School of Nursing

Introduction

A baccalaureate nursing program (BSN) was established in El Paso in 1970 under the administration of The University of Texas System School of Nursing. In 1976, the School of Nursing became an integral part of The University of Texas at El Paso and was organized as a College of Nursing. The Health Science and Medical Technology Programs were transferred to the College in 1979 and, shortly thereafter, the name was changed to the College of Nursing and Allied Health. In 1999, the School of Nursing became an integral part of the once-again renamed College of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing. On September 1, 2006, the School of Nursing again became its own independent unit and is now known as The University of Texas at El Paso School of Nursing.

The School of Nursing is located on the main UTEP campus at 1851 Wiggins Road, across from the University Library, and is housed in a large, modern building which includes classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and lounges for both students and faculty.

The School of Nursing provides an undergraduate nursing program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree (various options) as well as graduate programs culminating in the Master of Science in Nursing and/or Doctorate in Nursing Practice.

The undergradute nursing program at the University of Texas at El Paso is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and approved by the State of Texas Board of Nursing (TBON).

The curriculum provides an innovative, integrated and conceptual model for teaching and learning wherein critical thinking and decision-making are emphasized. It is grounded in the sciences and is focused on addressing nursing and health care across the life span.

The degree plan consists of approximately two years of lower-division course work followed by two or more years of upper-division nursing courses taken at the School of Nursing. The entire program is possible to complete in eight full-term semesters. The curriculum culminates in preceptor ed courses that include learning and practice with experienced professional nurses in acute care facilities and community health care settings.

Upon Successful completion of the program, students are awarded the degree and are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (CLIX-RN).

Mission

The mission of the University of Texas at El Paso School of Nursing is to prepare professional nurses at baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral levels to meet complex human needs in a competitive global healthcare environment. We seek to inspire evidence-based lifelong learning and utilization of advanced technologies by providing a progressive research environment where students, faculty and researchers investigate and meet global healthcare needs. We strive to improve healthcare and quality of life in our diverse multicultural underserved local communities by preparing graduates to make significant contributions to nursing, local, national, and global communities.

Objectives of the Undergraduate Nursing Program

1. Provide professional nursing care to individuals, families, groups, and communities in various developmental stages and from different sociocultural backgrounds.
2. Use critical thinking and apply theories, principles, and concepts in making clinical judgments about the health care needs of individuals, families, and communities.
3. Intervene to minimize or alleviate stressors: to reinforce positive adaptive behavior; to promote, maintain, and restore health; and to care for the ill, disabled, and terminally ill.
4. Collaborate with other professionals, agency personnel, and consumers in planning, implementing, and evaluating health care.
5. Practice nursing within the framework of legal, ethical, moral, and professional standards.
6. Use research findings in the care of clients/patients.
7. Provide leadership within the nursing profession and in health affairs.
8. Develop a lifetime commitment to intellectual inquiry, self-directed learning, and professional growth.
9. Use undergraduate education as a basis for graduate study.

Admission and Pre-Nursing Advising

Applications will not be accepted from students on academic probation or suspension.
Students seeking admission to the University as freshmen or transfers should consult the Undergraduate Admission section in this Catalog. Students transferring from other programs must submit a written statement from the dean or department chair of their previous program stating that the student is eligible to return to that program. This statement should be submitted via mail to:

The University of Texas at El Paso
School of Nursing
ATTN: Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Education
500 W. University Avenue
El Paso, TX 79968

Students are classified as pre-Nursing majors until they are admitted into one of the three undergraduate nursing options. Applicants to the School of Nursing must be accepted to the University. The University Admissions Office must evaluate official transcripts prior to consideration for admission.

Pre Clinical Requirements

Students accepted into the Nursing Programs must meet all clinical clearance requirements. Please refer to Clinical Compliance (https://www.utep.edu/chs/compliance/) for specific requirements. Failure to comply with clinical clearance requirements will result in students having holds placed on registration or being dropped from courses.

