving Oklahoma Nurses &
Health Care Professionals for 25 Years

'Life is Precious' LPN Helps Patient Achieve Personal Best

EDUCATION SHOWCASE



OKLAHOMA
HEART HOSPITAL

PROUDLY PHYSICIAN OWNED

NOW HIRING
HEART heroes

\$5,000 Sign-on bonus (applicable positions)

Low nurse-to-patient ratio

Extensive training

Competitive salary and benefits on day one

Employee safety lifts in every room

careers.okheart.com

Read More on Page 9 in This Issue

Read Grissam's story on page 2

Inside This Issue | Page 4, Student Pursues BSN Degree at OCU | Page 7, OPSU RN-BSM Program Shaping OK Healthcare

Chelsea Grissam, LPN, Valir Rehabilitation Hospital

2021 Nursing School Graduate of Canadian Valley Technology Center.

story and photo by James Coburn, Staff Writer

Nurses have an eagerness to learn, and they want to learn how they can better take care of their patients.

Chelsea Grissam, LPN, Valir Rehabilitation Hospital, says she loves helping patients achieve their goals at Valir Rehabilitation Hospital, located in Oklahoma City.

What makes the difference is treating patients as if they are family members. Nurses are team players with a willingness to learn and consider their patient their priority.

She's happy to be part of a team assisting patients to return to their families and pets at home.

"I just love helping people see their potential," Grissam said.

The nursing staff at Valir

Rehabilitation Hospital is close-knit, she said. Many of the nurses are friends and share their leisure time outside of work.

"We all ask about each other's families and kids. A lot of us go to school together to further our education. So, I think we're really close - it's more than just work," Grissam said.

She started as a CNA after taking a class in high school. Geriatric care captured her heart.

"I just love it," she said.

She was close to her grandparents and loves it when her older patients tell her about their lives.

"The other day when I was taking students for clinicals, I had an older lady from a nursing home.

She is 101 years old. She came out to talk to me. She was talking about how her mother used to read her Bible stories every Sunday and every Wednesday at home. She incorporated that with her children as well. So, on Wednesdays and Sundays, they would have huge family get-togethers after they got older."

Grissam is a 2021 nursing school graduate of Canadian Valley Technology Center, located in Chickasha. She has previously worked in assisted living, long-term care, and did clinical adjunct at Canadian Valley as well.

Being a new LPN, she found the hospital a good place to galvanize her nursing skills and time management.

"I already had a few friends that worked here. So, it was easy for me to integrate because I already knew some of them," she said. "It felt easy for me. I felt comfortable here and felt like I was received well. Everybody here is so helpful and willing to share their knowledge with everybody."

Her workdays consist of providing a lot of education about

the medication she gives her patients in the morning. She knows that if she was a patient, she would want to know what pharmaceuticals she was taking and why.

Wound care is a major factor of her work. She sees a lot of head fractures, patients recovering from motor vehicle accidents, stroke, and joint replacements.

She helps with therapy, too, by helping them transfer and building their confidence. Patients are vulnerable. Grissam lets patients know they are not alone, that the therapists and nursing staff are there for them. How long a patient will stay in the rehab hospital depends on their diagnosis.

Different disciplines including speech therapists work with them and get them to where they need to be.

Even doing little things lets patients know their nurse cares about patient centered progress being made.

"What we hear a lot is, 'Thank you for helping me.' And I think that to me is very meaningful," Grissam said. "It means a lot when you're

Continued next page

Have Questions? New to Medicare? Start With Us

WE CAN HELP!



Christina Sibley, EMT/RMA
Medicare Product Specialist
BS Health Studies – Gerontology
405-655-6098 call or text

Steven Sibley, US Army RET/DAV
Medicare Product Specialist – Veterans
MBA – Healthcare Administration
405-850-1569 call or text

Together we'll find the right products for your needs

Contact us for information on our upcoming educational only events (or to request an event) covering general Medicare education, Medicare premium help programs, Medicare with other insurance (Employer insurance, Tricare 4 Life, veteran's healthcare). Food Provided. For accommodation of persons with special needs at meetings call (405) 655-6098, TTY 800-522-8506.

