



SHENANDOAH
UNIVERSITY
Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing

SCHOOL OF NURSING



2027 First-Year Program



REPUTATION FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE ★ ★

The Shenandoah University School of Nursing enjoys a strong reputation locally, regionally and nationally. Our nursing graduates are recognized within the healthcare community as knowledgeable, capable and able to excel in the workplace. In addition, many return to SU after graduation to pursue master's degrees, post-master's certificates and doctoral degrees.

NURSING IS AN ESSENTIAL PROFESSION

in the delivery of healthcare, with tremendous possibilities and options for career growth. Registered nurses make up the largest part of the healthcare profession. Nurses are critical members of healthcare teams and they provided essential care to millions during the coronavirus pandemic. A student with a strong academic background in math and science, 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 care delivery.

“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*



Cecil Pruitt, Jr. Health & Life Sciences Building

Study in our state-of-the-art, 71,000-square-foot science facility.

The Pruitt 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 dedicated study rooms and faculty offices.



Cecil Pruitt, Jr. Health & Life Sciences

The mission of the Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing is to empower lifelong learners who provide evidence-based, compassionate care to promote wellness for all.

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 advisor, 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 situations 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 be prepared with the skills and knowledge needed to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) while applying 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.
- students are required to pass the TEAS exam, a nationally standardized test, at the end of the first year of study
- students are required to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and a 3.0 GPA in prerequisite courses.
- students must meet all prerequisite requirements prior to entering 200-level nursing courses.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

The Rho Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) is our chapter of the distinguished International Nursing 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.

THE HONORS PROGRAM

Nursing students are eligible for the Shenandoah Honors Program, designed to enhance your education within a tight-knit, multidisciplinary community. The program offers:

Specialized Coursework: Honors-level classes and seminars that advance critical thinking, communication, and ethical reasoning.

Experiential Learning: Access to small grants for hands-on experiences and meaningful local service opportunities.

Engaging Community: A supportive peer network featuring unique social and academic events tailored to your interests.

su.edu/honors

STUDY INTERNATIONALLY

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.



HANDS-ON[★] LEARNING

Simulation Technology

We use high- and low-fidelity simulation equipment in laboratories to 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.

With this technology, you'll learn about theory, assessment, technology skills, pharmacology and decision-making in a safe and interactive environment that allows you to apply and integrate knowledge, skills and critical thinking.

Outstanding Clinical Preceptors

Our students enjoy 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 Health UVA Health System
- WVU Medicine Berkeley Medical Center
- Hospital Corporation of America
- And additional affiliated clinical locations

Interprofessional Experience

We foster interdisciplinary learning and practice through collaboration with our other healthcare programs, including pharmacy, physician assistant studies,

physical and occupational therapy, athletic training, speech-language pathology, public health and music therapy.



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/pass-rates.



“I felt so prepared for the NCLEX! The test didn’t feel hard, and that’s all thanks to the dedication of every professor who worked for our success.”

– Aryn Steinberg '26, BSN, RN

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 healthcare outcomes.
3. **Integrate** concepts of illness prevention/wellness, quality, safety, ethics and leadership into professional nursing practice within complex healthcare systems.
4. **Demonstrate** effective communication and collaboration with patients, families and interprofessional teams.
5. **Deliver** safe, compassionate, and holistic person-centered nursing care to diverse populations.
6. **Advocate** for institutional, professional and governmental policies to influence healthcare outcomes of diverse populations.
7. **Translate** research into evidence-based nursing practice to provide quality care for patients, families, and communities.
8. **Examine** the influence of social determinants of health on the delivery of equitable care to diverse populations/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.



SHENANDOAH'S ELEANOR WADE CUSTER SCHOOL OF NURSING



- Ranked among the top private BSN programs in Virginia, securing #1 from RNCareers.org and #2 from U.S. News & World Report (2025).
- Average starting salary for nurses ranges from \$65,000 to \$85,000.
- Approximately 100% of graduates have job offers within six months of graduation.
- Continues to boast one of the highest first-time pass rates for the NCLEX in Virginia.



Contact the Office of Admissions

 540-665-4581 |  540-546-6029 |  admit@su.edu



su.edu/admissions | su.edu/nursing

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