

Pittsburg State University

Department of Nursing



- One of 14 departments in the College of Arts & Sciences; established in 1970.
- McPherson Hall, PSU's nursing education building, is home to the SEK Regional Health Simulation Center serving PSU, community colleges, health care, business and industry, and area K-12 schools.
- Undergraduate and graduate degree programs are approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing and are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the national accrediting body.
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
One Dupont Circle, N.W. Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036-1120
phone: 202-887-6791 (www.aacn.nche.edu)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) – for careers in professional nursing – two tracks:
 - BSN (Pre-RN Licensure)
 - RN to BSN –(Online courses available)
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) – Family Health Focus
 - Clinical Nurse Specialist
 - Family Nurse Practitioner
 - Functional areas – Administration or Education
 - Post Masters Curriculum
- BSN clinical courses are Junior/Senior level courses allowing students to transfer from community colleges or prepare at PSU or another accredited institution.
- BSN graduates are eligible to write the National Council Licensing Exam (NCLEX-RN) for RN licensure. PSU graduates' first-time pass rates meet or exceed established benchmarks.
- Grants written and received by department faculty totaled nearly \$1 million over the past three years.
- 76 students are admitted to the undergraduate clinical nursing major each fall. Students apply for admission to the junior year of the BSN program by December 15 of the sophomore year.
- Participation in the Kansas Articulation Plan for RN to BSN programs makes it possible for RNs to complete clinical nursing courses in 12 months of full-time study after all general education and nursing prerequisites are met.
- Mt. Carmel Medical Center and PSU offer an optional collaborative summer student extern program.
- There are approximately 500 undergraduate and graduate nursing majors enrolled at PSU.
- Excellent starting salaries – averaging in the \$40s for BSN graduates and in the \$65-75,000 range for MSN graduates.
- The MSN Kansas Advanced Practice Collaborative curriculum is offered jointly with the University of Kansas, Wichita State University, & Fort Hays State University using distance and Web technologies.
- MSN graduates are eligible for Kansas licensure as advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) and practice as mid-level primary care practitioners eligible for national certification.
- Sample titles of recent graduate theses and/or research problems include: A Pilot Study Replication for the Elder Abuse Questionnaire; Screening for Malignant Melanoma by Health Care Providers; and, A Study of Exercise in Youth Through School Sports Participation.
- PSU's Outstanding Thesis awardees in 2005 and 2007 were nursing graduates.
- In addition to the department chairperson, nursing staff includes 16 full-time faculty, numerous part-time faculty, graduate teaching assistants, two administrative specialists, a Health Simulation Center Coordinator, and numerous student employees. Adjunct faculty and practicing nurse and physician preceptors support the program.
- Active advisory board includes alumni; retired faculty; and community, health care, and government leaders.
- In addition to PSU scholarships and financial assistance, the Nursing Department typically offers approximately \$90,000 in scholarships, grants and awards.
- More than 50 clinical agencies in the four-state area contract with PSU for student clinical experiences.
- PSU's 2005 Outstanding Senior Woman was nursing graduate Jen Burkholder. The Department's first Outstanding Senior Woman was Kyanna Shelar in 1999. Top 10 finalists for the award include nursing graduates from 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.
- Graduates easily find jobs!
- The Cecilia G. Waggoner Historical Collection is permanently located in McPherson Hall.
- Nursing majors represent almost 7% of the PSU student body.

A Century of Education, Research and Service



“Caring to Make a Healthy Difference”

www.pittstate.edu/nurs

- The nursing department co-sponsors an annual Health Career Fair with PSU Career Services featuring exhibits by potential employers.
- PSU's Axe Library provides excellent support to nursing students.
- Nursing faculty regularly publish books, articles and abstracts. These works have included a two-part children's health book series in English and Spanish.
- The department offers an optional clinical international experience in Mexico.
- The PSU chapter of the Kansas Association of Nursing Students has held the traveling trophy for Most Outstanding Chapter more times than any other nursing program in Kansas. PSU students have received national KANS recognition.
- Graduates honored as PSU Outstanding Alumni include Ms. Janice Jones, Dr. Sharon Bowling, Dr. Mary Carol Pomatto, and Dr. Janet Houser.
- Nursing students actively serve PSU through leadership in student organizations, honor societies, student government, Crimson Club, Honors College, and athletic teams.
- Faculty maintain clinical and nursing expertise through active practice as consultants, nurse practitioners, and clinical affiliates with area health agencies. Many hold national certifications.
- Nursing faculty has served PSU as Faculty Senate President, KNEA President and as leaders of numerous university committees.
- Department faculty has received recognition for teaching, research and service. Dr. Barbara R. McClaskey was one of three PSU Outstanding Faculty in 2005 and 2008. Dr. Cheryl Giefer has been a recent Outstanding Faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences.
- Numerous nursing faculty members hold doctorates in nursing or related fields. Additional faculty and staff are engaged in doctoral preparation in nursing.
- Student representatives serve on all major Nursing Department committees and share in governance as voting members.
- Students and faculty serve the community and state by staffing health fairs, sponsoring a first aid booth at PSU Gorilla Football games, conducting blood drives and Teddy Bear clinics, and providing community health education.
- Nursing Department faculty present scholarly works at state, national and international professional conferences.
- The latest alumni survey indicated high overall satisfaction and program effectiveness in accomplishing expected nursing program outcomes and goals.
- Surveyed employers report high satisfaction with graduates.
- Graduates represent men and women from diverse backgrounds. They are leaders serving as bedside nurses, nurse anesthetists, military nurses, administrators, faculty, authors, mid-level primary care practitioners and consultants. Many graduates have completed master's degrees and doctorates in nursing and related fields.
- PSU Nursing Chairwoman Dr. Mary Carol Pomatto serves on the Kansas State Board of Nursing and was appointed by former Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, who is now the U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary.
- The Department is a CNA test site offering CNA certification classes as well as BLS and CPR classes to PSU students and the community.
- A chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing is hosted by the Nursing Department.
- Spring 2009 Nursing Department graduates received many honors including university scholastic honors, departmental academic honors, Honors College, honor societies, graduate dean academic honors, Crimson Club, and others.
- The Department of Nursing fosters a model of student success.

**For more information, contact Ms. Peggy Totman at 620-235-4431
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