



GENERAL INFORMATION

ST. ELIZABETH COLLEGE OF NURSING

HISTORY OF ST. ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTER

St. Elizabeth Medical Center is a modern, not-for-profit general community hospital with a history dating back to December 12, 1866. It was founded under the auspices of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Syracuse. The medical center has remained a strong leader in medical education and has served the people of Utica and the vicinity for over 136 years without regard to race, color, creed, or national origin.

Among the medical center's outstanding features are the Family Practice Residency Program, Community Medicine Programs, Trauma Center, Heart Institute, School of Radiography and College of Nursing. The medical center is approved by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and has membership in the Catholic Health Association and American Hospital Association.

ST. ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

St. Elizabeth Medical Center community, inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi and faithful to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, is committed to excellence in healthcare and education. We pledge to do this with compassion and respect for the dignity of all.

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

The College of Nursing, established in 1904, is conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis. The first class of seven women graduated in 1907. Since that time the College of Nursing has graduated approximately 3000 men and women who are academically and clinically competent to meet the challenging health needs of the community. The dedication and commitment of the graduates reflects our long-standing tradition of providing quality care.

The Board of Regents voted that the St. Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing be authorized, effective June 20, 1986, to confer the degree of Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) on duly qualified students successfully completing the registered program. The St. Elizabeth School of Nursing changed its name to St. Elizabeth College of Nursing in 1996. In July 2001, the Board of Regents formally voted to grant an Absolute Charter to the College of Nursing.

The authority and administrative responsibility for the College of Nursing is delegated to the President, who is appointed by the Board of Directors of the College. The President, assisted by the faculty, administers the nursing program in accordance with the mission, philosophy, and objectives of the College of Nursing.

The Faculty Organization assumes responsibility for developing the philosophy, beliefs, and objectives of the College and for planning, implementing, and evaluating the program of study. These goals are achieved through the work of the Standing Committees.

The Alumni Association was organized in 1916. The objective of the organization is to support and promote the welfare of the College of Nursing and its graduates. Each year the association provides scholarship awards, sponsors a banquet for the graduating class, and presents graduates with monetary awards.

COLLEGE OF NURSING MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Elizabeth College of Nursing is to provide a strong foundation of theory and nursing practice within an environment of academic excellence that promotes active citizenship and a desire for life-long learning. In the spirit of the Franciscan tradition and values, the College is committed to creating a caring learning environment for diverse student populations.

VISION

The vision of St. Elizabeth College of Nursing is to:

- empower the learner to become a valued member of the nursing profession and society.
- be recognized as a best practice model in nursing education.
- respond to ongoing changes in education, technology, and health care.
- be acknowledged as an exemplary caring institution by all.

PHILOSOPHY

The St. Elizabeth College of Nursing faculty organization believes in the sanctity of life as created by a loving God. We believe in respect for each person as an individual with the inherent right to life and the fundamental right to optimal wellness and health care.

The philosophy of the College is reflected in its mission statement. Our beliefs about humans, wellness/illness, nursing, education, the teaching/learning process, nursing education, and community serve as a framework for the dynamic curriculum.

Humans, as unique biopsychosocial and spiritual beings, are influenced by heredity and their environment as they progress along the developmental continuum. Human beings are dynamic, open systems with freedom of choice, existing within communities.

Wellness and illness are relative states experienced along the life span. Individuals interact with their internal and external environments as they strive to maintain wellness, a holistic state of balance. Illness occurs when the state of balance is disrupted, resulting in diminished or impaired functioning for the individual.

Nursing is a process of caring that includes critical judgments and actions aimed toward promotion, maintenance and/or restoration of balance in human systems. Nursing, an evolving profession, facilitates this state of balance through the diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual or potential health problems. Based upon an understanding of the principles of and research in the biological, physical and behavioral sciences, the nursing process guides the selection and artful application of therapeutic care strategies. When restoration of the state of balance is no longer possible, nursing supports the client in a dignified death.

Nurses are professionals who blend research-based practice with intuition, caring, and compassion to provide quality care. The professional nurse is responsible for ethical practice in the delivery of care that protects the client's autonomy, dignity, and rights (American Nurses Association, 2004).

