

2026

OKLAHOMA'S NURSING EDUCATION GUIDE

A GUIDE TO THE BEST
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NURSING STUDENTS
AND CONTINUING
EDUCATION

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While the national job market remains sluggish, nursing continues to grow as one of the nation's most essential professions, and Oklahoma Wesleyan University (OKWU) is dedicated to equipping nurses who sustain healthcare. As healthcare rapidly evolves, continuing education remains critical to the nursing profession.

With this in mind, OKWU partnered with Hillcrest South, an accredited provider of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to host the 2026 Implementation Science Symposium. The symposium provided six ANCC-approved continuing education hours to attendees. With a focus on Leading with Service, the event offered meaningful and engaging sessions centered on enhancing nursing excellence through evidence-based practice. While the symposium drew nurses from across Oklahoma and several neighboring states, this was not the first time OKWU has served the nursing community.

For more than 30 years, OKWU has provided higher education opportunities for nursing professionals. OKWU's 100% online RN-BSN Completion Program, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Executive Leadership are designed specifically for working adults. By offering a one-course-at-a-time format, OKWU supports a healthy balance between work, school, and life.

All OKWU nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and are competitively priced. Many students utilize employer tuition reimbursement to support their academic journey. While coursework is delivered online, OKWU prioritizes meaningful connection by providing dedicated support through qualified instructors and regular online check-ins with the program director.

Setting it apart from many programs, OKWU offers an inclusive pathway by admitting registered nurses with a bachelor's or master's degree in a different field into its MSN and DNP programs, respectively. Jim Woodard (DNP '24), Chief Clinical and Innovation Officer at Tru Care Community in Colorado, shared that finding a program which accepted his MBA was a significant factor in choosing OKWU. Additionally, OKWU has enhanced its curriculum to award academic credit for nurse residency programs or specialty certifications, allowing nursing professionals to build upon prior work and experience.

OKWU graduates consistently express satisfaction with their educational experience and often return to pursue advanced degrees. Karen Hays (ADN 1998, BSN 2019, MSN 2023) was recently recognized at the symposium as a long-standing alumna, having graduated from three OKWU nursing programs. After working as an associate degree nurse (ADN) for nearly twenty years, Hays had never considered returning to school until someone highlighted the expanded career opportunities available with a BSN.

Hays shared that she faced many unknowns and initially doubted her ability to balance academics with full-time work. She was also apprehensive, as academics had never come easily for her. Through perseverance, Hays proved to herself that she could succeed and considers earning straight A's a personal achievement. However, the most impactful benefit of her OKWU education was deeply personal. "The program allowed me to know God is working for our good in all things we do," she shared, noting that the spiritual life reflections played a pivotal role in her walk with Christ.

Her advice to nurses considering returning to school is simple: "Don't



Alumna, Karen Hays was recognized at the symposium after graduating from three OKWU nursing programs.

discount yourself. You should do it. Don't walk-run to do it." Hays reflected that returning to OKWU for multiple degrees "was like coming back to family." She now serves as a Nursing Assistant Instructor at Tri County Tech in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

OKWU nursing graduates are finding strong career success, with a 100% employment rate across all programs. Both Hays and Woodard attribute their professional achievements, in part, to the education they received at OKWU.

In a rapidly changing healthcare landscape, staying ahead matters. OKWU provides online programs, personalized support, and recognition of prior experience to help nursing professionals thrive. Apply today and lead the way in your nursing career.

For inquiries or additional information, please contact the OKWU Department of Nursing at 918-335-6856 or schoolofnursing@okwu.edu.

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Excellence Recognized: Four Stillwater Medical Nurses Named Finalists

Four nurses from Stillwater Medical were named finalists for the 2025 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year, a statewide recognition that honors peer-nominated nurses for excellence in care, compassion, and professionalism.

The nominations reflect a collaborative nursing environment in which high standards are reinforced through teamwork, mutual respect, and strong professional relationships.

Across departments and roles, nurses at Stillwater Medical work closely together, and many cite the support of their colleagues as a meaningful part of their day-to-day practice.

This year's finalists include Kyla Davis, RN, Same Day Surgery; Jessica Kennedy, APRN, Stillwater Pediatrics; Tammy Parr, LPN and case manager for Stillwater Medical Blackwell and Perry; and Sarah Schram, RN, resource nurse at Stillwater Medical Center. For Davis and Parr, the peer-nominated recognition was described as both humbling and affirming of the work they do alongside their teams.



Kyla Davis, RN was among finalists for the 2025 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year.

For Davis, nursing runs deep. Her mother first encouraged her to pursue the profession, and throughout nursing school, she helped her study, grow, and build confidence in her calling. "I have always loved being able to help others," Davis said. "Nursing allows me to care for people while constantly learning and challenging myself."

Davis began her journey at Stillwater Medical in 2017 working as an emergency room tech before earning her nursing degree. Although she briefly moved away, she returned to Stillwater Medical's intensive care unit in 2020 and joined same day surgery this past April. Through it all, she says the heart of her work has remained the same: the patients.

"At the end of the day, the most fulfilling part of my job is the interactions with the patients I get to care for," she said. "The conversations, the laughs we share-I hope I'm able to brighten their day and ease their anxiety in a place where people are often scared or hurting."

Davis is proud to work in a hospital environment where high-quality, compassionate care is a shared standard. Being nominated for the March of Dimes award, she says, reflects not just her own work but the collective effort of Stillwater Medical's nursing staff.

"We have so many talented nurses here who work incredibly hard for our patients," she said. "I am honored just to be part of a team that puts patient care first."

For fellow finalist, Parr, the path to nursing began at 17, when she took a job as a nursing home aide. Although she once imagined becoming an attorney, she soon realized nursing allowed her to combine her love of advocacy with the hands-on ability to help people.

Over the last decade, Parr has served as an LPN and case manager for Stillwater Medical Blackwell and Stillwater Medical Perry-two rural communities with unique challenges. Limited transportation, financial barriers, and access to care often impact her patients in ways many urban areas never see. Parr meets those challenges head-on with compassion, creativity, and a deep sense of responsibility.

"It's not always direct bedside care," she said. "But everything behind the scenes makes a difference, too."

Her work includes helping patients find transportation, securing medication assistance, and navigating complex insurance needs. In 2018, Parr co-founded the Blackwell Outreach Program, which provides funds-donated by employees-to help patients pay for prescriptions, gas, and other essential needs. The program has supported families in crisis, including

helping parents travel to be with sick children and assisting vulnerable patients with safe transitions home.

Parr's nomination was what she describes as deeply meaningful. "I was humbled and honored," she said. "To know that who I am and what I do matters-that means so much."

Stillwater Medical has been named one of the Best Places to Work by Modern Healthcare, a news organization that identifies and recognizes outstanding employers in the healthcare industry nationwide. They are the only organization in the state to receive this distinction for 14 years in a row.

Brad Horst, vice president of human resources, says one of the organization's keys to success is the shared commitment of staff to creating a culture of excellence.

"These peer nominations really line up with what our employee surveys tell us," said Horst. "Two of our highest-scoring statements are 'I enjoy my coworkers' and 'I find purpose in my work.' When nurses recognize one another in this way, it speaks to the strong relationships they have with their teams and the meaning they find in the work they do every day."



