COLLEGE OF NURSING

Administrative Officers

Dean - Nancy Fahrenwald, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC, FAAN

Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Nursing Education - Sharon Dormire, PhD, RN

Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Assistant Dean for Graduate Nursing Education - Matthew Sorenson, PhD, APRN, ANP-C, FAAN

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs - Todd Stricherz, MS

Associate Dean for Finance and Administration - Shirley Davidson, MBA

Associate Dean for Research - Jane Bolin, PhD, JD, RN

Associate Dean for Clinical and Outreach Affairs - Cindy Weston, DNP, RN, CSN-CC, FNP-BC

Assistant Dean for Distant Site Round Rock - Virginia Ann Utterback, PhD, RN, CNE

General Statement

The four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree provides the educational and experiential base for entry-level professional nursing practice and provides the platform on which to build a career through graduate-level study for roles such as advanced practice registered nurse (nurse practitioner, nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist), as well as a career in nursing administration, research, and nursing education.

Much of the emphasis in healthcare today is shifting toward preventive care and the promotion of health. As the healthcare industry turns away from the hospital as the center of the operation, nurses are being asked to take on broader and more diverse roles working in clinics, outpatient facilities, community centers, schools, and even places of business. The education of today’s nurses, therefore, transcends the traditional areas, such as chemistry and anatomy, to enable a deeper understanding of health promotion, disease prevention, screening, genetic counseling, and immunization. BSN education provides nurses with an understanding of how health problems may have a social cause, often referred to as the social determinants of health, such as poverty and environmental contamination, as well as provide insight into human psychology, behavior, cultural mores, and values.

The transformation of today’s healthcare system offers unlimited opportunities for nurses as care in urban and rural settings becomes more accessible. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of RNs will grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2026, due largely to growing demand in settings such as hospitals, community health centers, home care, and long-term care. The increased complexity of health problems and increased management of health problems out of the hospitals require highly educated and well-prepared nurses at the baccalaureate and graduate levels. It is an exciting era in nursing, one that holds exceptional promise for nurses with a baccalaureate nursing degree.

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 initially in 2016. The distinction recognizes schools of nursing that have achieved outstanding innovations, commitment, and sustainability.

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 (CON) offers three tracks that lead to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. The Traditional BSN and the accelerated Second-Degree BSN options are two-year upper-division nursing degree programs. Prior to entry to the CON, students in these options must complete prerequisite courses in the humanities and biological, physical, and behavioral sciences to provide a foundation for the nursing major. Both of these pre-licensure options prepare graduates to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) in order to be licensed for practice as a registered nurse. The third option is the RN to BSN (RN-BSN) track for nurses with an associate’s degree in nursing seeking to complete the bachelor’s degree. Students in the College of Nursing are governed by the regulations and policies that apply to all students at TAMU. In addition, students are governed by the requirements of the College of Nursing, professional standards, and standards of the assigned clinical agencies. These include but are not limited to health requirements, immunizations, background checks, and drug screens. The requirements are presented in detail in the College of Nursing Undergraduate Student Handbook.

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 Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs or the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs for failure to adhere to the 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 the 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 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.

Bryan/College Station Campus
8447 State Highway 47
Bryan, TX 77807-3260
(979) 436-0110

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

McAllen Advising Location
2101 South McColl Road
McAllen, TX 78503
(956) 668-6328

Lufkin Advising Location
Angelina College, Health Careers Building
3500 South 1st Street, Room #H110
Lufkin, TX 75904
936-633-3293

Faculty

Akinlotan, Marvellous, Research Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2019

Barnes, Karen, Lecturer
College of Nursing
MSN, Western Governors University, 2018

Becker, Kristin, Lecturer
College of Nursing
MSN, University of Texas Health Science Center at El Paso, 2019

Bolin, Jane, Regents Professor
College of Nursing
PHD, Pennsylvania State University, 2002

Bonner, Rickie, Clinical Assistant Professor
College of Nursing
DNP, Regis University, 2012
Bosenbark, Margaret J, Clinical Assistant Professor  
College of Nursing  
PHD, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 2020

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  
MS, Western Governor’s University, 2015

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

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

Drake, Stacy, Associate Professor  
College of Nursing  
PHD, Texas Woman’s University, 2014

Droste, Lesa, Clinical Assistant Professor  
College of Nursing  
MSN, The University of Texas, 2009

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

Ekroos, Rachell, Lecturer  
College of Nursing  
PHD, University of Washington, 2016

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

Fuller, Lisa, Lecturer  
College of Nursing  
MSN, University of Texas Medical Branch, 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

Hare, Martha L, 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

Lang, Bambi, Lecturer  
College of Nursing  
MSN, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 1996

Lehde, Britni, Lecturer  
College of Nursing  
MSN, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, 2015

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

Matthews, Debra, Clinical Assistant Professor  
College of Nursing  
PHD, Washington State 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 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, Associate Professor  
College of Nursing  
PHD, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2009

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

Mulcahy, Angela M, Clinical Associate Professor  
College of Nursing  
PHD, University of Texas at Tyler, 2018

OBriant, Deborah L, Clinical Assistant Professor  
College of Nursing  
DNP, Vanderbilt University, 2020

Page, Robin L, Assistant Professor  
College of Nursing  
PHD, The University of Texas, 2006
Perez, Cayla, Clinical Assistant Professor  
College of Nursing  
MSN, Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi, 2017

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

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

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

Sorenson, Matthew, Professor  
College of Nursing  
PHD, Loyola University, 2002

Stucki, Kenzie, Lecturer  
College of Nursing  
MSN, Western Governors University, 2018

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 at Corpus Christi, 2013

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

Wagner, Lisa, Lecturer  
College of Nursing  
MPH, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 2018

Wells-Beede, Elizabeth R, Clinical Assistant Professor  
College of Nursing  
PHD, Capella University, 2018

Weston, Cynthia G, Associate Professor  
College of Nursing  
DNP, University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, 2014

White-Corey, Shelley J, Clinical Assistant Professor  
College of Nursing  
DNP, Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi, 2020

Majors

College of Nursing

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

Masters

College of Nursing

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