COLLEGE OF NURSING

Overview

Administrative Officers

Dean - Nancy Fahrenwald, Ph.D., R.N., PHNA-BC, FAAN
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs - Debra Matthews, Ph.D., R.N.
Associate Dean for Student Affairs - Kathryn McCallum, M.S.N., R.N.
Associate Dean for Finance and Administration - Shirley Davidson, M.B.A.
Associate Dean for Research - Jane Bolin, Ph.D., J.D., R.N.
Associate Dean for Clinical and Outreach Affairs - Cindy Weston, D.N.P., R.N., CSN-CC, FNP-BC

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 for practice. Further training or education can qualify nurses to work in specialty areas, such as emergency care, pediatrics, labor and delivery, mental health, oncology, surgery or public health. Graduate education can increase advancement opportunities for nurses including administrative positions in health care, academic faculty positions, and health care delivery as advanced practice nurses.

The College of Nursing is committed to addressing the critical nursing shortage across Texas through exceptional educational programs and advanced technologies in nursing. Our students are educated 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

Texas A&M College of Nursing received approval from the Texas Board of Nursing on July 17, 2008, and admitted its first class on July 21, 2008. The college has grown to approximately 450 nursing students enrolled at two campuses: Bryan and Round Rock as well as having many students enrolled in distance education programs. The college also has a resident recruiting presence in Lufkin and McAllen serving residents in East and South Texas for both undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

Texas A&M College of Nursing graduates are among the best-prepared baccalaureate and masters nurses in the nation, and they are highly sought after by prospective employers. The first-time National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses® (NCLEX-RN) pass rates for BSN graduates have ranked 10 percentage points higher than both the Texas and national average for the past ten years. The percent of BSN graduates employed within the first month following graduation is consistently high compared to state and national averages.

The college received the National League of Nursing’s prestigious designation as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for the years 2016-2020 which recognizes schools of nursing that have achieved a level of distinction by outstanding innovations, commitment, and sustainability of excellence.

College of Nursing Programs

Program: Baccalaureate degree in nursing
Length: 12 to 23 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
Degree: BSN.

Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing

The College of Nursing offers three tracks that lead to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Upon obtaining the BSN degree, the prelicensure graduates will apply to take the registered nurse (RN) licensure examination. In order to be licensed as a Registered Nurse in the State of Texas, the Texas Board of Nursing requires all applicants to have their eligibility for licensure determined before entering a nursing degree program. All new students must undergo fingerprinting to determine if there is prior criminal history. Depending on the severity of the offense(s), individuals may be ineligible for issuance of a license. Please refer to the Notification for Students Pursuing an Occupational License (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/appendices/occupational-licensing) in our catalog for additional information.

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 baccalaureate and master's degree programs in nursing at Texas A&M University College of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (http://www.ccneaccreditation.org), 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

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 non-probationary status. Students must be in good academic standing in order to progress in the program. Grades of D, F, or U are not acceptable in nursing courses. Students who receive a grade of D, F or U in any course in any given semester will be automatically 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 Texas A&M College of Nursing. A second attempt in a course cannot be "Q" dropped. The grade earned on the second attempt will stand. Students who earn a grade of D or F upon repetition of a nursing course or have two nursing course failures are ineligible to continue enrollment in the College.

Students must complete the program to which they enrolled in three (3) consecutive years or six (6) long semesters. Exceptions for extenuating circumstances (i.e. serious illness, pregnancy, etc.) will be considered. In addition to obtaining grades of C or above in all nursing courses, students must demonstrate their ability to deliver safe care to patients at all times. Failure to provide safe patient care may result in immediate withdrawal from the course and, potentially, dismissal from the College of Nursing.

**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.

**Locations**

The Bryan/College Station campus 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. The College of Nursing campus in Round Rock, Texas, provides a state-of-the-art 134,000-square-foot structure with classrooms, a simulation center, library, study lounge, student services and faculty offices. Additionally, the College of Nursing has two advising locations: Lufkin and McAllen, Texas.

