



**SHENANDOAH**  
UNIVERSITY  
Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing

# **SCHOOL OF NURSING**



*2023 First-Year Program*



## **MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN**

**The world needs intelligent, caring and well-educated nurses to lead, coordinate and provide care for diverse populations.**

Health care challenges are becoming increasingly more apparent in communities and populations across the nation and around the world. Social determinants of health, education, economics, and policies contribute to complexities in health care delivery. Nurses are true heroes as they provide care on the front lines, changing and improving the health of those within their care.

With a strong legacy built over more than 50 distinguished years, Shenandoah University's Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing prepares students to think critically and reach personal and professional excellence. Our faculty have varied clinical expertise that they are genuinely excited to share with students who are learning to meet the health care needs of the future.

I am so very proud of our nursing graduates, who are making a difference around the world. I believe in our programs and our faculty and encourage you to consider us as you work toward your goal of becoming a professional nurse.



*Lisa Levinson*

**Lisa Levinson, MSN, RN**

Interim Dean and Assistant Professor  
Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing





“I chose SU for two main reasons: the small class sizes and direct admission into the nursing program. Being accepted directly into the nursing program was the deciding factor that made me want to commit to SU.”

– Alice Davenport '19,  
BSN, RN, Frederick Health,  
Frederick, Maryland

## ***NURSING IS AN ESSENTIAL***

profession in the delivery of health care, with tremendous possibilities and options for career growth. Registered nurses make up the largest part of the health care profession. Nurses are critical members of health care teams and they have provided essential care to millions during the coronavirus pandemic. A student with a strong academic background in math and sciences, and the ability to recognize and address problems, will find nursing a rewarding lifelong profession. Shenandoah-educated nurses demonstrate skills in professional nursing care delivery, management and leadership, as well as values consistent with holistic and ethical delivery.

The mission of the School of Nursing is to educate lifelong learners who provide evidence-based, compassionate, holistic care and promote wellness to diverse populations inspired by global health ideals.

# BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

## Traditional Four-Year BSN

As a first-year student, you will find yourself launching headfirst into a rigorous nursing curriculum. With the support of an experienced nursing faculty adviser, you will receive academic and professional guidance throughout your four years in the program. Our state-of-the-art, specialized nursing labs create an environment that prepares you exceptionally well for what you will experience in your clinicals. You will also have direct access to a full range

of student-life activities on and off campus. After you've completed your studies, you will sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and be prepared with the skills and knowledge needed to apply for entry-level professional nurse positions.





## Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet all general Shenandoah University admission requirements as well as specific requirements for the School of Nursing. A strong background in the sciences, mathematics and humanities is recommended.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and successfully complete high school Biology and Chemistry with a grade of B- or better.

Students are selected by a variety of methods, including an evaluation of high school transcripts, course grades and other indicators of ability to be successful in the program.

## Once enrolled in our nursing program:

- students are required to undergo a criminal background check and random urine drug screening, as well as maintain required vaccinations.
- at the end of the first year of study, students are required to pass the TEAS exam, a nationally standardized test.
- students are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA, and a 3.0 GPA in prerequisite courses.
- students must meet all prerequisite requirements prior to entering 200-level nursing courses.

# HANDS-ON LEARNING

## Simulation Technology

Shenandoah University uses high- and low-fidelity simulation equipment in laboratories that enhance student learning. Simulation technology, in the form of human models/manikins, allows faculty members to design specific events or scenarios that simulate actual clinical situations and

events. This technology provides an interactive, educational approach to teaching theory, assessment, technology skills, pharmacology and decision-making in a safe environment that allows you to apply and integrate knowledge, skills and critical thinking.

