

# Nursing

---

302 Taylor Health Science Center  
 (435) 879-4810  
<http://dixie.edu/health/nursing>

To find faculty & staff phone numbers and email addresses, please consult the University Directory (<http://www.dixie.edu/directory/directory.php>).

## Program Chair

Vicky O'Neil, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

## Administrative Assistant

Rachel Christ

## Advisor

Alice Clegg, MHEd

## Dean

Eliezar Bermudez, Ph.D.

## Administrative Specialist

Merilee Gustafson

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Dixie State University Nursing Programs is the education of nurses at the baccalaureate level through rigorous learning to enable the graduates to provide dedicated and excellent healthcare.

## Nursing Program Philosophy

The nursing program promotes a student-centered learning environment to facilitate active learning and acquisition of skills, knowledge, and attitudes consistent with the practice of a professional nurse.

### Goals

1. Provide an innovative and collaborative learning environment.
2. Prepare generalist nurses who can practice in various health care settings.
3. Prepare students to apply evidence-based practice in educational and clinical settings.
4. Develop students who enhance the quality of life of diverse individuals, families, groups, communities, and society.
5. Promote responsibility, the spirit of inquiry, and commitment to lifelong learning in our students.
6. Educate students to deliver patient-centered care, develop and utilize their clinical judgement, communicate in a therapeutic way with others, demonstrate holistic nursing care and exhibit professional behavior.

## End-of-Program Student Learning Outcomes

1. Patient Centered Care: The BSN graduate will demonstrate the ability to provide direct and indirect care for patients across the lifespan and health illness continuum while facilitating goal oriented, quality care designed to meet the needs of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations. (DSUs ILOs: Skills, Responsibility, Grit)
2. Clinical Judgment: The BSN graduate will demonstrate clinical reasoning as a result integrating reliable evidence from multiple perspectives including evidence-based practice for health promotion, disease prevention, and restoration of health, which will inform practice and enable the graduate to make reasonable clinical judgments. (DSU ILOs: Skills, Knowledge, Innovation)
3. Communication: The BSN graduate will demonstrate therapeutic interactions in collaborating as a member and leader within inter-professional teams to build and maintain relationships with individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations by utilizing information management, patient care technologies, verbal, and non-verbal means to improve patient health outcomes. (DSU ILOs: Skills, Innovation, Responsibility, Grit)
4. Caring: The BSN graduate will demonstrate holistic nursing care through moral and ethical commitment toward the protection and promotion of human dignity and diversity of individuals, families, groups, communities, population and all members of the healthcare team to deliver culturally sensitive, safe patient-centered care. (DSUs ILOs: Skills, Grit)

5. Professional Behavior: The BSN graduate will accept accountability for self-care, personal behaviors, and life-long learning in their nursing practice while applying leadership concepts, skills, and clinical judgment to ensure ethical and legal adherence to standards of nursing practice, healthcare policy, finance, regulatory environments, and promotion of quality improvement measures. (DSUs ILOs: Skills, Innovation, Responsibility, Grit)

## Location

The Department of Nursing is located in the Russell Taylor Health Science Center at 1526 East Medical Center Drive, near Dixie Regional Medical Center. The Taylor Health Science Center, 78,000 square feet on three floors, houses all of Dixie State University's Allied Health programs. The Nursing program, located on the third floor, utilizes state-of-the-art classrooms, nursing laboratories, and simulation rooms.

## Scholarships

A limited number of Nursing department scholarships are available for students who have been accepted into the nursing program. Recipients must be full-time, undergraduate nursing students in good academic standing. Contact the Financial Aid Office at [www.dixie.edu/financial](http://www.dixie.edu/financial) for further information.

## Accreditation

The Associate Degree Nursing program has been approved by the Utah Board of Nursing and has been accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN) since 2002. The BSN program has been accredited by ACEN since 2010.