**Majors**

**College of Nursing**

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, RN to BSN Track [link](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/nursing/rn-bsn)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Second Degree BSN Track [link](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/nursing/second-degree-bsn)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Traditional BSN [link](http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/nursing/bsn)

**Masters**

**College of Nursing**

- Master of Science in Nursing in Family Nurse Practitioner [link](http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/nursing/msn-family-practitioner)
- Master of Science in Nursing in Forensic Nursing [link](http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/nursing/msn-forensic-nursing)
- Master of Science in Nursing in Nursing Education [link](http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/nursing/msn)

**Faculty**

Authement, Renae S, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, Loyola University, 2015

Bolin, Jane, Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, Pennsylvania State University, 2002
JD, University of Oregon School of Law, 1982

Bonner, Rickie, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, Regis University, 2012

Bosenbark, Margaret J, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Nursing, 2016
Bruce, Richard C, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MS, University of Phoenix, 2012

Burns, Rebecca J, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, Loyola University New Orleans, 2015

Charles, Laurie A, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
CERT, Office of the Attorney General of Texas, 2016

Contreras, Nicola E, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, Grand Canyon University, 2015

Decker, Willa A, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MA, University of Houston - Clear Lake, 1989

Dickson, Alison, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, Texas A&M University, 2018

Dormire, Sharon L, Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, University of Florida, 1992

Downing, Nancy, Associate Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, The University of Iowa, 2010

Ehlert, Patricia L, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MS, University of Phoenix, 2004

Etherton, Teresa, Lecturer
College of Nursing
BSN, Grand Canyon University, 2014

Fabry, Lee Ann, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, Lubbock Christian University, 2008

Fahrenwald, Nancy Lynn, Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 2002

Felske, Carrie, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, University of Texas-Austin, 2013

Gary, Jodie C, Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, University of Texas at Tyler, 2012

Gruben, Darla A, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, The University of Texas Health Science Center, 1999

Hardy, Jaime, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
CERT, Angelo State University, 2018

Hare, Martha L, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, 2010

Hazel, Michael, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, 2010

Hepfer, Katie L, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, The University of Iowa, 2016

Hoffman, Matt F, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, The University of Iowa, 2016

Hutton, Michael W, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 1990

Johnson, Carrie A, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2009

Jones-Schubart, Kara, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, George Washington University, 2011

Jordan, Bethany, Lecturer
College of Nursing
BSN, Texas Women's University, 2010

Keel, Martha, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, University of Phoenix, 2017

Landman, Whitney E, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, Western Governor's University, 2016

Marklund, Leroy, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, University of Alabama, 2015

Matthews, Debra, Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, Washington University, 2014

Mauldin, Betsy L, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, Angelo State University, 2018

McKee, Susan J, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, University of Texas at Tyler, 2012

Mitchell, Stacey A, Clinical Associate Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, 2006

Moffitt, Cassandra, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, University of Texas-Tyler, 2017
Montalvo-Liendo, Nora, Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2009

Muellerhinze, Maxine L, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, The University of Texas - Austin, 1988

Mufich, Martin W, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, The University of Texas at Austin, 2015

Mulcahy, Angela M, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, University of Texas -Tyler, 2018

Narvaez, Lynda Marie, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, United States University, 2014

Neal, Colleen R, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, The University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, 2011

OBriant, Deborah L, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, 2007

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

Parrott, Thena E, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1993

Perez, Cayla, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2017

Pittman, Alison F, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, University of Texas at Tyler, 2017

Pullium, Cheryl L, Clinical Assistant Professor
College Of Nursing
DNP, The University of Alabama, 2018

Roberts, Cynthia G, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, University of Texas -Tyler, 2014

Roblyer, Kathleen A, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2015

Rosen, Chelsey L, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, University of Texas at Tyler, 2018

Seaback, Wanda F, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, Texas Women’s University, 2005

Sheridan, Daniel J, Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, Oregon Health Sciences University, 1998

Turnbow, Sonia L, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, The University of Texas at El Paso, 1995

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

Van, Suzanne M, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, University of Texas at El Paso, 2014

Vargas, Sylvia, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, 2013

Vela, Carmen G, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, American Sentinel University, 2018

Watkins, Katherine, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MNU, The University of Texas-Austin, 2004

Wells-Beede, Elizabeth R, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, 2014

White-Corey, Shelley J, Clinical Assistant Professor
College Of Nursing
MNU, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2011

Ybarra, Debora, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
MSN, University of Texas Health Science Center- Houston, 2013