INTERIM DEAN: Dr. Leslie Robbins (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=llrobbins/)
ASSOCIATE DEAN, Undergraduate Education: Dr. Laura Rodriguez
ASSOCIATE DEAN, Graduate Education: Dr. Diane Monsivais
ASSISTANT DEAN, Student Affairs: Myrna Anchondo (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=myrna/)

Professor

Maria Amaya (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=mamaya/)
Contact Information: mamaya@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-8583
Education: BSN, The University of Texas at El Paso; MSN, Texas Woman's University; Ph D, New Mexico State University; Certificate, Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; Certificate, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; Postdoc, The University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center; Graduate Certificate, The Johns Hopkins University
Research Interests: Population-based environmental epidemiology

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Associate Professor

Hsuen-Fen Kao (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=hkao/)
Contact Information: hkao@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-7279
Education: Diploma, National Taipei College of Nursing; MSN, National Taiwan University; Ph D, The University of Texas at Austin; Postdoctoral Fellow, University of North Carolina
Research Interests: My areas of interests include family caregiver burden, family values, acculturation's effects, and cultural diversity in Hispanic families for chronically-ill older adults.

Gloria McKee (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=gmckee/)
Contact Information: gmckee@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-7246
Education: BSN, University of Texas System School of Nursing; MSN, University of Texas at El Paso; Ph D, University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston

Diane Monsivais (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=dimonsivais/)
Contact Information: dimonsivais@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-8209
Education: BSN, Duke University; MSN, The University of Texas at El Paso; Ph D, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Research Interests: Dr. Monsivais's research interests focus on educational issues in nursing and other healthcare professions. There is an emphasis on enhancing clinical teaching competencies, healthcare simulation, and improving the quality and safety of the healthcare system.

Hector Olivera Alvarez (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=holvera/)
Contact Information: holvera@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-6518
Education: MS, The University of Texas at El Paso; Ph D, The University of Texas at El Paso; Graduate Certificate in Epidemiology, University of Michigan
Research Interests: The main objective of my interdisciplinary research program is to help diminish the health burden of vulnerable populations that are caused by greater exposure to traffic-related air pollutants and socioeconomically induced susceptibilities by informing better policies and interventions. Specifically, I intend to continue to develop a research program that: (1) elucidates biological mechanisms through which social factors, such as stress,
increase susceptibility to air pollutants; (2) determines how air pollution and stress interact during developmental stages to increase susceptibility to cardiovascular disease and mental health disorders; and (3) identifies mechanisms that can be targeted early in life to promote healthy development in low-income populations. As part of the implementation of this research program, I will continue to engage scientists from across and beyond the university to support the growth and expand the reach of the program, leverage an extant network of community partners to create a community advisory board to inform the identification of relevant research needs and to strengthen the dissemination and outreach capacity of the program, and actively engage and train minority scientists in the areas of environmental health. Ultimately, I intend to use my research program to expand UTEP’s capacities in biomedical and health disparities research, and, by building on regional conditions, needs, and strengths (e.g., predominant low socioeconomic status minority community, intense heavy-duty commercial traffic generated by the local ports of entry, strong community engagement, untapped human capital), procure funding for a Center of Excellence on Environmental Health Disparities Research.

Leslie Robbins (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=lhrobbins/)
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Education: ADN, Garland County Community College; BSN, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; MSN, The University of Texas at El Paso; Ph D, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Research Interests: qualitative research, obesity, mental health, addictive disorders, TBI, health disparities, PTSD

Clinical Associate Professor
Karen Fowler (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=kfowler/)
Contact Information: kfowler@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu);
Education: Ph D, University of Phoenix

Lisa Hennessy (http://facultyprofile.utep.edu/default.aspx?ID=lhennessy/)
Contact Information: lhennessy@utep.edu (mtcortez@utep.edu); 915-747-7249
Education: BSN, West Texas State University; MSN, The University of Texas at El Paso; Ph D, New Mexico State University
Research Interests: Student Success,

Programs
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
• Bachelor of Science in Nursing (http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/school-of-nursing/nursing-bs/)
• RN-to-BSN Option (http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/school-of-nursing/rn-bsn-option/)