- Licensed Independent Brokers
- Medicare Education
- Medicare Insurance Products
- In-home or in-office appointments
- No charge to meet with us, no pressure, just help.

Your Trusted Medicare Resource

Disabled Veteran | Native American | Woman Owned



Visit us at www.sibleyinsures.com



Medicare Required Disclaimer: We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent 8 organizations which offer 73 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program to get information on all your options.





Chelsea Grissam, LPN, Valir Rehabilitation Hospital helps patients recover so they can resume a normal life.

GRISSAM

Continued from Page 2

thanked for those things, but also you know you're helping somebody to know they're being seen and cared for."

Grissam pointed out that Valir Rehabilitation Hospital has a specialized TBI (traumatic brain injury) unit. So, the hospital provides classes that can be given to nurses wanting to work in the TBI unit. Patients living with brain injuries may not remember being in an accident. Grissam said it's best to meet them at their own cognitive level.

"A lot of them don't understand why they're here, why they can't go home," she said. "They want to go check on their house and resume their day-to-day activities. We try to help them understand at their own level why that's not really possible

right now."

Being a nurse has taught her that life is very precious, she said. In a matter of minutes something can be taken from you, she added.

Some people have a stroke and can't go back to work or provide for their family.

"Don't overlook the little things in life that you're able to do," she said. "I get to provide for my own family. I'm very thankful for the life that I live."

Grissam has a 4-year-old son and twin girls, age 2.

"I leave work at work. Whenever I'm at home I'm present. I put my phone down. I'll get on the floor with the kids. We'll go to the zoo and the science museum. We go to parks and for walks," she said.

For more information about Valir Rehabilitation Hospital visit <https://valir.com>.

EXPERIENCE ULTIMATE FLEXIBILITY

WITH A MEMBERSHIP BUILT FOR YOUR

Our patented strapping system and certified practitioners set us apart from self-led stretch routines. Book your first 30-minute stretch for free and feel the difference today.

STRETCH INTO A
BETTER YOU



Veteran and First Responder Discounts Available

Get Started Today!

Stretch Zone
North Penn Plaza
5629 N Pennsylvania Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
405-242-3428
northpenn@stretchzone.com



Stretch Zone
Chatenay Square
10600 South Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 5
Oklahoma City, OK 73170
405-445-6700
chatenay@stretchzone.com



STRETCH ZONE®

STRETCH. WORK. PLAY. REPEAT.

www.stretchzone.com

CAREERS IN NURSING:

STUDENT PURSUES ACCELERATED BSN DEGREE AT OCU

by Van Mitchell - staff writer

Valeriy Tarasov has accomplished a lot at 18 years of age including graduating from Norman North High School last year, as well as earning an Associate's degree in Diversified Studies from Oklahoma City Community College.

Now he is pursuing his next educational goal as a student in Oklahoma City University's 12-month accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program.

OCU's accelerated BSN program is the state of Oklahoma's first and only 12-month accelerated BSN. The program provides an opportunity for individuals with a non-nursing associate or bachelor's degree to earn a BSN degree in less time than a traditional baccalaureate program. This is an in-person program that consists of 56 credit hours spread over three full-time semesters during the 12-month program.

"My initial choice was to go to medical school, but I started working in a hospital and the overall interactions I witnessed with physicians and patients weren't something that I really wanted anymore," he said. "I wanted a more hands-on approach, something more holistic and something that would actually give me a connection to the patient rather than just a five-minute round, and then that'd be it for the day."

Tarasov decided nursing was the route he wanted to take.

"I decided to pursue nursing school and I met with Dean (Gina) Crawford and that's when she introduced me to that 12-month BSN," he said.