## Outstanding Clinical Preceptors

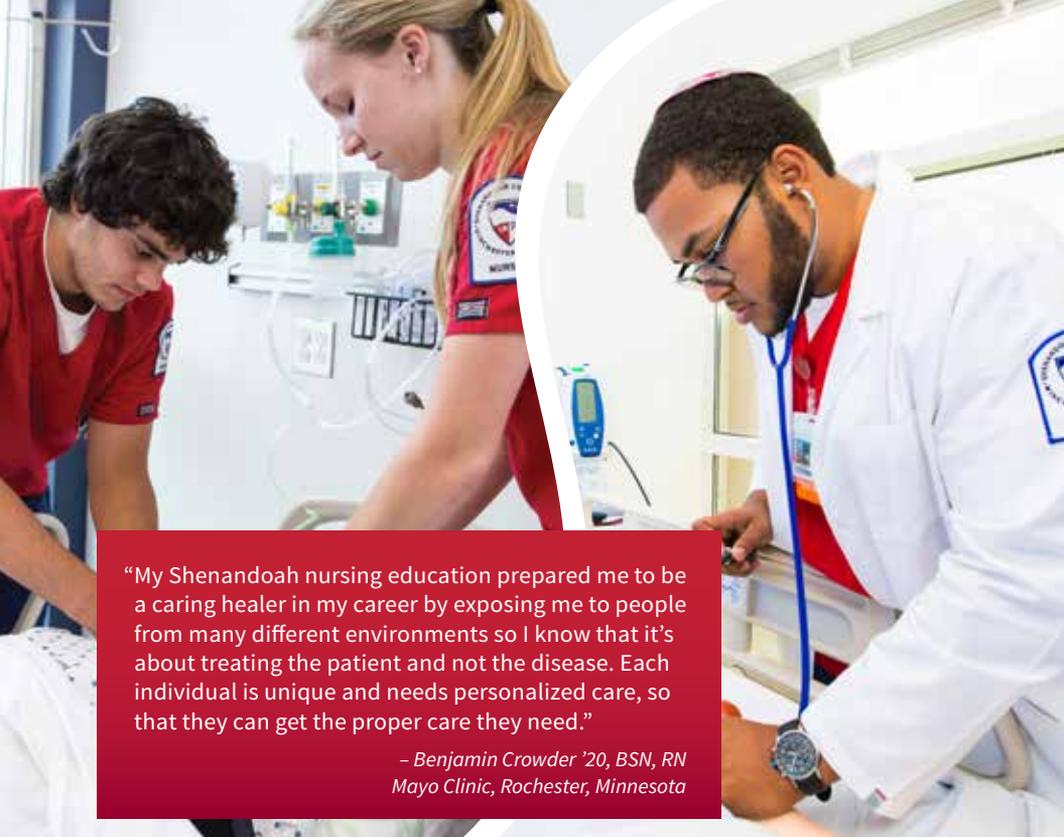
Shenandoah University enjoys collaborative relationships with many regional hospitals and, in addition to our full-time faculty, our clinical preceptors are some of the finest practitioners in the region. Nursing students study with clinical preceptors at:

- Valley Health System
- Inova Health System
- Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- Novant UVA
- WVU Medicine Berkeley Medical Center
- Hospital Corporation of America
- And an additional 250 affiliated clinical locations

## Interprofessional Experience

The Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing fosters interdisciplinary learning and practice through collaboration with our other health care programs, including pharmacy, physician assistant studies, physical

and occupational therapy, athletic training, public health and music therapy.



“My Shenandoah nursing education prepared me to be a caring healer in my career by exposing me to people from many different environments so I know that it’s about treating the patient and not the disease. Each individual is unique and needs personalized care, so that they can get the proper care they need.”

– Benjamin Crowder '20, BSN, RN  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

# PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Several organizations support the academic and professional development of nursing students as well as facilitate volunteer activities.

**Student Nurses Association (SNA) and National Student Nurses Association (NSNA)** are pre-professional organizations open to all nursing students.

**Rho Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI)** is Shenandoah University’s chapter of the distinguished national honor society with a focus on leadership recognition and scholarship.

Our **Nursing Student Mentors** program provides peer support that facilitates nursing student connectedness, progress, retention and successful completion.

**Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF)** is a student-run, faith-based nursing organization.



“Because of connections and experiences I have had at Shenandoah, I was given the opportunity to work as a nurse extern at Winchester Medical Center in the summer of 2019, and was offered a position on my preferred unit (orthopedics) months before graduation.”

– Brooklyn T. Russick '19, BSN, RN,  
Front Royal Family Practice, Front Royal, Virginia

# ***FACULTY MAKE THE DIFFERENCE***

There's a special bond between Shenandoah University students and their professors. You'll enjoy close relationships with faculty members who will mentor you in and out of the classroom. This is a hallmark of our nursing education.

