College of Nursing

Administrative Officers
Dean - Sharon Wilkerson, Ph.D., RN, CNE
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs - Debra Matthews, Ph.D., RN
Associate Dean for Student Affairs - Kathryn Cochran, M.S.N., RN
Associate Dean for Finance and Administration - Shirley Ellison, M.B.A.
Assistant Dean for Academic Studies - Cathy Hansen, M.S.N., RN, CNE

General Statement
Registered nurses have been called the backbone of our health care system. Working on the front lines of health care, they treat patients, monitor and record their condition, help establish a plan of care, educate patients or the public about a health condition, and provide advice and emotional support to patients’ family members. Registered nurses are highly observant and detail-oriented and are often the first to catch important and changing signs and symptoms. They are increasingly being recognized as leaders in transforming the health care system to meet the burgeoning demand for prevention, wellness and primary care services with a focus on improving quality and managing costs. In addition to their clinical expertise, nurses are being sought out to serve in a variety of leadership posts on bodies developing policy recommendations related to a wide-range of health care policy issues.

Individuals who earn a nursing degree must first complete a national licensing examination in order to obtain a nursing license. Further training or education can qualify nurses to work in specialty areas, such as emergency care, pediatrics, labor and delivery, psychiatry, oncology, surgery or public health. Graduate education can increase advancement opportunities for nurses including administrative positions, academic faculty positions, and as nurse practitioners.

The College of Nursing is committed to addressing the critical nursing shortage across Texas through exceptional educational programs in nursing. Our students are provided with cutting-edge classroom technologies and simulated experiences, which include standardized patients and virtual clinical learning activities. As leaders, our graduates are taught to question traditional methods and continually seek the best practices based on relevant clinical research. Through community service and leadership opportunities, the College of Nursing fosters a sense of social responsibility and global citizenship.

History
After receiving approval in 2008 from the Texas Board of Nursing, the College of Nursing located in Bryan-College Station, Texas, was created. Initially, 44 students were admitted expected to assist upon graduation with the severe nursing shortage across Texas. With a nursing workforce shortage and a large population that is aging and ready to retire, it is vital to the state of Texas to help increase the number of baccalaureate-prepared registered nurses. The college is committed to addressing this need. The faculty and staff believe that highly skilled nurses, working in collaboration with other health professionals, through research and service can enable individuals, families and groups to achieve a maximum state of well-being.

College of Nursing Programs
Program: Baccalaureate degree in nursing
Length: 12 to 22 months
General Admissions Requirements: Prerequisite coursework varies by program
Application Deadline: Varies depending on program of study
Start Term: Varies depending on program of study
Specialization, Program of Study: BSN Traditional Track, BSN Second Degree Track, RN to BSN Track, Select BSN Track
Degree: BSN.

Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing
The College of Nursing offers four tracks that lead to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Upon obtaining the BSN degree, the graduate will apply to take the registered nurse (RN) licensure examination. Students are admitted into the program one time a year based on track.

Accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education is an autonomous accrediting agency, contributing to the improvement of the public’s health. A specialized/professional accrediting agency, CCNE ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs and of post-baccalaureate nurse residency programs. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education gave a full ten year accreditation to the College of Nursing in 2014 for the B.S.N. program and recently competed a review for the new M.S.N-ED program. The full report on that review will be available in November, 2015. For more information on accreditation, go to www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation (http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation).

Good Academic Standing
Good academic standing is defined as having a minimum grade point average of a 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale), maintaining a minimum grade of C in all courses, and not being on probation for any reason. Students must be in good academic standing in order to progress in the program. If a student receives a grade of D or F in any course in any given semester, the student will automatically be placed on probation and notified in writing of probation status. The student will remain on probation until the course is repeated with a C or better. The course can only be taken through the College of Nursing. Students are allowed to repeat only one course during their enrollment in the program.

Students must complete the program in three consecutive years. If a student repeats a course, which he/she has failed in the College of Nursing, the official grade is the last one earned. That official grade will be used in computing the grade point average and the failing grade will remain on the record.

Academic Dismissal
Students will not be permitted to continue in the nursing program or apply for readmission if they:
1. receive a grade of D or F in more than one course,
2. receive any combination of grades of D or F on two attempts of the same course, or
3. receive notice of dismissal from the program by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Associate Dean for Student Affairs for failure to adhere to College of Nursing policy.

Nursing Professional Code of Ethics

Students in nursing and other health professions curricula are held to standards of conduct that both differ from and exceed those usually expected of university students. Each student enrolled in the College of Nursing is expected to uphold the professional code of ethics established for and by the nursing profession. The nurse recognizes that his/her first obligation is to the patient’s welfare.

Any situation that threatens patient safety, exhibits a lack of moral character, demonstrates a lack of professionalism or good judgment, and/or proves harmful to the hospital or college environment is a violation of College/Hospital policy and may result in immediate termination from the program.

Compliance Requirements for Clinical Courses

Students must provide documentation confirming completion of compliance requirements prior to participating in clinical nursing courses. Information on requirements is provided upon admission and during New Student Orientation.

Location

The College of Nursing educates students at three campus locations: Bryan/College Station, Round Rock, and McAllen, Texas. The Bryan/College Station campus opened in 2010 and serves as the headquarters of the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Nursing. The 200-acre campus is located along State Highway 47 approximately three miles west of the main campus of Texas A&M University. In 2009, the College of Nursing opened a new facility in Round Rock providing a state-of-the-art 134,000-square-foot structure with classrooms, a simulation center, library, study lounge, student services and faculty offices. The McAllen campus was established in 2000 and provides comprehensive, accessible health education programs and services to residents of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Since 2014, the College of Nursing has provided prospective and current student support. The McAllen campus is housed in a 23,000-square-foot facility with space for laboratories, offices, classrooms and conference areas available to deliver a wide range of health training, clinical research, medical education, community interventions and public health programs with local partners.

Bryan/College Station Campus
8447 State Highway 47
Bryan, TX 77807-3260
(979) 436-0110
nursing.tamhsc.edu (http://nursing.tamhsc.edu)

Round Rock Campus
3950 North A. W. Grimes Blvd.
Round Rock, TX 78665
(512) 341-4200

McAllen Campus
2101 South McCall Road
McAllen, TX 78503 (956) 668-6328

Faculty

Gruben, Darla, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MS, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, 1999

Hinze, Maxine, Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PhD, University of Texas at Austin, 1988

Holland, Brian, Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, The University of Texas at Arlington, 2014

Jones-Schubart, Kara, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, George Washington University, 2015

Landry, Karen, Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, Texas Women’s University, 2008

Moreland, Jack, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, Capella University, 2011

Page, Robin, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, University of Texas at Austin, 2006

Ridley, Johnna, Clinical Associate Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, Saint Louis University, 2008

Utterback, Virginia, Associate Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, Texas Tech University, 2010

Majors

College of Nursing

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Traditional BSN
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Second Degree BSN Track
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Select BSN Track
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, RN to BSN Track

Masters

College of Nursing

- Master of Science in Nursing in Family Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Science in Nursing in Nursing Education