Tarasov said he was initially nervous attending nursing school knowing he was likely one of the youngest students in that program.

"I actually was very nervous about going to OCU, especially going to a 12-month BSN program at 18 years old, while everyone else already has bachelor's degrees, and a majority of them have families," he said. "I really

didn't think I was going to fit in. But OCU has turned out to be one of the most welcoming places I've ever been at."

Some key features of Oklahoma City University's 12-month accelerated BSN are:

- Program consists of 56 credit hours over 12 months

- Direct transfer of previous associate or baccalaureate degree credits

- Clinical experiences at major hospital and community sites in the Oklahoma City metro area

The program will prepare you to sit for the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN), which all prospective nurses must pass in order to be licensed in their state.

Due to the intensity of the accelerated BSN, it is strongly recommended that students do not seek employment for the duration of enrollment in the program.

"To me, it's really not as bad as anyone made it seem just yet. I don't want to jinx that. But in all reality, I mean, I go to school every day during the week, and then I go work on Saturday and Sunday at Norman Regional Hospital," he said. "I stay on top of all my work. I've never submitted anything late. My grades are spectacular for being in an accelerated nursing program."

Tarasov is the second member of his family to attend OCU's Kramer School of Nursing. His mother Alisa Tarasova, who works as a Nurse Practitioner.

"I know they're (parents) very proud of me," he said. "I think they're very proud that I'm pursuing something that I want to pursue and that I'm getting a head start on it. But I was also pushed very much by them through my education in high school and for my Associates, so they knew my capabilities, and I want to say it was sort of expected of me because they knew what I was capable of."

Tarasov said some people are surprised by what he has accomplished including being fluent in Russian and Spanish.



Valeriy Tarasov, at 18 years of age graduated from Norman North High School last year, as well as earning an Associate's degree in Diversified Studies from Oklahoma City Community College.

"I guess a lot of them are just in shock that I was able to do this by 18 and they question how I did it, and I tell them that I did college full-time with high school. So, I get some iffy reactions from people," he said.

Tarasov said he looks forward to working as a male nurse.

"Everyone that I talked to really just says it's a female dominated field," he said. "And I tell them that it's time to really break that stigma because nurses are essential to medicine. It doesn't matter the gender. What matters is the ability of the nurse to practice what they do. Because at the end of the day, it's not the gender that matters

for the nurse, but it's what they're capable of, their decision-making, their thinking, their knowledge."

Tarasov said after graduating in December, he hopes to work in an operating room, ICU or ER before pursuing an Advanced Practice degree.

"I've recently signed up to shadow some operating room nurses with INTEGRIS. I'm hoping to start applying to some jobs in the summer," he said.

For more information about OCU's Kramer School of Nursing visit <https://www.okcu.edu/nursing>.



Pursue Your Passion at INTEGRIS Health

We Have The Perfect Job For You!

Nurse Resident - Nursing Med Surg - Nights ☆
Enid, OK, United States • Posted on 02/07/2024

Nurse Resident - Nursing Med-Surg - Nights - INTEGRIS Health Bass Baptist Health Center

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

Nurse Resident New Grad - Med Surg Oncology - Nights ☆
Oklahoma City, OK, United States • Posted on 05/14/2024

Nurse Resident - Med Surg Oncology - Days - INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center - Sign-on Bonus \$10,000

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

Nurse Extern - INTEGRIS Health ☆
Oklahoma City, OK, United States • Posted on 04/01/2024

Nurse Extern - INTEGRIS Health

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

Registered Nurse - ED - Mid-Shift ☆
Miami, OK, United States • Posted on 05/13/2024

Registered Nurse - ED - Mid-shift - INTEGRIS Health Miami - Sign-On Bonus \$20,000

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

Registered Nurse - Cardiac Stepdown - Nights ☆
Oklahoma City, OK, United States • Posted on 05/13/2024