Education is a dynamic, goal-directed process combining concepts and experiences which nurture the learner's quest for understanding. Engagement in educational pursuits helps the learner to become a responsible and productive citizen.

Teaching and learning are interactive processes. The nurse educator, functioning as a facilitator, role model, and resource person, assists the learner toward the achievement of personal and professional goals. The creation of fair, safe, and respectful learning communities, with special attention to openness and inclusiveness, enhances learning. In these communities, each individual is both learner and teacher.

Learning is a continuous process whereby the learner develops the ability to unify factual, creative, rational, and value-sensitive modes of thought. Learners, as responsible, self-motivated individuals, are expected to be active participants in the learning process. Each learner has a personal learning style, preference for study, rate of learning, and degree of involvement in the learning process. The faculty assists the learner to discriminate among resources and provide selected experiences to maximize learning potential.

A **community** is a collection of people who share some attribute of their lives and interact with each other in some way. Communities, like individuals and families, are living entities. We believe that through the process of education, learners can develop awareness of the ethical dimensions of political, social, and personal life to become effective citizens.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this program of study, the graduate is eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

As a novice nurse, the graduate is prepared to provide care to clients who can be defined as an individual, a family, or a community, depending upon the setting. In this role, the graduate will:

- Serve as a positive role model within the community at large through a commitment to life-long learning and contributions to society, exemplifying Christian values.
- Demonstrate positive citizenship, reflecting an awareness of economic, political, and social forces which impact society and health care.
- Demonstrate proficiency in thinking skills, grounded in the sciences, humanities, and current research when enacting the roles of the professional nurse.

- Integrate cultural sensitivity and respect for the diversity of human experience into the coordination of care strategies to maximize client-centered learning.
- Create a culture of safety within which the needs of clients and members of the health care team are vigilantly monitored and met.
- Apply the nursing process, demonstrating assimilation of functional health patterns, to promote, maintain, or restore client wellness.
- Integrate ethical/legal standards in the provision of competent and safe professional nursing practice.
- Blend the roles of communicator and advocate to effectively collaborate with clients, significant support persons, and the health care team.
- Manage resources, including time, information, technology, equipment, and personnel to facilitate continuous quality improvement in client care.
- Integrate the components of information literacy to accomplish a specific purpose in pursuit of ongoing personal and professional development.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The academic program is a two-year Associate Degree Nursing Program that fully integrates theoretical learning with clinical experiences within a caring environment. The nursing courses include direct patient care that is planned and supervised by a faculty member with expertise in a particular nursing area. One of the strengths of the program at St. Elizabeth is its clinical component that combines the theory learned in class with actual nursing practice allowing for immediate transfer and application of knowledge.

WEEKDAY PROGRAM

The College offers a full-time weekday program that can be completed in two years. Students are scheduled for nursing and general education courses over a five-day week, with the option to take evening courses if desired.

Classes are typically in session from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day, with a 7:00 a.m. start time on clinical days. Students may be scheduled for evening clinical rotations at various times during the nursing program. Every consideration is given to a student's home and work commitments when planning clinical rotations.

EVENING/WEEKEND COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM

St. Elizabeth College of Nursing offers an evening/weekend nursing program in addition to the weekday program. It is designed to meet the needs of the adult learner who is unable to attend classes during the weekday hours. Adults 21 years of age and older, holding a high school diploma or equivalent, are eligible. Entrance requirements for the weekend candidate are the same as for the weekday applicant.

All classes are held at St. Elizabeth College of Nursing on Saturday and Sunday. Monday and Wednesday evening classes are held during select nursing courses. This program is designed for completion in three (3) academic years.

Clinical rotations are scheduled at St. Elizabeth Medical Center and other healthcare facilities on Saturday and Sunday. During most semesters, classes are in session twelve (12) weekends out of a fifteen (15) week semester. A complete schedule of classes and clinical experiences is given to students prior to the beginning of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made with their employers to adjust for weekend work obligations. During selected nursing courses, there are a limited number of clinical experiences that will be scheduled during the week. These days are scheduled in advance between the student and instructor.