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OU Expanding Nursing Education Reach



Imagine a career in nursing in one year's time. For those individuals who possess a bachelor's degree in any field, the University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing can make that a reality.

Stacy King, DNP, RNC-OB, CNE is the BSN Program Director and is excited about the school's newest offering.

The Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSBN) program is tailored for individuals who want to pursue a career in nursing and already have a bachelor's degree from a US regionally accredited institution. The nursing curriculum is 60 credit hours of courses incorporating theoretical and clinical content and designed to be completed in 12 months of concentrated study.

The program initially began as a 14-month offering. "Our road to this 12-month ABSBN program really started during the Covid 19 pandemic and all of the fallout," King said. "You know how in Oklahoma we really stalled with the nursing shortage. Our hospitals were feeling the strain. Our communities were feeling the strain and basically in nursing education we really wanted to respond to this and work with our community partners."

King is an OU nursing graduate from 2007. Bedside precepting opportunities kindled a love of teaching. A master's in education followed and she started working as an educator in the OU system before her doctorate.

Now as the program director she gets to help people find a new passion.

Students entering the ABSBN program already have earned a bachelor's degree in another field.

"They come in with all sorts of backgrounds. We have people who were accountants, K-12 teachers, people who have a biology degree," King said. "I absolutely love our ABSBN students. They come in very highly motivated. No matter what kind of background they have it just helps contribute and makes their experience in the program more robust."

"All of them bring something unique to the program and they are equipped."

With that existing experience King said ABSBN students often progress more quickly in the nursing field and seek out higher level degrees.

The streamlined program continues OU's goal of training the next generation of nurses.

Historically, the College of Nursing accepted approximately 20% of all qualified applicants.

"We basically doubled our enrollment within a year," King said, noting the college began admitting all qualified applicants beginning with the incoming Fall 2022 class.

That equates to nearly 600 students across all nursing platforms each year.

The ABSBN program naturally became part of that discussion. This program is an example of how OU is meeting its strategic goal of addressing the healthcare workforce needs with the urgency it deserves.

"We realized we had the opportunity to not only get more nurses into the workforce but potentially get them into the workforce even quicker through our ABSBN program," she said.

In 2021, the OU College of Nursing took a significant step to address the growing demand for nurses in the workforce. By partnering with Norman Regional Health System and Duncan Regional Hospital, the college expanded its BSN program. This initiative added to existing BSN program locations at OU Health Campus in Oklahoma City, the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center, and Cameron University in Lawton.

In 2023, the college extended its educational footprint even further. Partnering with the University of Sciences & Arts of Oklahoma and Murray State College, the college created an exciting opportunity for articulation agreements that ease the student's ability to transition to OU for a traditional BSN or for RN-BSN.

Also in 2023, the College of Nursing was awarded two federal grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These grants were specifically designed to alleviate Oklahoma's critical nursing shortage by providing essential funds for scholarships for nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist graduate programs and faculty loan repayment.

Growth at the OU College of Nursing is not limited to student enrollment. Driven by increased enrollment, the number of faculty members at the college has increased significantly over the years, from 75 in 2021 to an impressive 102 in 2025.

"The Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing is the flagship College of Nursing in Oklahoma. This means that we play an integral role in nursing workforce development for all of Oklahoma," said Melissa Craft, dean of the college. "Having multiple community partnerships with other academic facilities as well as clinical agencies facilitates and augments the success of this mission. The ABSBN program going from 14 months to 12 months is a best practice so that busy adult learners are able to quickly and efficiently gain a degree that leads to a highly satisfying and societally important role. We are honored to be a part of the development of so many excellent nurses in Oklahoma."

King says those students entering the ABSBN program will embark on a life-changing journey.

"It will challenge them academically, professionally and personally," King said. "They should come in with an open mind and a willingness to collaborate and grow with those around them."

"If they can do that they're going to really be rewarded and that respected OU degree."



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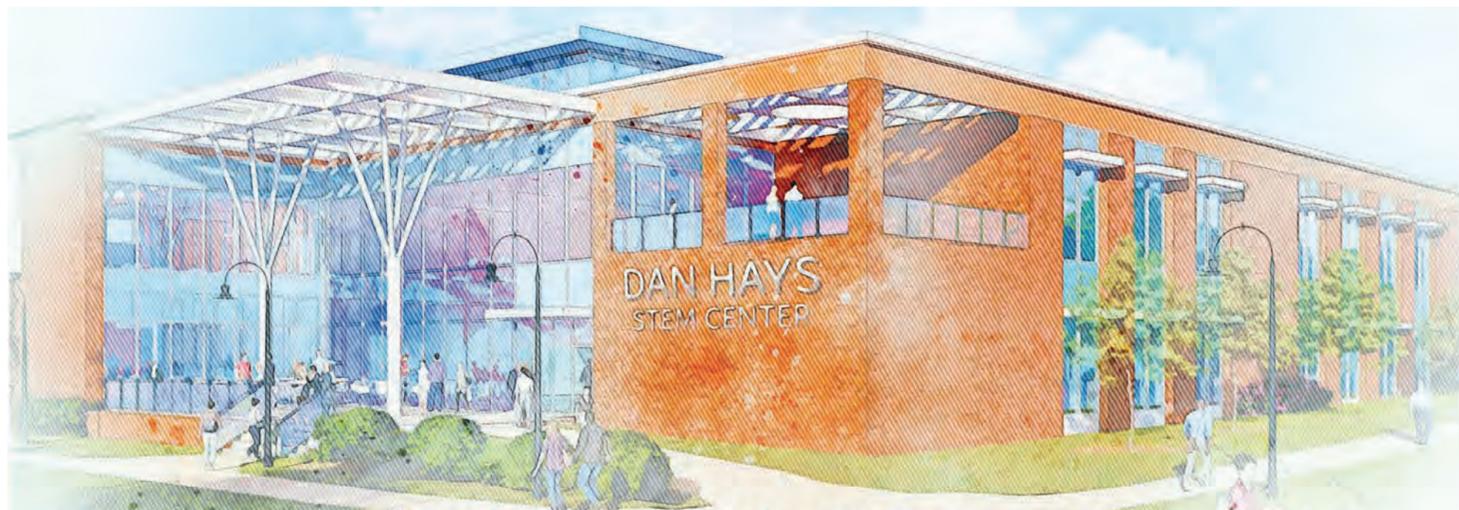
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East Central University's School of Nursing: Expanding Access, Advancing Excellence

East Central University's School of Nursing offers a high-quality baccalaureate nursing program that provides south-central and southeast Oklahoma with accessible, professionally delivered nursing care. The program prepares graduates to practice professional nursing in both rural and urban settings, supporting the state's growing healthcare workforce. Research shows a direct correlation between successful patient recovery and the number of nurses providing care, highlighting the impact ECU graduates make.

The School of Nursing offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) for pre-licensure students. Pre-licensure students complete an eight-semester program leading to the degree. Graduates who meet Oklahoma licensure requirements, including a clear criminal background check, are eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-CAT, RN). The most current first-time tester NCLEX pass rate is 88.16%, reflecting the program's strong academic preparation. On-time program completion rates average 78%, underscoring student success.