Registered Nurse - Cardiac Stepdown - Full Time Nights

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

Licensed Practical Nurse - Nursing Med Surg - Nights ☆
Enid, OK, United States • Posted on 03/19/2024

LPN - Nursing Med-Surg - Nights - INTEGRIS Health Bass Baptist Health Center

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

Nursing Manager - Baptist Emergency Department - Days ☆
Oklahoma City, OK, United States • Posted on 05/13/2024

Manager of Nursing - Emergency Dept - Days - INTEGRIS Health Baptist Medical Center

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

Registered Nurse - L&D - Nights ☆
Edmond, OK, United States • Posted on 05/14/2024

Registered Nurse - L&D - Nights - INTEGRIS Health Edmond - Sign On Bonus \$10,000

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

Nurse Resident - Med Surg - Nights ☆
Woodward, OK, United States • Posted on 05/06/2024

Nurse Resident - Med Surg - Nights - INTEGRIS Health Woodward - \$10,000 Sign on Bonus

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

Nurse Tech - Nursing Admin - PRN ☆
Enid, OK, United States • Posted on 04/16/2024

Nurse Tech - Nursing Admin - PRN - INTEGRIS Health Bass Baptist Health Center

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

Nurse Resident - Surgery - Days ☆
Woodward, OK, United States • Posted on 05/09/2024

Nurse Resident - Surgery - Days - INTEGRIS Health Woodward - \$5,000 Sign on Bonus

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

Nurse Tech - Transplant ECMO ICU - PRN Nights ☆
Oklahoma City, OK, United States • Posted on 05/09/2024

Nurse Tech - Transplant ECMO ICU - PRN Nights - Integris Health Baptist Medical Center 6W

[Click Here For More Information Or To Apply](#)

NURSE TALK



What is the source of your strength to perform your job?

"My family and friends here at the hospital that I've made connections with. We have a support system at the hospital and I have a puppy at home."



Wren Wilde, Nurse Teck

"My kids. With me being a single mom, they give me so much strength."



Shermiqua Gatson, LPN

"I just put one foot in front of the other and keep pushing forward to make sure my patients are safe and well and getting what they need."



Erika Logan, LPN

VALIR
Health
Valir
Rehabilitation
Hospital



THE MISSION IN OUR LIFE IS IMPROVING YOURS.



Make your life happy, healthy and more vibrant at Legend Senior Living®, a mission-driven senior living community operated by the experts in senior living. Here, nothing matters more than the happiness of the resident – new friends and new independence await. Live life well at Legend – it's not only a place to live. It's a place to thrive.



To find Oklahoma locations, scan code or go to [LegendSeniorLiving.com](https://www.LegendSeniorLiving.com).



SCAN ME

OPSU RN-BSN Program Shaping Oklahoma's Healthcare Landscape One Scholarship at a Time

Oklahoma Panhandle State University is shaping the next generation of BSNs in Oklahoma and the surrounding region. What sets OPSU's RN to BSN program apart is its tailored approach to addressing the unique challenges in any healthcare setting. In response to the growing demand for skilled nursing professionals in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas, OPSU is proud to introduce two new scholarships to empower aspiring nurses in the region in addition to the Oklahoma RN-BSN Scholarship. The first scholarship, the Saints to Aggies RN-BSN Scholarship, extends to students who have graduated from Seward County Community College with their RN. The second is a scholarship targeting RN students who have graduated from Amarillo College. Both of the Kansas and Texas Scholarships are a \$1,000 Tuition-based scholarship. The scholarship that has led the way financially for so many nursing students at OPSU is the Oklahoma RN-BSN Scholarship, a 100% tuition match scholarship that provides financial support to pursue their nursing degrees at OPSU. Through these scholarships, OPSU recognizes the importance of meeting the healthcare workforce needs of the region but also reaffirms its dedication to nurturing the next generation of healthcare leaders.