ACEN, Inc.  
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850  
Atlanta, Georgia 30326  
Phone: (404) 975-5000  
Fax: (404) 975-5020  
[www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org) (<http://www.nlnac.org>)

## Course Prefixes

- NURS

## Degrees

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Pre-Licensure) ([catalog.dixie.edu/programs/nursing/bachelor\\_of\\_science\\_in\\_nursing\\_four\\_year](http://catalog.dixie.edu/programs/nursing/bachelor_of_science_in_nursing_four_year))
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-to-BSN completion program) ([catalog.dixie.edu/programs/nursing/bachelor\\_of\\_science\\_in\\_nursing\\_bsn](http://catalog.dixie.edu/programs/nursing/bachelor_of_science_in_nursing_bsn)) \* **Available Online**
- Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (ADN) ([catalog.dixie.edu/programs/nursing/associate\\_of\\_applied\\_science\\_in\\_nursing\\_adn](http://catalog.dixie.edu/programs/nursing/associate_of_applied_science_in_nursing_adn)) (no longer accepting new students)
- Nurse Assistant Certificate ([catalog.dixie.edu/programs/healthcare\\_diagnostics\\_therapeutics/nurse\\_assistant\\_certificate](http://catalog.dixie.edu/programs/healthcare_diagnostics_therapeutics/nurse_assistant_certificate))

## Program Admission

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-to-BSN completion program) ([catalog.dixie.edu/programs/nursing/bachelor\\_of\\_science\\_in\\_nursing\\_bsn/#programadmissiontext](http://catalog.dixie.edu/programs/nursing/bachelor_of_science_in_nursing_bsn/#programadmissiontext))
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing

## Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies for the ADN Program

### 1. Leadership

- a. Identifies individual strengths & areas of needed improvement & utilizes criticism & suggestions to improve nursing practice.
- b. identifies and facilitates interdisciplinary interventions to achieve outcomes.
- c. Delegates care appropriately to other health care workers appropriate to their competence, education & training.
- d. Promotes goals of workplace as to costs, safety & quality client care.
- e. Ensures continuity of care for each assigned client.
- f. Promotes excellence & mentors others, assisting them to increase their knowledge & skills.
- g. Serves as a role model & evaluates colleagues & classmates in their professional actions, abilities, & limitations.
- h. Participates effectively in course & clinical group discussions & post-conferences.

### 2. Critical Thinking

- a. Assumes responsibility for own learning, understanding & application of education.
  - b. Demonstrates independent & creative application of concepts in the clinical setting & course work & is able to consider alternatives.
  - c. Uses creative/critical thinking in applying course material to solve problems & make clinical decisions.
  - d. Shows initiative by seeking educational & research opportunities (other than what is required) to expand knowledge.
  - e. Utilizes knowledge gained from research, journals, valid Internet sources, & nursing workshops to promote quality improvement & client safety.
  - f. Promotes the use of evidence-based practice & current research in nursing care.
  - g. Utilizes all steps of the nursing process in the safe administration of medications within scope of practice.
  - h. Performs ongoing complete physical, emotional, spiritual & socio-cultural assessment of clients across the lifespan.
  - i. Recognizes client problems, & independently determines actual & potential nursing diagnoses.
  - j. Develops a comprehensive plan of nursing care with the client to promote positive outcomes.
  - k. Establishes priorities for nursing care interventions appropriately & independently.
  - l. Independently solicits client input & determines effectiveness of nursing interventions.
  - m. Actively & creatively adapts/modifies care to the unique needs of each client.
- 3. Communication**
- a. Uses appropriate basic communication skills & therapeutic communication techniques.
  - b. receives feedback/criticism from evaluations in an assertive, positive manner & makes necessary improvements to succeed.
  - c. communicates assertively & effectively with distressed, anxious, angry or aggressive clients & their family members.
  - d. records/documents client information, care & evaluation of care in a clear, concise manner.
  - e. Assesses the client's health literacy level & understanding of education provided.
  - f. Gives/receives nursing change of shift report in an effective manner.
  - g. Manages colleagues & team conflict in assertive & responsible ways.
  - h. Independently & assertively reports breach of nursing care standards using the appropriate chain of command.
  - i. Utilizes plan of care to overcome barriers to communication: physical, developmental, psychological, emotional, cultural, & language.
- 4. Caring**
- a. Demonstrates care for clients by giving individualized quality, nursing care.
  - b. establishes & maintains relationships of trust with clients & colleagues.
  - c. Respects human dignity & cultural diversity.
  - d. Promotes & respects values & choices of the client.
  - e. Advocates for the client needs & preferences.
- 5. Professional Behavior**
- a. Follows ANA code of ethical behavior, setting aside personal ethical standards to support the client in their choices & values.
  - b. Understands & functions within the scope of practice of the licensed registered nurse in all health care settings.
  - c. Independently identifies potential liabilities in individual practice & uses legal safeguards in clinical practice.
  - d. Understands the purpose of HIPAA and maintains client confidentiality.
  - e. Demonstrates support of professional organization & activities.
  - f. Identifies & follows established patient care standards & cautiously performs all skills with accuracy.
  - g. Observes all OSHA standards, rules & regulations.