The mission of ECU's School of Nursing is to prepare baccalaureate nurses who are lifelong learners, capable of providing safe, high-quality, patient-centered care in collaborative environments. Evidence-based practice and informatics ensure graduates deliver optimal outcomes in a diverse and evolving healthcare system.

Clinical learning is central to the curriculum, gaining experience in medical-surgical nursing, pediatrics, obstetrics, psychiatric mental health, critical care, community health, and nursing leadership. Senior students participate in a one-to-one preceptorship with a qualified nurse, providing intensive, hands-on preparation for independent practice.

ECU also offers an LPN-to-BSN pathway. Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) from five partner technology centers, Mid-America Technology Center in Wayne, Southern

Technology Center in Ardmore, Pontotoc Technology Center in Ada, Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee, and Wes Watkins Technology Center in Wetumka, may receive credit for courses such as Foundations in Nursing, Physical Assessment, and Introduction to Professional Nursing. This pathway streamlines the transition from LPN to RN while building on existing competencies. LPN applicants must be admitted to both ECU and the School of Nursing.

Applications are accepted biannually for Fall and Spring entry. Prospective students meet with a nursing advisor to review eligibility and application requirements. Admission is competitive and determined using a points-based rubric considering retention and program GPA, pre-entrance exam scores, math and science grades, and prior degrees. Applicants are ranked numerically, with top candidates selected.

To expand capacity, the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) awarded ECU a \$13 million Legacy Grant to complete The Dan Hays STEM Center and School of Nursing. The 64,000-square-foot, two-floor facility, projected for completion in July 2026, will feature a simulation center, more than 25 hands-on labs, and advanced STEM classrooms for Nursing, Math, and Computer Science students. Labs include medical-surgical skills, foundational healthcare skills, critical care, and labor and delivery simulation. The expansion will allow ECU to grow to 600 nursing majors over the next four years while adding faculty and staff. About 80% of graduates remain in Oklahoma, strengthening rural and urban healthcare access.

As the only accredited BSN program in south-central and southeastern Oklahoma, ECU continues to produce workforce-ready graduates. The latest AACN survey indicates that 28% of new nursing positions require a BSN, while 72% strongly prefer one. Through strong outcomes, innovative pathways, and transformative infrastructure, East Central University prepares the next generation of nurses to deliver safe, high-quality care across Oklahoma and beyond.

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- Oncology Nurses
- Operating Room Nurses
- Pediatric Nurses
- Public Health Care Nurses
- Psychiatric Nursing
- School Nurses

The School of Nursing offers a five-semester program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing to pre-licensure students. Graduates of this ACEN-accredited, state-approved program are eligible to write the National Council Licensure

Applications to the ECU School of Nursing are accepted bi-annually for admission to the Fall and Spring semesters. Interested candidates are encouraged to contact the School of Nursing to meet with an assigned Nursing advisor to discuss all application and eligibility requirements. Typically, there are one to two semesters of college-level coursework that need to be completed in order for a student to be eligible for admission.

Application Cycles:
Fall Semester Entry- Cycle opens Oct. 1st - closes March 1st
Spring Semester Entry- Cycle opens April 1st - closes Sept. 1st

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OSU Nursing Program Grads Addressing Health Care Shortages

Medical facilities throughout Oklahoma are getting a much-needed shot in the arm.

Oklahoma State University's four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is making great strides toward closing the gap in the state and national shortage of nursing professionals, producing a new generation of highly qualified nurses equipped to lead with confidence.

Housed within the College of Education and Human Sciences, the BSN program is the culmination of years of dedication and collaboration. From its early planning stages to celebrating the first graduating class, this initiative continues to grow with purpose and momentum.

Now in its third year, the program welcomed over 165 aspiring nurses to the Stillwater campus for 2025-26. Since its inception in the fall of 2023, the program has accepted over 300 students.

Director of nursing Dr. Alana Cluck says it has been incredibly



rewarding to lead and witness the transformation of a vision into a thriving reality.

"I am immensely proud that the BSN program at OSU is built on a strong foundation of academic excellence, a supportive and compassionate learning environment, and a commitment to high expectations," Cluck said.

"We strive to empower our students with the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to thrive in today's health care landscape. Our nursing faculty represents a cohesive, highly experienced, compassionate and exceptionally knowledgeable team of nurse educators whose collective expertise and dedication to student success set them apart."

Substantial growth has been found in enrollment capacity, faculty size and facilities.

Eight new faculty members have joined the team for the 2025-26 academic year.

Backed by rigorous courses, hands-on clinicals and statewide support, program graduates are ready to make an impact from day one.

OSU BSN students have the unique experience of being embedded in campus life, like any other student.

Dr. Diane Cannon, assistant professor of nursing, believes this illustrates the well-rounded nature of the program.

"Yes, they're training to become highly competent, compassionate nurses in an intensive academic program. But they're also getting the full OSU experience - something many nursing students in other programs simply don't have," Cannon said.

"Our students are part of a vibrant, traditional college campus. They cheer on the Cowboys at Boone Pickens Stadium, join Greek life, attend concerts and cultural events, and make lifelong friendships in student organizations. They study hard but feel connected to a larger community that celebrates who they are and who they're becoming."

Just as important, they're surrounded by top-tier campus resources - from the LASSO Center and the Reboot Center, to mental health support, tutoring, academic coaching and career services. These wraparound supports ensure they don't just survive nursing school, they thrive.

"It's not just about becoming a nurse," Cannon said. "It's about growing into a well-rounded, resilient and connected leader. That's the Cowboy way - and it's a difference you can feel." For more information, visit www.go.okstate.edu or scan the QR CODE.



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Oklahoma Nursing Students' Association



JOIN NOW!

"The Oklahoma Nursing Students' Association (ONSA) is a statewide organization dedicated to supporting nursing students at every stage of their education. ONSA provides opportunities for leadership development, professional growth, and meaningful connection with peers across Oklahoma.

Through annual conventions, advocacy initiatives, and service projects, ONSA empowers nursing students to strengthen their voices, expand their knowledge, and shape the future of nursing. Members gain exposure to professional organizations, current issues in healthcare, and resources that support both academic and career success.

Whether you are just beginning your nursing journey or looking to take the next step as a student leader, ONSA offers a welcoming space to grow, learn, and lead."

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CV Tech Preps You for A Career Helping Others

Looking for a career that makes a real impact? Canadian Valley Technology Center's campuses in both Chickasha and Yukon offer exciting, hands-on programs that launch students into high-demand healthcare fields.

Practical Nursing

Oklahoma's nursing shortage just received a massive, well ... shot in the arm.

A new partnership between the State Regents for Higher Education and the state's Career Tech system is intended to rapidly increase the number of people who obtain a highly coveted (by healthcare facilities) Bachelor of Science in nursing degree (BSN).

Students who complete a Practical Nursing program at one of the 29 technology participating centers statewide now receive a minimum of 22 credit hours toward the completion of a BSN at one of eight regional universities in Oklahoma. Most in-state universities require 120 hours to complete a BSN.

The data studied, which led to the partnership, indicated the state routinely sits among the lowest ranking nationwide for health outcomes. Analytics show the gap between expected and actual employment for registered nurses (RNs) is expected to increase nearly 3 percent over the next five years.