Among the successful graduates of OPSU's RN to BSN program is Alumna Brooke Smith. Her recent appointment as Director of Nursing for Memorial Hospital of Texas County is a clear testament to the transformative impact of OPSU's program. Smith's story is a testament to individual growth and the power of scholarships in reshaping nursing and healthcare delivery in the region. As Director of Nursing, Smith is responsible for overseeing nursing staff, managing patient care processes and standards, developing policies, procedures, protocols, and standing orders, regulatory



compliance, quality improvement initiatives, life safety oversight, and hiring, training, and evaluating nursing staff. Smith had a wealth of knowledge coming into the BSN program after graduating from SCCC with her RN. She stated, "My education at OPSU helped me become more well-rounded. The RN-BSN program provided a strong foundation for me in nursing theory, research, evidence-based practice, leadership, and critical thinking. There was also a focus on nursing in rural communities, which is very applicable to Texas County."

"There is a critical nursing

shortage in Oklahoma and our region," says Dr. Dinger, University President. "I'm proud of our faculty for helping educate the next generation of nursing leaders. Our RN-BSN Program is a success because of the leadership of our nursing faculty and our strong partnerships with Oklahoma and area community colleges."

In the healthcare industry, many fields of study demand professional growth and continued education. Smith spoke about how OPSU prepared her for advancement in the nursing field. "My time at OPSU prepared me for

the challenges of the nursing profession and further instilled a commitment to excellence and a passion for making a positive impact on patient care and outcomes. The supportive environment encouraged me to continue to seek opportunities for professional development and advancement."

Smith is eager to see how she can help with the nursing shortage locally and educate the community on rural healthcare. "I plan to collaborate with area nursing programs and educational institutions to increase the number of nursing



OKLAHOMA
HEART HOSPITAL

PROUDLY PHYSICIAN OWNED

NOW HIRING HEART *heroes*

\$5,000 Sign-on bonus (applicable positions)

Low nurse-to-patient ratio

Extensive training

Competitive salary and benefits on day one

Employee safety lifts in every room

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.

careers.okheart.com

AA/EOE/M/F/D/V



Oklahoma Heart Hospital

Shaping the Future of Patient Care

A registered nurse is the caregiver patients see most during a hospital stay, and the quality and competence of nursing staff directly affects the quality of care and overall patient experience. Oklahoma Heart Hospital takes care of the team that takes care of patients.

"Our mission is serving the state and leading the nation," said Cindy Miller, RN, MSN, who serves as Director of Transformation for OHH. "We serve every county in Oklahoma plus many surrounding states, and we've also had patients travel from other countries. I think it goes without saying this is the place to work if you want to take good care of people."

The nurse externship and internship programs at OHH help build skills and confidence for new nurses. A low nurse-to-patient ratio and nursing pod layout enable nurses to provide exceptional patient care, and the collaborative culture gives every employee a voice in shaping patient care.

Learning Opportunities for New Nurses

The OHH nurse extern program is a fantastic opportunity for hands-on learning prior to the final year of nursing school. Full-time winter and summer externships are available, as well as non-traditional externship opportunities when needed. Some externs continue with part-time employment at OHH during their final year of school.

Recent graduates can apply to any open RN position at OHH and will be paired with a preceptor for 6-12 weeks of customized training for their specific role to ensure new nurses have the skills and confidence needed to provide outstanding patient care.

"They're willing to educate, teach you, and show you because they know what it's like to be in your shoes," said Alex Greenhoward, a nurse in the PCCU. "I've never felt afraid to ask anybody for help. That's big for me. It's hard being new in an always-changing environment and not knowing who you can go to when you need help."

Low Nurse-to-Patient Ratio

Nurses benefit from working in a place that builds them up and puts their skill and knowledge to use. Nurses have a maximum of four patients at one time in general nursing, and as few as one or two patients in critical care units.

"The patient is the center of everything we do, and that's important for nurses to know that they are making a difference," Miller said. "We 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 for our nurses."