THREE-YEAR TRACK

An applicant who may benefit from a year of general education courses may be accepted into the weekday nursing program as a matriculated non-nursing student. This applicant may be able to complete the program of study in three (3) academic years.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

The primary site for clinical experience is St. Elizabeth Medical Center. Other facilities utilized are Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare, New Hartford, University Hospital at SUNY Health Science Center, Syracuse, Rome Memorial Hospital, Rome and various community agencies.

CLASSES

The College provides instruction and educational services to students enrolled at the St. Elizabeth College of Nursing. All nursing classes are conducted at St. Elizabeth's and taught by St. Elizabeth College of Nursing Faculty. Selected general educational courses, including liberal arts and sciences, may be taught at St. Elizabeth College of Nursing by SUNYIT faculty.

TRANSPORTATION

The College of Nursing requires students to provide their own transportation to the College of Nursing, SUNYIT, clinical agencies, workshops and teaching days. Students are generally able to arrange car pools to facilities not within walking distance.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Clinical experiences and classes are scheduled during the day and evening hours Monday through Friday for the weekday program, and weekday evenings in addition to Saturday and Sunday for the weekend program.

CURRICULUM PLANS

FIRST YEAR

Fall Semester		Credits
BIO215	Anatomy & Physiology I *	4.0
ENG101	English I *	4.0
PSY100	Psychology *	4.0
NUR119	Fundamentals of Nursing	9.0
Spring Semester		Credits
BIO216	Anatomy & Physiology II *	4.0
PSY220	Life Span Development *	4.0
NUR120	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	4.5
NUR121	Psych/Neuromuscular Nursing	4.5
Summer Semester		Credits
NUR122	Clinical Practicum in Nursing	2.0

SECOND YEAR

Fall Semester		Credits
NUR230	Nursing and Women's Health	4.0
NUR231	Nursing of the Childrearing Family	4.0
BIO275	Microbiology *	4.0
SOC100	Sociology *	4.0
Spring Semester		Credits
NUR240	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	9.0
NUR241	Pharmacotherapy	1.0
NUR242	Professional Issues	2.0

Nursing - 40 Credits

68.0

Arts & Sciences - 28 Credits

*Courses taken through State University of New York Institute of Technology (SUNYIT)

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ENG101	English I *	4.0
PSY100	Psychology *	4.0
Spring Semester		Credits
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SOC100	Sociology *	4.0
PSY220	Life Span Development *	4.0

SECOND YEAR

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NUR120	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	4.5
NUR121	Psych/Neuromuscular Nursing	4.5
NUR241	Pharmacotherapy	1.0
Summer Semester		Credits
NUR122	Clinical Practicum in Nursing	2.0

THIRD YEAR

Fall Semester		Credits
NUR230	Nursing and Women's Health	4.0
NUR231	Nursing of the Childrearing Family	4.0
Spring Semester		Credits
NUR240	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	9.0
NUR242	Professional Issues	2.0

Nursing - 40.0 Credits

68.0

Arts & Sciences - 28.0 Credits

*State University of New York Institute of Technology (SUNYIT)

CURRICULUM PLANS

FIRST YEAR

Fall Semester		Credits
BIO215	Anatomy & Physiology I *	4.0
ENG101	English 1 *	4.0
PSY100	Psychology *	4.0
NUR001	College Survival Skills	1.0
Spring Semester		Credits
BIO216	Anatomy & Physiology II *	4.0
SOC100	Sociology *	4.0
PSY220	Life Span Development *	4.0

SECOND YEAR

Fall Semester		Credits
NUR119	Fundamentals of Nursing	9.0
BIO275	Microbiology *	4.0
Spring Semester		Credits
NUR120	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	4.5
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NUR240	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	9.0
NUR241	Pharmacotherapy	1.0
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Nursing - 40 Credits

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Arts & Sciences - 28 Credits

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PROGRAM OUTCOMES

It is an expectation of the College of Nursing that each graduate will have the ability to achieve the program outcomes as defined by the administration and faculty:

1. Graduates of St. Elizabeth College of Nursing will achieve an NCLEX-RN passing rate equal to or greater than the New York State passing average on their first attempt.
2. One hundred percent of graduates actively seeking employment will secure a nursing position within 6 months following graduating.
3. Graduates and employers will report a 90% satisfaction with the educational program at St. Elizabeth College of Nursing.
4. One hundred percent of the graduates will identify a commitment to life long learning when surveyed.
5. The cohort graduation rate will be 66% or greater.
6. The persistence rate will be 80% or greater.