Regents and Career Tech share a mutual interest in improving education opportunities, and this agreement minimizes repetition of coursework, said Pam Roberts, Nursing Director at CV Tech.

"This clearly shows that universities respect the education students have gotten while earning their LPN," Roberts said. "The 22 credits represents about one-fifth of the requirements and cost for a BSN degree."

Half the 22 credit hours can be applied to pre-requisites and the other half to nursing courses, Roberts said. An average hour of credit at in-state, regional universities is about \$300. There is no cost for the hours credited once a person passes their exam to become a licensed practical nurse.



Surgical Technology (pictured) is among several healthcare career fields provided at CV Tech's Chickasha and Yukon locations.

Surgical Technology

While surgeons and nurses are often in the spotlight, surgical technologists, more commonly known as "scrub techs," work behind the scenes to ensure procedures run seamlessly.

Scrub techs serve as the backbone of the surgical team. They meticulously prepare a sterile operating room, prep patients for procedures and hand instruments to medical personnel during surgeries. Their vigilance helps prevent infections and ensures patient safety. After surgery, they are responsible for sterilizing and storing instruments, an essential step in preventing contamination.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data shows a predicted 5 percent growth in this field over the next eight years, or faster than average.

Vision Care Technician

CV Tech also offers a career prep program for those interested in becoming eyecare professionals.

More specifically, a certified ophthalmic assistant (COA) learns to perform diagnostic testing and attains clerical skills. Instruction centers on teaching students how to accurately record patient information. Additionally, COA's clean and maintain ophthalmic instruments, assist during patient visits and provide instruction for corrective lenses.

BLS data for ophthalmic careers is expected to remain stable, with opportunities primarily driven by the need to replace workers.

Medical Assistant

Among the fastest rising careers, according to BLS projections, is medical assisting. In fact, Job growth for the profession is expected to increase by 12 percent by 2034.

Registered medical assistants support physicians and other healthcare providers in a medical office or clinic setting. Core courses in CV Tech's program include CPR, First Aid, medical terminology and anatomy and physiology. Specialized courses include pharmacology and clinical procedures for disorders of each body system. Medical assistants also aid physicians with minor office surgeries.

CV Tech also offers health career education for adults in **Medical Coding Specialist** and **Patient Account Representative**. If you're ready to jump-start your future, you can complete most options in just one year. Take the first step toward a rewarding career in health care, and visit www.cvtech.edu to learn more or to apply.



Health Care Ed

Medical Assistant

Yukon Prepares students to assist physicians and other healthcare providers in a medical office or clinic setting. Some core courses

include CPR, First Aid, medical terminology and anatomy and physiology. Specialized courses include pharmacology and clinical procedures for disorders of each body system. Medical assistants also assist physicians with minor office surgeries.



Medical Coding Specialist

Yukon

Students learn administrative medical assisting, medical terminology, basic anatomy and physiology. Acquire skills and knowledge in medical coding, medical insurance, and electronic health records. Careers include employment in a medical office, medical billing and medical coding field and administrative medical assistant.



Patient Account Representative

Yukon

Students receive training in administrative medical assisting, medical billing and electronic health records. This program prepares students for employment in a medical office setting in an administrative capacity.



Adult Classes 2026-27



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Practical Nursing

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This year-round, self-paced class preps you to take the NCLEX-PN exam for Practical Nursing licensure. Students who complete the program receive 22 credits toward a bachelor of science degree at area colleges and universities.



Surgical Technology

Chickasha | Yukon

Students prepare to be a critical part of a surgical team by ensuring a sterile environment and great outcomes for patients. Learn to be the backbone of surgeries by assisting surgeons and nurses during procedures by handing them instruments and supplies.



Vision Care Technician

Yukon

Prep for licensure as a Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA). Learn to perform diagnostic testing and clerical skills. You will be instructed how to record patient info, clean and maintain ophthalmic instruments, assist during patient visits and provide instruction for corrective lenses.



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REDLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM TURNS COMPASSION INTO CAREERS

A common desire among nursing students is to help others.

At Redlands Community College in El Reno, Okla., students are given the support, encouragement and skills needed to embark on a successful and fulfilling career in the health care field where they impact the lives of patients and families every day.

"I know how it feels to have no help and feel totally hopeless," said Kelli Davis, an LPN-to-RN nursing student at Redlands. "I want to bring hope and healing to the people I care for."

First-year nursing student Riley Coffey added, "Nursing allows me to combine compassion with critical thinking, and I like knowing that the work I do directly impacts people during some of the most important moments of their lives."

Nursing is a profession built on care, commitment and trust. Nurses play a vital role in communities across the state, yet the health care industry continues to face workforce shortages, particularly in rural areas. Students like Davis and Coffey are helping Redlands Community College address that challenge.

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

"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 Tara Thomas, 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."

After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in English and teaching several years at the high school and college levels, Redlands nursing student Ken Thompson realized he needed a change.



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

"I spent years teaching others, but it was my students who helped me realize that I could make this career change, that I have an aptitude for this area," said Ken Thompson, a former English teacher and current nursing student at Redlands Community College. "And having people in my life as well as the instructors at Redlands who have supported and mentored me during this process, has been so valuable."

Thomas and her team have made great strides in restructuring the program to give students a conceptual learning experience, meaning they learn how each skill applies to patients from birth to death. This approach prepares students to immediately step in to provide care in the clinical setting with the supervision of well-trained nurses. The college's partnerships with several area health facilities provide students with challenging, hands-on experience during their clinical rotations.

This clinical experience, along with the high-tech simulation and skills labs and conceptual education, prepares Redlands nursing graduates to make a significant impact once they enter the workforce.

"Fortunately, our location just outside of Oklahoma City gives our students the unique 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," Thomas added. "With our current health care shortage, the varied experience our students have is very valuable."

With available financial assistance as well as the personal attention and opportunities Redlands faculty and staff provide, Redlands is a solid, affordable choice for students at any stage of the educational or professional journey.

Visit www.redlandsc.edu/nursing/careers.php for more information and to apply for the program and scholarships. The scholarship application is due May 31, and nursing program application deadlines are March 1 for generic Fall admissions, December 1 for LPN-RN Spring admissions, and May 1 for readmission and transfer admissions.



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Redlands Community College
is your **Route to Success**



redlandsc.edu/nursing

Metro Tech Meeting Needs of Today's Medical Industry

Located in the heart of Oklahoma City, Metro Tech offers a variety of full-time, short-term, and online programs designed to prepare students for successful careers in healthcare. With options for high school students, adult learners, and working professionals, Metro Tech is committed to supporting Oklahoma's healthcare workforce through hands-on, high-quality career training that meets the needs of today's medical industry.

In-district high school juniors and seniors can get a head start in nursing through Metro Tech's full-time Nursing Services program. Students graduate with certifications in Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Advanced Unlicensed Assistant (AUA), and Phlebotomy, setting them up for success after high school. Many further their training through Metro Tech's Next Step Scholarship, which provides a seamless transition into the adult Practical Nursing program.

For adults ready to pursue a career as a Licensed Practical Nurse, Metro Tech offers a full-time program with both day and evening options. This program combines classroom instruction with hands-on clinical experiences to prepare students for real-world healthcare environments.