## Student Learning Outcomes for the BSN Program

The BSN graduate will:

1. Apply leadership concepts, skills, and decision making in order to provide oversight and accountability for the delivery of safe, quality care in a variety of healthcare settings.
2. Integrate reliable evidence from multiple perspectives to inform practice and make reasonable clinical judgments.
3. Demonstrate skills in using patient care technologies, information systems, and communication devices that support safe nursing practice in a variety of healthcare settings.
4. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of healthcare policy, finance, and regulatory environments including local, state, national, and global healthcare trends.

5. Communicate, collaborate, and negotiate as a member and leader within interdisciplinary healthcare teams to improve patient health outcomes.
6. Manage the direct and indirect care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations to promote, maintain and restore health.
7. Integrate professional standards of moral, ethical, and legal conduct in the care of persons, families, groups, communities, and populations.

The Department of Nursing offers two levels of nursing education. The Associate Degree Nursing program prepares students to assume the role of registered nurse. Graduates of this program will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree and are eligible for Registered Nurse licensure upon successful completion of the NCLEX-RN® licensure examination.

The RN-to-Baccalaureate Degree Nursing program is designed to provide Registered Nurses with further education necessary for progression in their careers, entrance into management positions, and admission into graduate nursing programs leading to advanced practice nursing, nursing education, and nursing administration. Graduates will receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

## Career Opportunities

### Registered Nurse

#### Career Opportunities\*

Over the 2014-2024 decade, employment of registered nurses is expected to increase by 16%, above the average for all occupations. This growth is for a number of reasons, including the fact that the older generation will need more care as it ages, and that more people than ever have access to health insurance, and more registered nurses will be needed to accommodate them.

#### Salary Range\*

In May 2015, the median annual wage for registered nurses was \$67,490. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$46,360, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$101,630. When employed by the government, registered nurses earned \$72,100; in hospitals (state, local, and private), RN's earned \$69,510; in home healthcare services they earned \$63,840; in physicians' offices they earned \$60,820; and in nursing and residential care facilities, they earned \$60,370.

### Nurse Assistant

#### Career Opportunities \*

More than half of the 1.5 million nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants in the U.S. work in residential care facilities / nursing homes. Almost 20% work in hospitals, and the remainder are employed either in home health or hiring / training other nurse assistant. The job of a nurse assistant can be both physically and emotionally demanding but can offer personal fulfillment. Working as a nurse assistant is an excellent introduction to the field of health care for individuals considering pursuing an education to become a registered nurse or other health care provider. In Utah, nurse assistants must be certified by the Utah State CNA Registry, a process that includes passing both a skills test and a written exam.

#### Job Outlook \*

Employment of nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants is expected to grow 18% between 2014 and 2024, which is faster than the average for all occupations, but increases are linked to government funding for Medicare and other agencies upon which long-term care facilities depend. The growth is due to the increasing number of elderly Americans.

#### Salary Range \*

The median annual wage for full time nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants was \$25,710 in May 2015, and many part-time employment opportunities exist.

\* Derived from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2015