Shenandoah's experienced and practicing faculty take every opportunity to provide you with the academic foundation you'll need to meet the standards of and rising expectations for practice in the nursing profession. They provide an environment where you can be inquisitive, grow and excel.

## **Engaging Faculty**

**Assistant Professor of Nursing Gretchen Burks, MSN, RN**, a retired veteran nurse with expertise in neurology and trauma, has taught our undergraduate nursing students for 15 years.

**Assistant Professor of Nursing Rose Chevere, Ph.D., RN**, is a master teacher who shares her passion of caring for adults with her students.

**Assistant Professor of Nursing Selena Truban, DNP, RN, CRNN**, teaches in medical-surgical nursing and health assessment. She also has expertise in the areas of critical care and home health nursing.





# REPUTATION FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE ★ ★

“Shenandoah prepared me to be a nurse by gradually adding on foundational skills each semester. This ultimately allowed me to become a well-rounded nurse. The professors are so inspiring and passionate.”

– Nicole Kunkel '20, BSN, RN  
Inova Hospital System, Loudoun  
County, Virginia

**Shenandoah University enjoys a** strong reputation locally, regionally and nationally. Our nursing graduates are recognized within the health care community as knowledgeable, capable and able to excel in the workplace. In addition, many return after graduation to pursue master’s degrees, post-master’s certificates and doctoral degrees.

## Health & Life Sciences Building

Come study in our state-of-the-art, 71,000 square-foot science facility. The HLSB offers premier academic classrooms and specialized nursing labs. Students practice and hone their skills in our specialized labs prior to starting clinical rotations, which enables them to learn the most from their clinical preceptors. It’s also where students, faculty, staff and community members come to meet and learn together in study rooms or faculty offices, as well as in the Halpin Rotunda, which is used for special events and to showcase student and faculty research.



## Careers

- Ambulatory Care Nurse
- Emergency Nurse
- Maternal/New Baby Nurse
- ICU Nurse
- Long-term Care Nurse
- Medical-Surgical Nurse
- Neuroscience Nurse
- Orthopedic Nurse
- Pediatric/Neonatal Nurse
- Psychiatric Nurse
- Women's Health Nurse
- Rehabilitation Nurse
- School Nurse
- Community Health Nurse

## BSN Program Outcomes

1. **Synthesize** knowledge from the liberal arts, sciences and nursing science as a basis for professional nursing practice.
2. **Apply** evolving information technology to monitor health care outcomes.
3. **Integrate** concepts of illness prevention/wellness, quality, safety, ethics and leadership into professional nursing practice.
4. **Demonstrate** effective communication and collaboration with patients, families and interprofessional teams.
5. **Deliver** safe, quality nursing care to diverse populations.
6. **Advocate** for institutional, professional and governmental policies to influence positive health care outcomes of diverse populations.
7. **Integrate** evidence-based research into professional nursing practice to provide quality care to families and communities.

*The baccalaureate degree in nursing at Shenandoah University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, D.C., 20001, 202-887-6791. Approved by the Virginia State Board of Nursing.*



## NCLEX Pass Rates

NCLEX first-time pass rates are updated every quarter and are consistently above the national average. Find our most recent pass rates at [su.edu/nursing](https://www.su.edu/nursing).

# ***SHENANDOAH FACTS***

- Established 1875
- Located in Winchester, Virginia
- 2,203 undergraduate students
- Student-to-faculty ratio: 10 to 1
- 25% of degree-seeking domestic students are multiracial, African American, American Indian, Asian American, Hispanic, or Pacific Islander

## **Nursing Facts**

- Nursing students participate in varied clinical experiences both in in-patient hospital and community-based settings, highlighted by a senior preceptorship experience in their last semester.
- Many nursing students study abroad and travel internationally on experiential learning and mission trips. Recent trips have taken students to Spain, Haiti, Brazil and the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Nursing students are actively engaged in community service projects, including a community wellness fair, Relay For Life and food drives.



## **Contact the Office of Admissions**

Call: 540-665-4581 | Text: 540-592-4518 | Email: [admit@su.edu](mailto:admit@su.edu)



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