Designed by its physician owners, OHH's two hospital locations use a nursing pod layout with patient rooms clustered around each nursing station. This intentional design plus fully stocked supplies in each room help streamline patient care and save time for nurses.



Collaborative Culture to Shape Patient Care

OHH is big on communication and teamwork, and that results in high-quality, individualized care for each patient. The entire staff - including doctors, nurses, and members of the allied health and support staff teams - collaborates to continuously improve patient care. This enables nurses to care for patients in a responsive, timely manner rather than wait for approval or assistance for routine patient needs. Nurses also play a key role in creating new policies and procedures to shape the future of patient care.

Competitive Benefits and Continuing Education

OHH takes care of its team members with a competitive benefits package that includes signing bonuses, tuition reimbursement, and much more. These benefits help attract and retain a talented, well-educated nursing staff. Continuing education supports each individual's career goals and ensures the team is current on the latest information and techniques in patient care.

Nursing team members at OHH also love the self-scheduling approach that gives them the flexibility they need to balance work and life.

Oklahoma Heart Hospital is physician owned and designed by cardiologists. With two hospital locations and 60+ clinics across the state, OHH provides outstanding cardiovascular care to patients throughout Oklahoma and patients who travel from across the country. Learn more about nursing opportunities at OHH at <https://careers.okheart.com>.



**OKLAHOMA
HEART HOSPITAL**

PROUDLY PHYSICIAN OWNED

City of Ada Designates \$1.25M for ECU's new Nursing/STEM Building

The City of Ada has designated \$1.25M of Prop 2 economic development funds to support the East Central University School of Nursing Expansion Project in the construction of the new Nursing/STEM building on the ECU campus.

"The City of Ada and ECU have had a long and productive relationship in improving Ada and the lives of its citizens," said interim City Manager for Ada, Angie Stout. "This relationship continues with the City of Ada's support of the expanded School of Nursing. It is well known that a nursing shortage exists both locally and nationally, and this expansion will address this shortage while helping to

improve the already quality care we receive locally while at the same time supporting economic growth and development. Having a strong university and health care system are vital to continued economic growth in Ada and improved quality of life."

The new facility will house a simulation center and more than 25 hands-on learning labs and STEM classrooms equipped with the latest technology, among many more features.



"We are grateful for the strong support that the City of Ada has offered us during our planned expansion of the nursing program," said ECU President Wendell Godwin. "This new facility will offer future students

a life changing education and experience that will not only benefit them, but the entire community and state."

The construction of this new building and expansion of the facility will offer future students

Continued on next page



Seniors
Helping
Seniors®



In-Home Services for Seniors *by Seniors*



Our Experienced Senior Care Services include:
companionship • light housekeeping • meal preparation
respite care • overnight stays • 24-hour care
running errands • dementia & Alzheimer's care • pet care
medication reminders • shopping assistance

**We're here to assist you.
Call to 405.562.6000**

shscentralok.com help@shscentralok.com

BUILDING

Continued from Page 10

nursing program is expected to generate a 400% increase in nursing graduates from ECU. Historically, 84% of nursing graduates stay in Oklahoma five years after graduation and 75% of students are accepted into medical school.

The average pass rate for the ECU School of Nursing on the registered nurses NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) is 97% while the national average is 82%.

“Ada Jobs Foundation supports ECU School of Nursing’s request for funding its new Nursing/STEM facility,” said Ada Jobs Foundation Interim President and CEO, Peggy Saunkeah. “This initiative leads healthcare transformation in Ada and southcentral Oklahoma by expanding capacity and

addressing national nursing shortage. The new state-of-the-art facility aims to double student intake which will bolster the workforce in critical care settings and directly impact the quality of healthcare education and services in Ada and the region.”

This expansion will allow ECU to recruit a number of new staff and faculty as well as more than 200 new nursing students to the university and community.