AFFILIATION/ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

State University of New York Institute of Technology (SUNYIT)

(St. Elizabeth/SUNYIT – “2 + 2” Program)

An affiliation agreement exists between St. Elizabeth College of Nursing and the State University of New York Institute of Technology (SUNYIT) whereby SUNYIT provides educational services to St. Elizabeth students. They include instruction in selected disciplines, student services, library and media services, and access to campus facilities. The courses are taught by SUNYIT faculty in relationship to the total curriculum at St. Elizabeth College of Nursing.

A joint admissions agreement between St. Elizabeth College of Nursing and SUNYIT guarantees student admission in the Bachelor of Science Degree (BS) nursing program at SUNYIT, provided the student completes the Associate Degree Nursing Program at St. Elizabeth and meets the criteria for admission outlined in the joint agreement. The program requirements for the BS Degree at SUNYIT will be those in effect at the time of the student's final semester at St. Elizabeth College of Nursing.

(St. Elizabeth/SUNYIT – “1 + 2 + 1” Program)

A joint partnership agreement also exists between St. Elizabeth College of Nursing (SECON) and SUNYIT to fulfill general education requirements during freshman year, attend SECON in years two and three to obtain an associate in applied science (AAS) degree and take the RN licensure exam, and then return to SUNYIT for year four to complete the BS degree requirements.

State University of New York College at Plattsburgh

An articulation agreement between St. Elizabeth College of Nursing and the State University

of New York College at Plattsburgh is intended to facilitate the transfer of graduates from the St. Elizabeth College of Nursing Associate Degree Nursing Program to the Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program at the SUNY College at Plattsburgh.

Herkimer County Community College (HCCC) and Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC)

An affiliation agreement between St. Elizabeth College of Nursing and HCCC and MVCC are intended to provide for the ease of transition for qualified transfer students from HCCC or MVCC to the College of Nursing.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The College of Nursing building was completed in 1969. The educational building is connected on the ground floor level by a two-story entrance lobby that supports entry to the College and Medical Center offices. The College side of the building contains faculty offices, classrooms, complete nursing skills learning resource center, science and computer laboratories, modernly equipped audio-visual center, and a large multi-purpose room.

Student library facilities, located on the second floor, are equipped with 65 study spaces, including carrells. A computerized database exists for student use. The library offers a collection of volumes on professional and cultural subjects and maintains numerous subscriptions to professional medical and nursing journals. A professional staff provides assistance with library use, loan of printed and audio-visual materials, and special research needs. In addition, students may use the libraries of the city of Utica, MVCC, HCCC, SUNYIT, and St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

St. Elizabeth Medical Center offers clinical experiences in medical-surgical and psychiatric nursing. Planned experiences in the community supplement the instructional and clinical curriculum. During specific areas of study, other health facilities are used to fulfill course objectives.

The clinical rotation at University Hospital at SUNY Health Science Center, Syracuse, is a two-day per-week experience for three weeks during Nursing 231 (Nursing of the Childrearing Family). Students are expected to pay for rooms, meals, and transportation to University Hospital and parking passes are available.

The audio-visual/media center is fully equipped with modern audio-visual and computer hardware and software. Students utilize computer-assisted instruction in all courses and have access to the Internet as well as to the media center for independent projects and special programs.

Lecture rooms feature state-of-the-art equipment including comfortable seating arrangements for interactive learning. Each classroom is equipped with electronic controls for slide presentations and microphones. Electric screens provide for use of overhead projection. All classrooms include a television and videocassette recorder (VCR), digital video (DVD), laptop computer, and document viewer camera, as well as accessibility to the Internet.

RECENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekend</i>
2006	100% (nursing positions)	100% (nursing positions)
2007	100% (nursing positions)	100% (nursing positions)
2008	100% (nursing positions)	100% (nursing positions)