Education

The University of Florida College of Nursing is driven to transform health through innovative practice, preeminent research and exceptional academic programs. In 2021, the college was designated a Center of Excellence by the National League for Nursing in recognition of its role as a national leader in nursing education and teaching. By receiving the 2022 National League for Nursing’s Certification Star Award, the college was recognized for its efforts to create a transformational academic environment. The Certified Nurse Educator credential is considered a mark of distinction for nursing faculty, communicating to students, peers and the academic and health care communities that the highest standards of excellence are being met through continuous quality improvement.

Highly ranked education programs are designed to address the national shortage of nurses, including the Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing, or BSN, program, the Accelerated BSN program for college graduates from other fields and the online RN-to-BSN program for registered nurses to obtain a BSN degree from the university. The college’s newly transformed curriculum aligns to current national recommendations and prepares graduates to practice nursing with knowledge-based clinical excellence.

The college’s Doctor of Nursing Practice, or DNP, program prepares advanced practice nurses in five clinical specialties. UF offered one of the state’s first BSN-to-DNP programs, allowing direct entry into the DNP program for baccalaureate graduates. The Nurse Educator Certificate is offered to MSN-to-DNP students to provide a solid academic and practical foundation for a career as an academic or clinical nurse educator in a variety of settings. The college’s PhD program is the oldest and one of the most-respected nursing doctoral programs in the state and provides access to expert nursing scientists and leading-edge technological resources.

As part of UF Health, the University of Florida’s academic health center, the College of Nursing collaborates with other health colleges, the UF Health family of hospitals and clinical affiliates across the state. The College of Nursing has a strong collaborative relationship with the UF Health nursing divisions to support the college’s tripartite missions of education, research and patient care. Joint strategic goals and activities are established by the college and UF Health Nursing to ensure nurses are best prepared to meet today’s health care needs.

New joint faculty appointments have been forged between the college and the UF Health teaching hospitals, and the college has an innovative model of clinical education where a cohort of BSN students is assigned to Academic Partnership Units at UF Health Shands and UF Health Jacksonville. In recognition of this exceptional academic nursing partnership, the UF College of Nursing and UF Health Nursing were selected to receive the 2022 New Era for Academic Nursing Award by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, illustrating an innovative and sustained collaboration across practice, research and education.
The College of Nursing research portfolio is diverse and includes projects focused on three areas of excellence: health equity and palliative care; symptom science; and health care quality and informatics. Faculty members receive funding from a number of sources, including the National Institutes of Health and private foundations. Students are also actively involved with faculty members in research, helping them understand and value clinical innovations. The growth of the College of Nursing’s NIH’s funding has continued on an upward trajectory, most recently seeing an increase of $1.1 million in just one year. This continued momentum has solidified the college’s status as a preeminent research leader and Top 15 public institution in NIH funding rankings.

Renowned faculty researchers, including six endowed professors, are leading efforts to build robust research teams within the college and across campus and the nation. The college has an established the Florida Blue Center for Health Care Quality and a Center for Palliative Care Research and Education. In addition, the college boasts several faculty members who hold joint appointments with UF Health Shands Hospital, one of whom directs clinical research on nursing and patient care services.

Patient Care/Outreach

The College of Nursing maintains and participates in nursing and patient care for women, children, adults and the elderly, with special emphasis on underserved and rural populations. Community health faculty members and students provide health screenings and education and serve as a vital link between the primary care setting and families in the community. As part of UF Health, the College of Nursing is closely integrated with the health system’s clinical mission in order to strengthen the link between education and practice.

In 1998, the college incorporated its Faculty Practice Association, which allows the generation of income in support of education and research programs and provides financial incentives to practicing faculty members. Practice sites serve as extended classrooms, where students join faculty members in providing care.

UF Health Archer Family Health Care, a certified Rural Health Clinic, is the college’s comprehensive nurse-led health care practice that has been serving the community for more than 20 years. Faculty members provide primary care and psychiatric/mental health services to underserved adults, children and families in Alachua County and surrounding areas. More than 40% of the practice’s patients lack health insurance coverage and many have an income below the poverty line.

Research

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