Recommendations

B.S.N. Nursing

To learn more about how you can make the most of your educational experiences within and beyond the classroom contact:

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PARTICIPATE

Community Service

Related Courses
NURS 431 - Family and Community Nursing

Sites/experiences
There are endless numbers of potential sites and experiences for nursing students. Sites depend on your interest and group project focus. Some recommendations include but are not limited to: Columbia Free Medical Clinic, Ronald McDonald House, Palmetto Health Richland and Baptist Children’s Hospital, Relay for Life, SC Nurses Foundation Walk, Red Cross Blood Drives, Harvest Hope Food Drives

Why this is important
Nursing is a collaborative profession. By participating in community activities and/or voluntarism, students learn to work with other professions and how to address the healthcare needs of individuals and communities.

Global Learning

Timing for “study abroad”
The rigor of our program and sequencing of courses to apply for upper division often makes study abroad challenging for nursing students. Opportunities during Maymester, Summer, and Winter break are encouraged. We are expanding the opportunity for study abroad. Currently we have a Maymester trip for rising Seniors. Nursing Capstone Scholars have the opportunity for a Spring trip through the Capstone program.

Destinations
Germany, United Kingdom (UK), Australia

Why this is important
Study abroad enables students to learn about and see different universal health care systems; interact with nursing students around the globe; and experience first hand how healthcare is approached in other cultures and the role nursing has in the delivery of that care. Study abroad is a perfect complement to those who desire work in underserved areas around the world.

Peer Leadership

Student Organization(s)
Students are strongly encouraged to join a professional organization such as: USC Student Nurses Association, South Carolina Student Nurses Association, National Student Nurses Association, Chi Eta Phi, Sigma Theta Tau, IHI Open School, and American Assembly for Men in Nursing.

Opportunities
Different opportunities are available in the college for student leadership to include: Membership in Dean’s advisory Council, College of Nursing (CON) student Affairs Committee, CON Partnership board, CON Curriculum Committee, and CON Recruitment Fairs. Additionally, students are encouraged to become involved in USC leadership opportunities such as peer leadership and USC ambassador as well as tutoring opportunities.

Why this is important
We expect every nurse to be a leader. Participation in committees and organizations provides opportunity for establishing relationships and meeting goals through team work--an important part of the nursing role.

Internships

Program Requirements
Hospitals across the nation offer summer externships for students who have completed NURS 312 - Foundations of Nursing Practice. Our students have secured coveted externships at the Mayo Clinic, John Hopkins Hospital and CHOP (Childrens Hospital of Pittsburg) in prior years.
Recommended sites/work experiences

Summer externships at local hospitals such as Palmetto Health; Lexington Medical Center; Providence; Veteran’s Administration Hospital; as well as hospitals in other cities

Professional Organizations

USC Student Nurses Association, South Carolina Student Nurses Association, National Student Nurses Association, Chi Eta Phi, American Assembly for Men in Nursing

Why is this Important

Externships provide an opportunity to hone basic nursing skills, build on critical thinking skills and build relationships with hospitals. Working with professional nursing organizations provides opportunities outside the hospital for professional networking.

Research

Related courses

NURS 400 - Evidence Based Practice; NURS 435 - Senior Nursing Capstone Practicum (both pending approval for Graduation with Leadership Distinction in Research)

Opportunities

Students are encouraged to seek out faculty with similar interests and work with them on their research. Presentation opportunities are available at Discovery Day, College of Nursing Research Day, Vianna McCowan Day as well as local nursing conventions such as the SC Nurses Association Conference.

Sample research projects or topics

Simulation scenarios focusing on reducing bloodstream infection through simulation; Acute Care Nursing Interventions with Autistic Children; HIV in Jamaica; Carbon Monoxide Poison Prevention

Why this is important

The profession of nursing relies on evidence based research to support and validate nursing practice. Participating in research projects and dissemination of knowledge contributes to personal and professional growth as well as advancing the profession and improving healthcare.

INTEGRATE

How to Integrate

All courses in the nursing major focus on application of theory presented in present and prior nursing courses. Students are expected to work with other disciplines as part of the clinical component of many nursing courses. Assignments such as case studies, simulation scenarios, and outcome webs help the student integrate the information they learned to ‘real life’ situations.

Examples of assignments within certain courses include, but are not limited to: NURS 314 project is an opportunity to network and share information with practicing nurses. NURS 425 project has students identify barriers to knowledge acquisition and provide important information the public can utilize. NURS 431 project focuses on collaboration and consultation with community leaders, consumers, businesses, churches, school, and health care organizations or agencies to assist in the planning, implementation, and evaluation a community project.
Initial career opportunities
Staff Nurse in Hospitals, Home Health, Physician practices, Nursing Home, Outpatient clinics

Related graduate programs
BSN prepared nursing students are prepared to further their education by applying for a Master of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP); PhD in Nursing

Future career opportunities
Opportunities are endless. Advanced studies can lead to opportunities as a Nurse Practitioner in a multitude of fields (Acute Care; ER; Family; Women’s Health and Psychiatric Mental Health to name a few as well as Nurse Educator; and Infomatics Nurse).

The listed experiences are a sample of options for your major. See the USC Connect experiences database to search for more opportunities.

www.sc.edu/usccconnect/participate