The new facility will be located north of the Physical and Environmental Science Center, on the corner of N. Francis Ave. & E. 9th St. The facility will include a simulation center, more than 25 hands-on learning labs and STEM classrooms equipped with the latest technology which will reaffirm ECU’s commitment to educating students and to transforming students’ lives for generations to come.



EXPLORE LUXURY SENIOR LIVING IN OKLAHOMA CITY



NEW RATES! LIMITED AVAILABILITY.

Whether it’s exceptional dining in our signature eateries, engaging events, or personalized care you’re seeking, our beautiful community allows you to thrive.

This is HarborChase. Come celebrate with us.



HarborChase

South Oklahoma City

(405) 378-9768

SCAN TO EXPERIENCE HARBORCHASE



100% ONLINE
MS in Nursing
RN to BS in Nursing

MOVE YOUR NURSING CAREER FORWARD

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

UCO UNIVERSITY OF Central Oklahoma

uco.edu | ucobronchos | uco.bronchos | UCObronchos

CARL ALBERT STATE COLLEGE LAUNCHES ONLINE LPN TO RN PROGRAM

Carl Albert State College is proud to announce the launch of its new online LPN to RN program, offering licensed practical nurses (LPNs) the opportunity to advance their careers and become registered nurses (RNs) in just two semesters.

The online LPN to RN program is designed to provide LPNs with a streamlined pathway to earn their RN credentials while balancing their professional and personal commitments. With a focus on accessibility and flexibility, the program allows students to complete all theory coursework online using the Blackboard platform.

"We are excited to offer this online LPN to RN program, which provides LPNs with a convenient and efficient way to further their education and expand their career opportunities," said Becky Sanders, CASC Director of Nursing. "By leveraging online learning technologies, we aim to empower LPNs to achieve their academic and professional goals without sacrificing their work or family obligations."

The application process for current LPNs is simple and straightforward. Applicants can apply online and must submit transcripts and copies of their LPN license. Applicants must be licensed to apply for the program.

In addition to online coursework, students will have the opportunity to participate in simulations and lab check-offs, with some in-person visits required. Clinical experiences will be arranged at pre-approved sites in Oklahoma and Arkansas, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities under the supervision of experienced professionals.



**You've
GOT
THIS!**

**JOIN FOR
ONLY \$15
PER MONTH**

ONA
OKLAHOMA NURSES ASSOCIATION

ANA
AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

JOINANA.ORG

The program is designed to be completed in two semesters, with students entering the third semester of the RN program upon completion. There are no longer placement exams required, as the state has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) allowing all LPNs to go directly into the third semester. Prerequisites are required.

Applications for the program are now open and will close by May 17, 2024. While priority will be given to early applicants, late applications will be considered as they come in.

The online LPN to RN program will commence in August 2024, with completion expected in spring 2025. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply early to secure their spot in this innovative and in-demand program.

"One of the core values embedded within our mission statement is to provide accessible education to students," said Dr. Jay Falkner, CASC President. "Because of the visionary leadership of Director Sanders and her team, the launch of the online LPN to RN program aligns with our desire to provide each student the opportunity to realize their own potential and experience success. This initiative also directly contributes to the workforce development vision endorsed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; we're proud to play a part in developing Oklahoma's future workforce- especially in a critical occupation field such as healthcare."

Interested applicants can begin the process at
<https://carlalbert.edu>.

SWOSU Nursing Launches Direct Admit Pathway Program for High School Seniors

The Department of Nursing at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) has announced a new initiative: the Direct Admit Pathway (DAP) program, offering high school seniors a clear route into the traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program from their freshman year.

The DAP program caters to high-achieving high school seniors aspiring to pursue a nursing career, providing them with an efficient admission process and early access to nursing coursework. To qualify for the program, applicants must meet specific criteria, including a minimum GPA of 3.8, a minimum ACT composite score of 25—or SAT score of 1200—and submission of a signed letter of intent.

