

Rapid growth drives change to School of Nursing

NDSU Nursing is now the NDSU School of Nursing.

The change came in March 2015 when the college's name became the College of Health Professions to recognize the full scope of its academic mission. It previously was the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences.

School of Nursing Associate Dean Carla Gross said the change was driven primarily by the rapid expansion of NDSU nursing programs that already have a proven record of providing high-quality, hands-on education.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing at NDSU is now the largest pre-licensure BSN program in North Dakota. Its enrollment has jumped from 192 to 528 since 2013, or 300 percent in just two years.

"We've had unprecedented growth in programs, students and, as a result, faculty members," Gross said. "We've been getting bigger in every way while maintaining excellence in our programs. The prestige of the school designation helps validate that."

In addition to the pre-licensure BSN growth, NDSU has a two-year online LPN to BSN program with about 64 students. The School of Nursing expects to launch an online RN to BSN program in the fall of 2016 with plans to admit about 32 students each year.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program also has grown by 50 percent. While the program in Fargo has remained constant at about 30 students (10 students admitted each year), NDSU will begin offering the DNP in Bismarck, in the fall of 2015. NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health in Bismarck will admit five students annually for a total of 15 in the three-year program.



SCHOOL OF NURSING

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Future nurse
Maggie Seefeld
'can handle anything'

Seefeld pursues passion in NDSU Nursing

Maggie Seefeld listened to her aunt tell stories about her job as a nurse. There was the inner joy of helping an elderly patient, the gratitude of the people she cared for and the pride of making a difference in a person's life. The passion flowed from her aunt's voice. This was a calling.

Then it clicked. Seefeld always wanted to help people and do something with her life that would have positive impacts on others. That's what nurses do. So she enrolled in the North Dakota State University nursing program.

The senior from Bismarck, North Dakota, is flourishing at NDSU. She's learning each day what it takes to be a great nurse from knowledgeable, engaged and caring faculty and staff. Some of Seefeld's favorite experiences have occurred in the simulation lab, where students perform tasks on high-tech, lifelike and interactive mannequins.

"When it's done you feel like you can handle anything," she said.

She recently got her first real-world experience as a certified nurse assistant at a local hospital. She witnessed first-hand why her aunt was so passionate about the job. Working hand-in-hand with a nurse, she felt the patients' appreciation as she helped them.



Seefeld is a member of the Student Nursing Association and College of Health Professions Ambassadors. As an ambassador, she's able to tell prospective students how much she loves NDSU and the nursing program.

It's her opportunity to give back to the university that's helping fulfill her dream.

"I love the sense of community at NDSU, and the nursing program is challenging and rewarding," she said. "This has been the perfect place for me."

School of Nursing launches RN to BSN

Working nurses will soon have a new option for obtaining their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The NDSU School of Nursing will launch its online RN to BSN degree in the fall of 2016 with space for about 32 new students each year. It will be a part-time, online program for practicing RNs.

Nurses who want to enhance their learning and advancement potential have been contacting NDSU about the possibility of an RN to BSN option for several years. In addition to responding to the strong demand, the new program is part of NDSU's support of an objective set recently by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. The goal is to increase the proportion of nurses with bachelor's degrees to 80 percent by 2020.

The School of Nursing has hired a new director and a faculty member to create the curriculum and policies, develop relationships with clinical sites and market the new offering over the next year.

DNP expands to Bismarck

Six Doctor of Nursing Practice students who enter the program this fall will be the first for the NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health in Bismarck. The Bismarck students will follow the same curriculum as students in Fargo, and it will be taught by the same faculty members. The Bismarck students will interact with



students and faculty in Fargo through video conferencing technology. NDSU has added one faculty member who is coordinating clinical rotations at Sanford in Bismarck and at rural sites. Plans are for that person to teach the health assessment course on site in the future.

Nursing faculty, staff move to new office space

The School of Nursing's staff and faculty are moving from Sudro Hall to the Stop and Go Center northeast of the NDSU campus. For the first time in years, most of the nursing faculty and staff will be in a single space rather than spread throughout Sudro.

"Our programs continue to expand and thrive, which is great news," School of Nursing Associate Dean Carla Gross said. "At the same time, it's created some challenges in terms of space. This move will alleviate some of those and give us room for more growth."

The nursing labs will remain in Sudro, and the majority of classes still will be taught there.

The Stop and Go Center space also will house a video conferencing room, a high-tech classroom with a 30-person capacity and a student lounge.

COLLEGE HEADLINES

- NDSU hosts conference to explore Native American health and wellness
- DNP alum is the driving force behind a respite care program for homeless people
- Quick thinking keeps NDSU School of Nursing capstone trip on track after Kenya trip cancelled
- Inaugural phonecast connects alumni with School of Pharmacy dean
- Helmsley Trust, N.D. Challenge Grant fund endowed scholarships for NDSU American Indian public health program

Visit ndsu.edu/healthprofessions and ndsu.edu/nursing to read these and other recent stories.

LET'S CONNECT

We want to stay in touch and keep you updated about what's happening in the School of Nursing. In addition to mailers like this one, we provide several ways to get information and engage:

- College website: ndsu.edu/healthprofessions
- School website: ndsu.edu/nursing
- Facebook: facebook.com/ndsu.chp

You also can contact us at any time at 701-231-7395 or jane.hagen@ndsu.edu.

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