The UTHSC College of Nursing

Founded in 1887, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing (CON) provides innovative programs to educate nurse leaders for our patients and our communities. Nurses are at the front line of health care, serving as advocates and care providers. Nursing is a rewarding profession and has consistently, for the past 13 years, been voted the most ethical and trusted profession in America in Gallup’s annual survey.

Nursing is not only a well-respected profession, but few professions provide as many options as nursing does: to work where you want, to specialize in various areas at various levels, and to explore numerous degree options. The national demand for nurses continues to grow, providing a fertile ground for those entering into this rewarding career.

UTHSC CON offers nursing programs across the spectrum of the profession, baccalaureate (BSN, RN-BSN), master’s (MSN-CNL), and doctoral (PhD and DNP) to meet the health care needs of the community, the state of Tennessee, and the nation. UTHSC CON serves as a change agent for our profession, being an early adopter of both the DNP and MSN-CNL. We are proud of our quality programs and the students we educate as nursing leaders. Our students have the benefit of being a part of a health science center. This affords itself with rich, interprofessional education opportunities. Health care professionals across disciplines collaborate in their educational endeavors. This facilitates professionals learning about, and from each other. What a unique opportunity for our students to transform health care and improve patient care through teamwork.

We encourage you to contact us to learn more about our college and any of our high quality, innovative programs.

Wendy M. Likes, PhD, DNSc, APRN-BC
Dean and Professor

Administration

Dean
Wendy M. Likes, PhD, DNSc, APRN-BC

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Programs
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Preparing Nurse Leaders for Excellence Today and for the Future
Student Access ...

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

With recent changes in health care, including recommendations in the IOM report and the Affordable Care Act, as well as requests from practice partners, the UTHSC CON re-established the BSN program and began admitting students in Fall 2013. Two options are being offered, a full-time accelerated pre-licensure program and a full-time or part-time RN to BSN program, which is offered both face-to-face and online. The part-time program is designed with flexibility in mind to enable nurses to work while completing their degree.

Master of Science in Nursing Clinical Nurse Leader (MSN-CNL)

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing offers the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Clinical Nurse Leader Program. The MSN-CNL program is a one-year, full-time or two-year part-time program designed for registered nurses with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Students sit for the CNL certification at the end of successful completion of all required coursework. To meet the needs of our practice partners, students enrolled in the BSN to MSN-CNL have the option of a part-time track, enabling them to work while completing the degree.

The MSN-CNL program produces registered nurses to practice at the bedside who also have a master's level skill set in error prevention through clinical process improvement. This master's-prepared graduate will have the background to lead safety and error prevention at the patient care level.

Advanced Practice

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program educates nurses for advanced practice certification in their selected specialty and for leadership roles in a specialized area of advanced practice. The DNP program offers full and structured part-time options to prepare registered nurses with bachelor's or master's degrees for advanced practice nursing. Students sit for certification in their prepared area of concentration after completion of the program. The DNP program also prepares advanced practice nurses (APRN), who have already earned a master's degree and are licensed as APRNs, for leadership roles in specialized areas of advanced practice. Options within our DNP program include Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental-Health Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Anesthesia, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, and Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. In addition, the UTHSC College of Nursing offers dual-certification programs in which students may sit for exams to obtain more than one certification. The dual programs include Adult-Gerontology Acute Nurse Practitioner and Family Nurse Practitioner DNP, and Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse and Family Nurse Practitioner DNP*. The DNP curriculum is web-mediated, including opportunities for synchronous and asynchronous learning.

*NTHSC College of Nursing also offers an adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner certificate program for current advanced practice nurses looking to obtain this certification.

Nurse Scientist

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program is designed to produce nursing research scientists and scholars. The educational program is offered through the College of Graduate Health Sciences and emphasizes developing and testing theories and models of nursing care; clinical nursing research; and social, political, legal and economic implications of health care policies and practices.