Once admitted, students must maintain their excellent academic status and continue to fulfill specific requirements to remain eligible for the traditional BSN program. These requirements include satisfactory completion of pre-professional coursework, achieving a minimum score of 75.0 on the HESI A2 Entrance Exam, maintaining a minimum retention GPA of 3.25, and meeting regularly with admissions committee member to review progress and ensure compliance with program requirements.

Benefits of the DAP program include personalized support and guidance from experienced faculty members. It offers guaranteed acceptance into the traditional BSN program, small clinical and lab groups facilitating hands-on learning, and seamless transition into SWOSU Nursing master's programs for further education



and career advancement. SWOSU Nursing graduates can expect 100% career placement upon graduation.

The Department of Nursing is committed to providing accessible pathways for aspiring nursing professionals. With its focus on simplicity and clarity, the DAP program enables students to achieve their academic and professional goals in nursing.

For more information about the Direct Admit Pathway program, including admission requirements and application procedures, please contact Dr. LeaAnne Hume at leanne.hume@swosu.edu or Courtney Bryan courtney.bryan@swosu.edu.

OPSU

Continued from Page 10

graduates by offering mentorship programs, clinical placements, and support. I also plan to focus on offering competitive compensation packages to attract and retain nursing talent," she stated. "Community awareness about the importance of nursing is vital. I plan to participate in outreach events, career fairs, and other community events to connect with prospective nurses and encourage them to pursue a career in healthcare. I would also like to pursue opportunities with community organizations and businesses to offer scholarships or other incentives for nurses to work in our rural community."

Smith's journey from Emergency Department Manager to Director of Nursing exemplifies the program's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering leadership in healthcare. OPSU's RN to BSN program is instrumental in

empowering individuals like Brooke Smith to make a meaningful impact in their communities by providing students with the tools and knowledge needed to excel. "Furthering your education at OPSU prepares you to excel in various healthcare settings and adapt to the changing demands of nursing, as well as laying a solid foundation for leadership roles," Smith stated.

Central to OPSU's mission is its dedication to accessibility through scholarships. The new RN-BSN scholarships play a crucial role in alleviating financial barriers and ensuring nursing students can pursue higher education. By investing in the next generation of healthcare professionals, OPSU is not only transforming individual lives but also uplifting entire communities. For additional information over the RN-BSN Nursing Program.

For more information about OK Panhandle State University visit <https://opsu.edu>.

TAKE YOUR NURSING CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

Find out how Kramer School of Nursing can prepare you for each step of your nursing career.

LPN-BSN

- In as little as 12 months!

RN-BSN

- In person or online
- No nursing exams, no prerequisites, competitive price
- Complete in two semesters

Master of Science in Nursing

- Nursing Education, Nursing Leadership, and Community-Based Public Health available online
- Post Master's Certificates: Education and Leadership
- Post Master's Certificates: FNP, AGACNP, and PMHNP

Doctoral Programs

- Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN-DNP): FNP, AGACNP, and PMHNP
- Doctor of Nursing Practice Completion (MSN-DNP): Executive Leadership, Nurse Educator, Clinical, and Community-Based Public Health

Oklahoma City UNIVERSITY

Kramer School of Nursing

okcu.edu/nursing

UNDERGRAD
405-208-5050 • admissions@okcu.edu

GRAD
405-208-5094 • gadmissions@okcu.edu

NEUROPATHY PAIN AND NUMBNESS CAN BE TREATED

**Welcome to a New Medical
Treatment covered
by Medicare**

- **Diabetic Neuropathy**
- **Chemo-Induced Neuropathy**
- **General Peripheral Neuropathy**



This FDA cleared treatment solution relieves pain & restores feeling without medications or surgery and is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, the VA and most private insurances. Call today.

**View our testimonials at
nerverenewalnow.com**

 **Nerve Renewal**
NEUROPATHY CLINIC
405.422.9518

Over 80% of patients report a significant reduction in pain. So don't feel trapped by pain. Get back to moving and exercising with your family and friends!