Education

The University of Florida College of Nursing is driven to transform health through innovative practice, preeminent research and exceptional academic programs. The college is a major provider of baccalaureate-prepared (BSN) nurses in the state, and its mission is to provide excellent personalized nursing care, generate research and scholarship that have an impact on practice, and prepare graduates who care, lead and inspire. The college has innovative education programs designed to address the national shortage of nurses and nursing faculty, including the BSN to PhD program, and the Accelerated BSN program for college graduates from other fields. The RN-to-BSN program is online, allowing registered nurses to obtain a BSN degree from the university. In 2015, the college also expanded its Accelerated BSN program to the UF Health Jacksonville campus. Overall undergraduate enrollment at the UF College of Nursing has increased 22% since 2013.

The college’s Doctor of Nursing Practice, or DNP, program prepares advanced practice nurses in five clinical specialties, and received 10-year accreditation in 2017. UF had one of the state’s first BSN-to-DNP programs, allowing direct entry into the DNP program for baccalaureate graduates.

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 division to support the college’s missions of education, research and patient care. Strategic goals and activities focus on efforts 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 teaching hospital, 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.
The College of Nursing research portfolio is diverse and includes projects focused on three areas of excellence: management of symptoms associated with aging and chronic illnesses; disparities in health and health services; and translational research for families. Faculty members receive funding from a number of sources, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and private foundations. This research has resulted in improvements in health promotion, disease prevention and symptom management for young and old alike. Students are actively involved with faculty members in research, helping the students understand and value clinical research.

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.

Archer Family Health Care, a National Committee for Quality Assurance-recognized Patient-Centered Medical Home, is the college’s comprehensive nurse-managed health care practice. Faculty members provide primary care and psychiatric/mental health services to underserved adults, children and families in Alachua County and surrounding areas. More than 50 percent of the practice’s patients lack health insurance coverage and many have incomes below the poverty line.

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 more closely integrated with the health system’s clinical mission in order to strengthen the link between education and practice.

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Research

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All five of the college’s endowed professor positions have been filled. These renowned faculty researchers and experts are leading the efforts to build robust research teams within the college and across campus and the nation. The college has an established Florida Blue Center for Health Care Quality and a Center for Palliative Care Research and Education. In addition, the college boasts two faculty members who hold joint appointments with UF Health Shands Hospital, one of whom directs clinical research on nursing and patient care services.