

NURSING EDUCATION IN MEMPHIS

by Eunice Hart

No matter your background, it's possible to have a dynamic and lucrative career in nursing. Whether you have an undergraduate degree in something else and want a career change or you've never obtained any degree, Memphis has a variety of nursing programs to accommodate you and your goals in life. If you've always thought about becoming a nurse but never took action, it may be worth exploring the following programs.



BAPTIST COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES – BACCALAUREATE NURSING PROGRAM

Baptist College of Health Sciences has awarded almost 1,000 degrees since sending through its first graduating class in 1999. Baptist makes becoming a nurse possible regardless of your background or current circumstances. Whether you work full-time or want to attend school full-time, Baptist has a program that fits your needs. It offers three different options for obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and its goal is to accommodate both the working student and the traditional student fresh out of high school.

Baptist offers the Traditional Day, Evening/Weekend and RN-BSN curriculum options. The Traditional Day curriculum offers classes during the day with clinical experiences. For those who work during the day, it offers the Evening/Weekend curriculum, which allows working students to attend classes at night and participate in clinical experience on the weekends. The RN-BSN degree is for working professionals who are already licensed as registered nurses but have not obtained their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Clinical experience, which is required for graduation, usually takes place in a hospital, clinic or community-based agency in Tennessee, Mississippi or Arkansas.

After completing the programs at Baptist, nursing students are eligible for licensing through the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN), and for obtaining a graduate level degree in nursing.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS – LOEWENBERG SCHOOL OF NURSING

The University of Memphis' Loewenberg School of Nursing (LSON) offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in nursing. LSON offers nursing education in a large university environment as well as an opportunity to obtain the graduate degrees needed for an administrative or managerial role within a medical or corporate setting.

LSON offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree for traditional students and those already registered as nurses in the state of Tennessee. They also offer the Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree in Nursing Administration, Nursing Education, Family Nurse Practitioner and Nursing Informatics.

LSON students participate in many community programs and projects such as the Memphis Union Mission, St. Luke's Church Health Fair, CPR/AED Awareness classes for Shelby County Employees, Baptist Trinity Home Care as well as other hospice care facilities. They also offer Study Abroad Programs in places such as the Dominican

Republic, through the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Council of Nurses in Geneva, Switzerland.

LSON also offers a Post-Master's Certificate program for the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Certificate and the Executive MSN programs.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER (UTHSC) – COLLEGE OF NURSING

Although the University of Tennessee Health Science Center no longer offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), it does offer many opportunities in graduate nursing degrees. UTHSC has reorganized its College of Nursing to put more emphasis on nursing leadership. These graduate level programs are open to those with or without nursing baccalaureate degrees.

UTHSC offers the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) and Nurse Anesthesiology. The entry-level CNL program prepares those whose undergraduate degree is not in nursing for initial licensure and for certification as a CNL.

UTHSC also offers the Doctor of Nurse Practice (DNP) for leadership roles in specialized areas. DNP program options include Acute Care Nursing, Family Nursing, Forensic Nursing, Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and Public Health Nursing.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is for nurse scientists who want to go into research careers in academia, government or the healthcare industry. They are trained for roles as researchers, educators, and administrators. The Doctor of Nursing Practice/Doctor of Philosophy (DNP/PhD) offers a combined program for those who wish to go into advanced clinical and research programs of study.

SOUTHWEST TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Southwest Tennessee Community College nursing students receive an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Nursing, which prepares them for careers as Registered Nurses. The Associate Degree program in nursing at Southwest takes four semesters to complete. After graduation, students are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN, the licensing exam that allows them to practice as a Registered Nurse. This is the same exam that graduates from BSN schools take. Southwest's students receive the same license and perform the same job as graduates of BSN program, and the AAS also allows them access to higher degrees like the MSN. Southwest has an accelerated LPN-RN Mobility track for LPNs who wish to become RNs. The school also offers an Allied Health Science Associate of Science degree which can be used to prepare for programs at four-year colleges. It also offers the AAS degree for License Practical Nurse field. 