Metro Tech also provides short-term healthcare courses for those looking to enter or advance in the field in as little as 12 weeks. Offerings include CNA, Certified Medication Aide, Phlebotomy Technician, and Medication Administration Technician.

For current healthcare professionals, Metro Tech offers online continuing education courses, allowing nurses to meet licensure requirements or expand their knowledge on a flexible schedule.

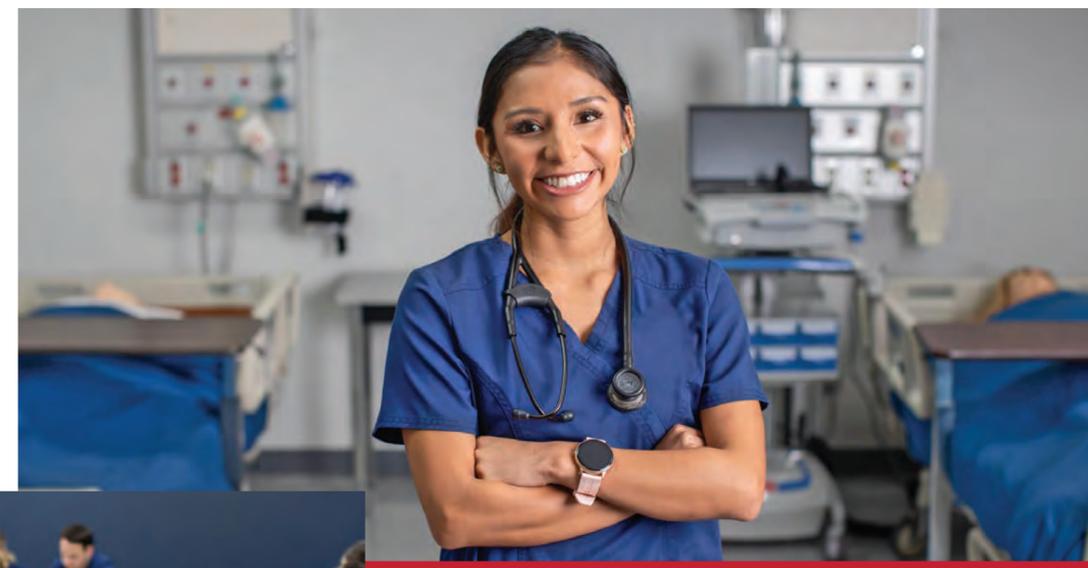
No matter where you are in your healthcare journey, Metro Tech provides the training and support to help you succeed. To learn more about Metro Tech's healthcare education programs, visit www.metrotech.edu.



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Rogers State University Offering Programs For Every Nurse

The Rogers State University School of Nursing and Health Professions offers programs in nursing and pre-allied health fields. Nursing programs include the RN2BSN online program which allows registered nurses with an associate degree to complete a bachelor's degree; the traditional BSN in nursing, leading to RN licensure; the Master of Science in nursing, offered fully online; 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



to accommodate their busy schedules. RSU's nationally recognized and fully accredited RN2BSN online program offers real-world practical experience, affordability and flexible coursework that builds upon a student's experience as an RN, preparing to advance them at their workplace, through a graduate program or even to help them find a new position.

Through a partnership with Saint Francis Health System, RSU educates a select cohort of students in the nursing program at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, with Saint Francis serving as an extended campus of the university where students can spend their final three semesters at Saint Francis in Tulsa as they earn their BSN from RSU. This partnership allows RSU to increase its capacity to educate nurses, with the first cohort graduating in May 2025. The opening of the extended campus at Saint Francis, as well as the recent addition of a spring cohort on RSU's main campus in Claremore, has significantly increased the capacity to graduate outstanding nurses from the RSU School of Nursing and Health Professions.

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 graduates earning a degree without any student loan assistance.

The traditional BSN and RN2BSN nursing programs are 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.



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- Nurse Refresher
- Pharmacy Tech
- Phlebotomy

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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.

For those interested in furthering their education and increasing their employment viability in the nursing field, the RN2BSN online nursing program offers them the chance to earn their BSN in a fully online format. Registered nurses who currently have an associate degree in nursing can complete their BSN in as few as three semesters. The program has start dates in both January and August.

The program provides nursing students with the means to earn their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), while the online format gives students the flexibility



FAST FACTS

- Two program types:
 - LPM/Paramedic-to-RN track
 - Traditional RN track
- Expanded enrollment
- 2024 calendar year first-time pass rate 93.97%
- 100% job placement rate*
- U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports annual salary for registered nurses in Oklahoma above \$80k

**According to 2024 graduate reported salary data*



OKLAHOMA CITY
NURSE SCIENCE
School of Health Sciences

ABOUT US

The Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City nursing program prepares students to become confident and capable registered nurses (RN) ready to care for patients and families in a variety of settings.

OSU-OKC offers two pathways for program completion. Traditional students move through the full course sequence, while licensed practical nurses and paramedics can enter through the career ladder option, where students can receive 17 hours of advanced standing credit and finish the final courses through a combination of course formats.

FACILITIES

OSU-OKC boasts one of the largest and most sophisticated simulation facilities in the metro area. Students experience realistic hospital environments with simulation mannequins that can mimic human patients.

The goal is 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.

CURRICULUM

Students begin with general education and science courses that build a strong academic foundation before moving into nursing classes, labs and clinical experiences. The program equips future RNs with the academic preparation and real-world experience required to care for patients and families.

This culminates in an interprofessional simulation, nursing and paramedicine students work with resident physicians from the OSU Center for Health Sciences in simulated emergency situation scenarios. Volunteers act as patients with a range of conditions, giving students practical experience in teamwork, communication and prioritizing care.

With supportive faculty, strong outcomes and a focus on student success, OSU-OKC provides a clear path for those ready to start a meaningful career in nursing.

APPLICATION DETAILS

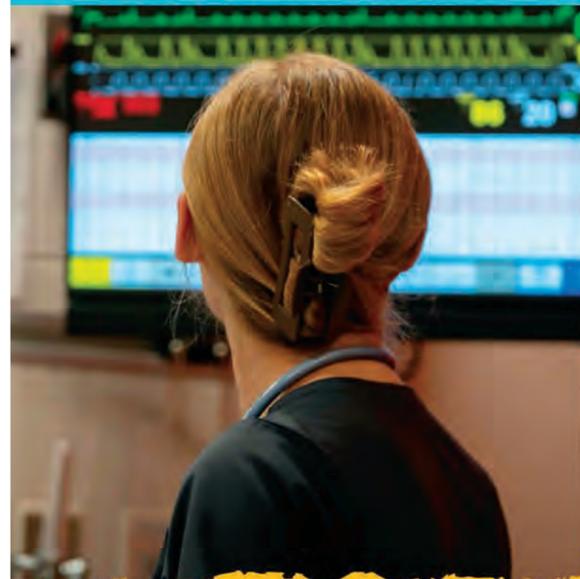
Fall Admission: Feb. 1 - April 1 for traditional and career ladder students

Spring Admission: July 1 - Sept. 1 for traditional and career ladder students

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

CONTACT DETAILS

osuokc.edu/nursing | 405.945.3210
okc.nursing@okstate.edu



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KNOWING WE GAVE IT
EVERYTHING WE HAD.**



OKLAHOMA CITY

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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- Must have a 2.5 GPA
- 5 Starting Points Per Year
- No Clinicals Required



ONLINE BSN TO MSN

- Must be a Registered Nurse or in the final semester of BSN program
- Must have a 3.0 GPA (SWOSU grads with 3.0 or above are guaranteed admission)
- 3 Starting Points Per Year
- No Clinicals Required



TRADITIONAL BSN

- Incoming freshmen or transfer students seeking a Bachelor of Science in Nursing must first qualify for admission to the University before enrolling in the pre-nursing curriculum.

