Nursing

Nursing is a caring profession that exists to meet society’s healthcare needs by assisting individuals, families, groups, and communities to identify and achieve their health goals throughout the life cycle. Nursing is a profession that is considered both an art and a science. The science of nursing is based on theories of nursing and principles of behavioral and natural sciences. The characteristics of caring, communicating, commitment, advocacy and competence exemplify the art of nursing. Therefore, nursing education involves a strong foundation in the sciences, nursing, and general education courses.

Employment Opportunities

Nursing is practiced in many settings, providing a wide variety of opportunities. The most traditional role for nurses is caring for the sick or injured in hospitals, clinics, doctors’ offices, homes, schools, factories and long-term care facilities. However, nurses can be found working collaboratively with others in all phases of business, using the latest technologies available. Nurse researchers work in all of these settings to discover new and better ways for providing nursing care. Nurse educators teach in colleges or universities. Career prospects include the following employers:

- Acute-care hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Chronic-care and rehabilitation facilities
- Armed forces
- City and county health departments
- Community health clinics
- Correctional facilities
- Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)
- Home healthcare agencies
- Industrial plants
- Private physicians’ offices and clinics
- School districts/college clinics
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Medical or healthcare equipment companies
- Travel-Nurse agencies
- Self-employed entrepreneurs
- Research laboratories
- Mall or sports facilities

Graduates of the nursing program at Youngstown State University are eligible to take the NCLEX–RN licensure exam to become a Registered Nurse (RN). The national mean annual salary for full-time RNs is $65,130 and Ohio’s mean annual salary is $58,750. (U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008). New RNs may start at a lower rate than the mean.

Degree Options

YSU’s Department of Nursing offers several nursing programs. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program is a 4-year program preparing nurses for employment at the beginning professional level and for future graduate study. An RN-BSN completion program is for RNs who are graduates of a diploma or associate degree program to complete the requirements for a BSN. The school nurse licensure program is for RNs pursuing employment in the school setting. There are three specialty options for baccalaureate-educated RNs seeking a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) for advanced practice status. One option prepares nurses as clinical nurse specialists in chronic illness care, the second option prepares nurses to become nurse anesthetists, and the third option is for advanced-practice school nurses.

Undergrad students enter YSU as pre-nursing majors, complete a specific core of prerequisite courses, and then make application to the Department of Nursing for the nursing major. For the basic 4-year track, the pre-nursing core involves two semesters with the student being admitted into the major during the fall semester of the sophomore year. RNs may be admitted into the RN-BSN completion program any semester depending on their previous academic record.

Facilities

Cushwa Hall is home to the nursing programs and houses classrooms, conference rooms, a Learning Resource Center, a Nursing Skills Laboratory and a computer laboratory for student use. Maag Library and its research databases and other electronic

For more information about this program, go to www.ysu.edu, click on Colleges, then Bitonte College of Health and Human Services
references are accessible by computer from the lab or your home. A wide array of health care facilities and community agencies in Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, and other neighboring counties provide excellent opportunities for student clinical experiences. Additionally, the campus provides facilities for numerous extracurricular activities for fun and service. Several restaurants are on campus and its borders. Although many students commute, on-campus housing is available. Each student has many options to meet his/her needs both academically and socially.

Organizations
Nursing students have the opportunity to add to their professional development by becoming a member of the Youngstown State's chapter of the National Student Nurse Association (NSNA) and the Xi Xi Chapter of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International.

Faculty
YSU is dedicated to outstanding teaching and fostering student-faculty relationships that enrich the learning environment.

The nursing faculty are well qualified in nursing and nurse education. All faculty members are involved in curriculum decisions, theory and clinical instruction, and student advisement. Faculty maintain office hours three days per week, ensuring availability for students.

Accreditation
The Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Nursing programs are accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30326, phone: 404-975-5000.

Youngstown State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association.

Curriculum Overview
For the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree for non-RN students:

First Year (pre-nursing)
- Anatomy & Physiology 1, 2
- Chemistry 1, 2
- Life Span Development
- Mathematical Literacy & Critical Reasoning
- Writing 1, 2
- Sociology
- Psychology

Second Year
- Microbiology
- Contemporary Nursing
- Pathophysiology
- Health Assessment
- Normal Nutrition

For the Bachelor of Science in Nursing for RN students:

Required courses
- Health Assessment
- Pathophysiology
- Pharmacology 1, 2
- Contemporary Nursing for RNs
- Nursing Research
- Community Health Nursing for RNs
- Nursing Transitions for Registered Nurses
- Senior Capstone Seminar
- Nursing Electives (6 s.h.)

For the School Nurse Licensure Program:

Required courses
- School Nurse Role Development
- Assessment & Management of Health Problems of School Age Children
- Health Education Grades, PreK-3 or Health Education Grades, 4-6 or Health Education Grades, 7-12
- Education and Society
- Group Processes in the School
- Education of Exceptional Children or Intervention Concepts & Strategies in Early Childhood
- Special Education
- School Nurse Practicum

Information sheets regarding the basic BSN, and RN-BSN Completion Program are available in the Department of Nursing, Room 2042 in Cushwa Hall and on the Department of Nursing Web site.

For information on any program or degree option, please contact the Department of Nursing at 330-941-3293.