Doctor of Nursing Practice – Doctor of Philosophy Dual Degree (DNP/PhD)

The Doctor of Nursing Practice – Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science Program provides highly motivated and highly qualified students with an integrated advanced clinical and research program of study leading to a combined DNP/PhD degree. This innovative program combines the existing DNP and PhD in Nursing Science programs, which are based in the College of Nursing and College of Graduate Health Sciences, respectively.
Research

Research is a robust and integral component of the College of Nursing’s commitment to academic excellence. Research is a vehicle for developing and testing evidence to improve patient care and outcomes. The Office of Research and Grant Support staff provides faculty and students with critical resources needed to enhance their research skills, conduct research, acquire new research and training funds, and publish their research findings.

Funding agencies that support faculty research include the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Justice, and Methodist Healthcare Foundation.

The faculty is engaged in a broad scope of scientific investigation including:
- Health disparities
- Women’s health issues
- Caregiver health issues
- Genetic and environmental factors contributing to obesity
- Nursing research on improving patient safety in acute care settings
- Sleep disorders
- Neurology and stroke

Clinical Care

The UTHSC College of Nursing has been a leader in academic faculty practice for more than 20 years.

The practice model of the college provides the opportunity for faculty to:
- Serve as expert role models in care delivery to students and to the health care community
- Deliver evidence-based, direct patient care to diverse, and often vulnerable, populations
- Integrate innovative models of care delivery into the practice environment
- Evaluate practice including both the quality and the economic outcomes of cost-effective care
- Identify and develop research programs in the practice areas
- Provide leadership throughout the health care system

Advanced practice nurse faculty provide clinical care in many traditional and non-traditional practices including:
- Private community-based clinics
- Acute care hospitals and emergency departments
- Primary care and specialty clinics

In addition, the College of Nursing Practice Enterprise manages the Memphis International Airport Dorothy Bobbitt Health Station.

Examples of unique practice areas developed by faculty nurse clinicians include:
- Biobehavioral health care
- Occupational health
- Physicals for never-served and underserved populations
- Improvement of the health and well-being of the Mid-South community
- Human papillomavirus treatment center, including colposcopy and high resolution anoscopy

Student Success

“The MSN-Clinical Nurse Leader Program provided me with an excellent opportunity to gain skills and knowledge to provide patient-centered care with a focus on quality and safety. The program’s emphasis on leadership and evidence-based practice contributed to my decision to pursue a doctorate in nursing research. I credit the Clinical Nurse Leader program with providing the framework and foundation for me to accomplish this goal.”

Yesha V. Weeks, MSN, RN
Graduate Research Assistant
Responding to Our Community

Community Practice Partnerships:
- **Common Table Health Alliance.** A community coalition, CON faculty members are active participants on councils, working groups, special projects and research initiatives. *From the University of Tennessee Health Science Center: Margaret T. Hartig, PhD, MSN, BSN.*
- **Tennessee Women’s Health Report Card.** A collaborative effort between the Vanderbilt Institute for Medicine and Public Health, the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, the Tennessee Department of Health, Meharry Medical College, the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance, East Tennessee State University, and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. *From the University of Tennessee Health Science Center: Wendy Likes, PhD, DNSc, APRN-BC.*
- **A Step Ahead.** A nonprofit foundation devoted to improving educational, economic and health outcomes for women and their children in Memphis and Shelby County by providing access to long-acting reversible contraception. *From the University of Tennessee Health Science Center: Wendy Likes, PhD, DNSc, APRN-BC.*
- **Team Fit.** A social media group encouraging the community to “Get Fit and Get Healthy.” *From the University of Tennessee Health Science Center: Shawn Boyd.*

Mission

The mission of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing is to prepare nurse leaders and to advance science to meet the health needs of the people of Tennessee, the Mid-South region, and the nation through education, research, clinical care, and public service.

Values

Our values represent who we are regardless of changes in our environment. We value:
- A culture that creates, supports and promotes innovation while honoring our traditions
- A sense of community and teamwork within the college, with our colleagues, and with our strategic partners
- A community that enhances scholarship and promotes diversity
- Professional and personal accountability
- Respectful, open and transparent communication and collaboration
- Professional and intellectual integrity
- Shared respect for faculty and staff contributions

Leading the Nation

Acknowledged by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing as a national authority in innovative nursing education.

For more information about the UT Health Science Center College of Nursing, visit [www.uthsc.edu/nursing](http://www.uthsc.edu/nursing)