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UCO Bachelor's, Master's Programs Equip Future Nursing Leaders

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 recognized among the best in the state and across the nation.

Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), UCO bachelor's and master's programs equip future nursing leaders with the expertise needed to excel in various healthcare settings. By offering both traditional and nontraditional pathways, Central supports aspiring nurses and experienced professionals alike to advance their careers and meet the growing demand for exceptional nursing care in Oklahoma.

Traditional Nursing Program, B.S.

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

When Abbie Yates transferred to Central, she could instantly feel that Central's nursing professors were invested in her education and success. "The professors at UCO take the opportunity to get to know their students and create connections. Nursing at UCO is a well-oiled program that is constantly improving based on the needs of their students," Yates said. Yates knows she will be prepared to enter the workforce. "UCO has one of the highest number of clinical hours compared to many nursing schools around Oklahoma, and I believe it better prepares us for entry into practice."

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.

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. The fast-track program can be completed in just 16 months and provides the flexibility of hybrid courses. Upon successful completion, students will have earned a B.S. in nursing.

After Kanece Ham started her career in neuroscience research, she realized she wanted to combine her love for neurology and the complexity of the brain with helping people in their lives. That is when she decided to pursue Central's fast-track program to become a psychiatric nurse. "When researching programs, I was excited to see that UCO had a fast-track program, which would allow me to get my degree in nursing within 16 months-providing me the ability to reenter the workforce and begin working in the meaningful way I always had aspired to do," Ham said.

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.

Micaela Carothers is a cardiac nurse who graduated from UCO's traditional nursing program. The compassion and dedication she received from UCO nursing faculty inspired her to continue her nursing education at Central. The M.S. in nursing provided her with the flexibility she needed to succeed. "With the program being online, the classes were very flexible around my workdays," Carothers said. "I feel that I am effectively able to meet the class expectations and continue working without feeling overwhelmed."

The Future of Nursing

All UCO nursing programs offer real-world instruction from supportive nursing faculty who are experts in their fields. 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 go.uco.edu/nursing.



NURSES READY FOR MOVEMENT

Oklahoma's workforce needs nurses who are ready to move. Whether you're stepping into nursing for the first time or advancing your practice, UCO offers programs that keep your momentum strong and your impact growing.



uco.edu
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Ranger Pride Northwestern grows healers



"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," Leslie Collins, DNP, MS, RN said.

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."



Northwestern
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

More information about each Northwestern program and their requirements may be found at www.nwsu.edu/school-of-professional-studies/nursing.



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Chair of Charles
Morton Share Trust
Division of Nursing
lncollins@nwsu.edu

BSN Program

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Contact:
Heidi Ritchie
Program Director
Charles Morton
Share Trust Division
of Nursing
hrritchie@nwsu.edu

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Contact:
Dr. Gwyn Holderby
Director of Doctor of
Nursing Practice
Program
glholderby@nwsu.edu

OC Offers Unique Nursing Program that Combining Faith, Firsthand Experience

Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond offers a unique nursing program that combines faith and firsthand experience preparing students with a well-rounded education.



“Our first graduating class was 2008, and now we have an enrollment that’s nearing just over 450,” Dr. Toni Davis, DNP, RN, Oklahoma Christian University Chair of Nursing, Assistant Professor of Nursing said. “We are unique in the fact that we are a small Christian school. We have a diverse population of students, and we have a diverse population of faculty. We have 10 students to one professor. That is pretty good.”

OC offers a Nursing (B.S.N., Pre-Licensure) program with both on-campus and online learning. **An OC graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree will:**

1. Exemplify Christian principles of compassion, service, integrity, and respect for the well-being of clients, peers, and self.
2. Synthesize critical thinking skills for professional nursing practice.
3. Communicate clearly, effectively, and appropriately with clients and other healthcare providers to promote positive client outcomes.
4. Provide appropriate and safe nursing care (clinically competent) to clients.
5. Demonstrate a leadership style consistent with academic preparation while adhering to the standards of the nursing profession.
6. Provide nursing care based on knowledge and appreciation of unique cultural variations.

Students must complete a minimum of 123 hours including the major, core, and minor if required. Additional elective hours may be required to reach a total of 123 hours.

Davis said OC offers a state-of-the-art simulation lab for nursing students.

“We have an amazing simulation lab,” she said. “We’re able to teach students about how to take care of patients with mannequins. That is unique for a small school like ours.”

Davis said OC nursing students can earn their degree online, if desired.

“We have an online program that’s one of a kind,” she said. “There’s not one like this anywhere where a student can get a four-year degree in nursing all online. We have three starting dates. You can start in the fall, you can start in the spring, and you can start in the summertime. The online program does allow for those who are working adults to have the flexibility to take classes online. They do have to come on campus to do some validation of skills and go to clinicals in the hospitals. Over 660 hours of clinical hours that’s required for Oklahoma Christian for these students to graduate and be ready for the workforce. That’s for both online and in-person.”

Davis said OC nursing students can learn through mission trips. “We offer international and domestic mission trips for all students to have that opportunity to do that, which is unique as well,” she said.

Davis said OC tackles specialties of nursing, namely critical care, pediatrics, and obstetrics.

“We cover most medical specialties,” she said. “Med-Surg nursing, critical care, pediatrics, mental health. There are schools that combine those classes. Not Oklahoma Christian. We have those classes one at a time.” Davis said OC does community health services.

“We serve the community. We do school screenings, we work at public health agencies across the state,” she said.

OC nursing students do clinical training. “They’re getting in and doing the job. When these students go to clinicals, they’re assigned a nurse every clinical shift, which can be between eight- and 12-hours shift,” Davis said. “It is not really a following or a shadowing. The clinical training is where they do the work as a nurse under the supervision of their clinical instructor and the preceptor, the nurse they’re assigned.”

Davis said before a student is accepted to the OC nursing school,

they must take four introductory classes.

“That’s when we introduce the simulation lab to them,” she said. “We’ve got four introductory courses that we give them teaching the early skills of taking care of patients. It is hands-on from the beginning. We teach them how to take care of patients before they enter the nursing program. That is unique.”

Gabriel Jeter, an OC senior, said the OC School of Nursing is the most supportive faculty on campus.

“I’ve never met a group of professors who have cared more about their students, their health and their overall well-being,” he said. “I will be a better nurse because of my experience here at OC!”

Davis said faith plays a key role in OC’s students’ lives.

“It’s no secret everywhere that nursing is tough,” she said. “What makes us unique, though, is that we instruct our students not really to bear it but just to seek Christ in all of your endeavors and all the things that you do with patients. That sets us aside from everyone else.”



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For more information about OC visit <https://www.oc.edu/academics/college-of-sciences-education/nursing>

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



CLOSE TO HOME,

MILES AHEAD IN CARE

Oklahoma Christian University’s Christ-centered School of Nursing produces graduates in high demand at top hospitals and health care organizations.

Personalized Attention – 10:1 student-faculty ratio.

Proven Results – 91% NCLEX pass rate (2023).

Real Experience – 660 hands-on clinical/simulation hours.

Global Impact – 100% student participation in medical missions.

Nationally Certified Educators.

Employer connections before graduation.

Your future in health care starts here.

oc.edu/nursing

WE ARE A KINGDOM UNIVERSITY.



From High Potential to Nursing Leader: How OU Health's Degree Accelerator Program Transformed One Nurse's Career



At OU Health -

the University of Oklahoma's academic health system - our mission is clear: care for the sickest of the sick as a top-tier academic referral center through integrated patient care, research and education. For nurses like Kathy Belcher, that mission isn't just a promise; it's a pathway to growth.

"I've always wanted to earn my BSN but hadn't found the right time," Kathy shared. "Since joining OU Health, I naturally stepped into leadership roles and discovered how much I enjoy mentoring and coaching others. That made me realize I wanted to keep growing as a leader."

When Kathy's manager, Clifford Daigler, recognized her potential, he encouraged her to explore OU Health's Degree Accelerator Program (DAP); a unique opportunity to earn a BSN in just 12 months with no tuition cost. The program is highly competitive, accepting a limited number of candidates to ensure participants receive robust support and resources.

"Once I learned the details, it was an easy decision," Kathy said. "I've seen incredible progress at OU Health, and I want to continue being part of this transformation."

Research shows that advanced nursing education improves patient care and leads to better health outcomes. It also drives clinical excellence and enhances career satisfaction. That's why OU Health and the University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing have partnered to create seamless academic progression pathways for OU Health nurses. Through the DAP, working R.N.s can advance their education and career with financial support from OU Health, because breakthroughs in care start with investing in our people.

For Kathy, OU Health's DAP didn't just



Kathy Belcher, OU Health Nurse. *photo provided*

provide a degree, it shaped her leadership style.

"I really enjoyed exploring different leadership approaches and learning about innovative nursing practices," she explained. "Nurses are naturally innovative, and hearing classmates share their experiences was inspiring."

Kathy's advice for anyone considering OU Health's DAP is to think about where you were a year ago and imagine how quickly that time passed.

"In that same amount of time, you could already have earned your degree," she said. "There's no better time than now, and no reason to turn down free education!"

At OU Health, we're never done, never outdone, and initiatives like DAP ensure breakthroughs reach every corner of Oklahoma. We are changing lives through discovery and healing, and we're building the next generation of nursing leaders to ensure that OU Health continues to be the beacon of hope and healing for Oklahoma and beyond.



Big-time nursing careers happen here. Earn bigger rewards at OU Health.

- Industry-leading pay
- Annual employee incentive plan
- Relocation packages available
- Nurse Referral Program - up to \$10,000 per referral
- Paid family leave
- 6% retirement match, 100% vesting after two years
- Up to \$25,000 student loan repayment
- Up to \$5,250 tuition assistance per year
- Degree Accelerator Program
- Career Advancement Program

Let's lead the way in healing Oklahoma together.

Visit [OUHealth.com/Careers](https://ouhealth.com/Careers) or email Talent@ouhealth.com for current openings.

HWTC Offering Nursing Scholarships for Fall 2026 Semester

Scholarship applications are being accepted in April for the Fall 2026 semester for the Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Training Commission (HWTC) Nursing Student Assistance Program.

Application deadline is July 15. Sponsored by the State of Oklahoma through HWTC, the Nursing Student Assistance Program provides assistance to Oklahoma nursing students pursuing LPN, ADN, BSN, or MSN and higher degrees and who are interested in practicing nursing in Oklahoma communities, with emphasis placed on rural communities for LPN through MSN practicing nurses. Nurse Practitioners (MSN/DNP) must establish a rural practice.

HWTC supports Oklahoma nurse training programs through this scholarship for MSN, DPN, and PhD participants. Obligations for these degrees can be fulfilled as a nurse educator at any Oklahoma nursing program. The mission of the HWTC is to increase access to health care workers in the rural and underserved areas of Oklahoma. The program has been in existence since 1982.

"It (program) has been deemed a success," Michelle Cecil, HWTC Nursing Program Director said. "I started in 1991 and when I started, we were getting a lot of applications, and we were giving out a lot of scholarships."

Cecil said program applicants must be:

- U.S. Citizen
- Legal resident of Oklahoma
- Unconditionally admitted as a student in an OKLAHOMA accredited program of nursing study. Certification of acceptance or of being a student in good academic standing must be submitted from the Director of Nursing Program ONLY.
- Please note that online nursing programs must be administered by an educational institution based in Oklahoma in order to qualify for HWTC assistance. Nursing Program eligibility is based on the location of the MAIN CAMPUS.
- Must have an overall GPA of 3.0 on the most recent transcript.
- Applicants must be willing to practice outside of the OKC/Tulsa metro areas. Some state facilities in the OKC/Tulsa MSA will be considered as eligible practice locations
- \$1,500 - \$5,000 per year for nursing scholarships

The programs provide assistance to Oklahoma nursing students pursuing LPN, ADN, BSN, MSN, DNP, and PhD degrees and who are interested in rural Oklahoma communities, State Teaching, Hospitals, and Nurse Training Programs across Oklahoma.



OKLAHOMA Health Care Workforce Training Commission

\$1,500 - \$5,000 PER YEAR!

NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

We're taking Scholarship Applications for Fall 2026 Semester starting in April.

Up to **\$60,000** for loan repayment for Nurse Practitioners.

Rural obligations required.

APPLY ONLINE HERE:
<https://oklahoma.gov/hwtc/nursing-programs.html>
 OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Upon completion of school and licensing, the nurse is obligated to practice nursing, at the degree level for which financial assistance was received, one year for each academic year of financial assistance. The minimum obligation is one year. The obligated work must be in direct patient care in a hospital setting (clinics and private practices do not qualify), or as a full-time nursing program educator. Obligations for LPN and RN level participants must be fulfilled in a rural Oklahoma community outside of the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metropolitan areas (some exceptions apply, see below). This is defined by HWTC as at least 25 miles away from OKC or Tulsa.

- Up to \$60,000 for loan repayment for Nurse Practitioners
- Rural obligations required

"We also do have the loan repayment program for Nurse Practitioners," Kami Fullingim, Executive Director said. "That just started a year ago. And so that is up to \$60,000 in loan repayment for student loans. And it requires a three-year service obligation if you get the full \$60,000." For those applicants who intend to establish a new rural practice as an APRN, their practice must be at least 35 miles away from OKC or 30 miles away from Tulsa in order to qualify.

Cecil said there is a critical need for nurses/nursing instructors to serve in rural areas in Oklahoma and across the nation. "We're needing faculty across our schools and (nurses in our) hospitals. A lot of the hospitals are getting sign-on bonuses and things like that in order to recruit. We're facing the same shortages (in Oklahoma) that everywhere else has," she said.

For more information about the scholarship program call HWTC at (405) 604-0020 or email Cecil at michelle.cecil@hwtc.ok.gov or Aleigha Old Crow Nursing Program Manager at aleigha.oldcrow@hwtc.ok.gov. To apply, visit www.oklahoma.gov/hwtc/nursing-programs.html.

SNU Nursing Degree Opens Doors to Serve Across the Country, Around World

SNU, founded in Bethany, OK in 1899, is a faith-based University. While at SNU, students receive instruction through the lens of a Christian worldview. "Purposefully Different" describes SNU well. That motto is reflected in this year's School of Nursing (SON) theme of "Difference Makers". Over the years, SNU has been forward-thinking and intentional in exploring new programs and degrees, while maintaining a strong liberal arts foundation. Following that path, a pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree was launched in 1982.

The program incorporates planned interactions among Nursing faculty and students early and often. These times of connectivity allow students to get to know the Nursing faculty (who are also their advisors) from their first days at SNU. As they build relationships with students, faculty can identify and offer interventions to those who may benefit from additional encouragement and support. These factors contribute to increased student satisfaction, retention, and success.

A significant contribution to the formation of SNU Nursing students' care for others begins the first week of their freshman year. Because students begin building cohesion with members of their cohort as soon as they enter SNU, the opportunity for peer support is established early. It is exciting to watch student interactions transform from first-day uncertainties into a supportive community, often within the first semester. Students begin, during their first classes, to share concerns, as well as problem-solving skills, and to encourage each other.

The unique distribution of pre-nursing and BSN courses throughout the 4 years provides a flexibility that enables students to pursue extracurricular activities, such as athletics, music, and internships while progressing through the program as full-time students. Some students involve themselves in service to others, such as participating in Students in Missions during breaks. These programs may take students to areas inside or outside of the United States. The result is graduates who are well rounded personally and professionally.

SNU's BSN students benefit from well-supplied and supervised skills labs and an expanding simulation (SIM) lab. In addition to low and mid-fidelity simulation, the SON has multiple high-fidelity human patient simulators (HPS): adult, pediatric, and obstetric. HPS provide students with opportunities to see, hear, and interact with realistic situations leading to high-level critical decision-making experiences. Students then implement interventions determined to address identified problems within a safe environment.

Students learn the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration during their first semester, helping them build a life-long understanding of and appreciation for other healthcare professionals. An added advantage of having a SIM lab with HPS is the provision of a venue for interdisciplinary collaboration with other healthcare programs; contributing to an early understanding of continuity of care.

BSN students, trained by highly qualified faculty, graduate from SNU with a deep desire to truly see and serve others, providing excellent holistic care. Approximately 95% of graduates from the



Nursing program have jobs or job offers prior to graduation. Their professional Nursing degree opens doors for them to serve across the country and around the world.

For more information scan the QR CODE or visit www.snu.edu/major/school-of-nursing



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The Uniform Shoppe:

Family Service, Family Pride for More Than 60 Years

The Uniform Shoppe in Tulsa has been a family operated business since 1962. They are truly pioneers in the industry, having been one of the first boutique type stores to sell uniforms in the country.

The early years consisted of Albert Weise toting his wife and young daughters around the entire state calling on hospitals, clinics and vocational schools that had a need for uniforms. Having left his native Oklahoma for Chicago when his family was young, Weise's brother-in-law made a trip to see him in hopes of persuading him to go into business together. The rest, as they say, is history. Jody Weise fondly remembers riding in the back of her father's station wagon with her younger sisters. They laid a foam mattress in the back in case a nap was needed during their long days driving around finding customers.

She and her middle sister would often accompany her father to work and had fun filling catalog orders in the backroom. The first shop was opened in Tulsa and eventually expanded to have a second location in Oklahoma City. At one point there were nine locations, however, Jody shared that it made more sense operationally to have two big super stores in each city. When her father and uncle's business began to grow, they created an association of other uniform industry businesses called the Professional Apparel Association. It would later be changed to the Uniform Retailer's Association. The URA is active today as a non profit trade association supporting and educating independent uniform retailer's growth and profitability.

Jody attended college at Oklahoma University in Norman and moved to Houston afterwards.

She was hired as the manager of a department store and was able to forgo the typical training required as she was way ahead of the game having grown up helping in her parents' shop. While there, one of the Tulsa stores suffered a devastating fire and Jody was asked to come home and help them rebuild. She has been there ever since. She and her mother are the current President and Vice President. Her father actively worked until he was eighty-eight and sadly, passed away one year later after a fall. Jody credits his values and ability to build and maintain customer relationships with the family's long success. She did not intend to make a career out of working in the uniform business, but has now been there for more than forty years. The Weise family remains invested in customer service and meeting the needs of every person who comes into the shop.

When asked why someone would want to shop at her store, Jody stated that they stay up to date on the latest trends in materials, comfort, sustainability and affordability. The Uniform Shoppe provides personal service by knowing their products well and helping people decide what is best for their needs. They offer sizes ranging from XS all the way up to 6X and will customize if needed beyond that. They are constantly researching and listening to what their customers say and want. Their customer base is local, national and international. They also share feedback with the URA and listen to what other members of the association have learned. Additionally, their employees are like family with several over the years having worked for them for more than twenty-five years.



The industry continues to grow. Jody is happy to see new brick and mortar retailers open up.

While The Uniform Shoppe has occupied the same location in Tulsa for decades, they found themselves in need of more warehouse space. At the end of January they will be moving a mile and a half north of the current location to an industrial park. They will still have a retail showroom up front and welcome customers in to continue meeting their needs. Shopping can always be done globally or locally on their website. Visit us at www.theuniformshoppe.com.



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Empowering Futures: Adult Health Programs at Francis Tuttle Technology Center

In the heart of Oklahoma, where the need for a qualified healthcare workforce has never been greater, Francis Tuttle Technology Center stands as a beacon for aspiring healthcare workers seeking to make a meaningful difference. Among its standout offerings are the adult health programs-flexible, affordable pathways designed to launch or advance careers in one of the nation's most vital industries. Francis Tuttle's Flex Health, Practical Nursing (LPN), Respiratory Care, and Surgical Technology programs provide a clear path forward.

Francis Tuttle's Flex Health provides a self-paced alternative to traditional training. These offerings are available in a hybrid format, allowing students to complete their training with a schedule that works best for them. Students can choose from multiple tracks, all culminating with an opportunity to attain industry certifications and join the healthcare industry more quickly.

The Practical Nursing (LPN) program prepares students to provide compassionate, skilled care in hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities. Through clinical experience and expert instruction, students learn to make a real impact on patients' lives - and graduate ready to take the NCLEX exam and begin working in a high-demand profession.

For those drawn to life-saving respiratory work, the Respiratory Care program trains students to help patients breathe easier - from premature infants to adults recovering from illness or injury. With access to advanced simulation labs and clinical rotations, students gain real-world experience and confidence in their skills before entering the workforce.

In the Surgical Technology program, students learn to prepare operating rooms, assist surgeons, and ensure patient safety in one of the most dynamic and critical areas of health care. It's a fast-paced, high-reward career where teamwork and precision make all the difference.

At Francis Tuttle, adult learners find more than just career training - they find purpose. Graduates leave ready to serve their communities with confidence, compassion, and skill. If you're ready to take the next step toward a career that changes lives - including your own - Francis Tuttle Technology Center is ready to help you begin.



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