We are entering an unprecedented era in health care in the United States. Intelligent, caring and educated nurses are needed to lead and coordinate the delivery of health care services in today’s complex health systems, and nurses are at the front lines as part of the team implementing change. At Shenandoah, you’ll enjoy close relationships with your classmates and faculty in and out of the classroom. We’ll prepare you for a dynamic career of service and lifelong learning.

After more than 50 distinguished years, Shenandoah University’s Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing continues its strong legacy of preparing and challenging students to reach for professional excellence. As a practicing nurse with decades of experience, I’m proud of our graduates, and I will enjoy watching you become a leader in the profession.

Kathleen LaSala
Ph.D., RN, PNP, CNE
Dean, Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing
Nursing is an essential profession in the delivery of health care, with tremendous possibilities and options for career growth. Registered nurses comprise the largest portion of the health care profession. If you’re good at recognizing problems and remembering details, and you have a strong academic background in math and the sciences, you may find nursing a worthy and satisfying career for a lifetime. Shenandoah-trained nurses demonstrate skills in professional nursing care delivery, management and leadership, and values consistent with holistic and ethical delivery.

The mission of the Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing is to educate lifelong learners who provide holistic care and promote wellness, inspired by global health ideals.

“In my senior year, Shenandoah’s School of Nursing helped me land my dream job with everything from resume development to interview skills, and helped me prepare for the NCLEX with a comprehensive review program. At graduation, I felt very confident, already having a job lined up, and I felt prepared to pass my boards!”

– Anne O’Hare ’18, RN, BSN, Inova Fairfax Surgical Telemetry Unit
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

TRADITIONAL FOUR-YEAR BSN

As a freshman, you will find yourself launching head first into a rigorous nursing curriculum. With the support of an experienced nursing faculty advisor, you will receive academic and professional guidance throughout your four years in the program. Our state-of-the-art, specialized nursing labs create an environment that prepares you exceptionally well for what you will experience in your clinicals. You will also have direct access to a full range of student-life activities on and off campus. After you’ve completed your studies, you will sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and be prepared with the skills and knowledge to apply for entry-level professional nurse positions.

CAREERS

- Ambulatory Care Nurse
- Emergency Nurse
- ICU Nurse
- Long-term Care Nurse
- Medical-Surgical Nurse
- Neuroscience Nurse
- Orthopedic Nurse
- Pediatric/Neonatal Nurse
- Psychiatric Nurse
- Rehabilitation Nurse
- School Nurse
- Trauma Nurse
ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet all general Shenandoah University admission requirements as well as specific requirements for the School of Nursing. A strong background in the sciences, mathematics and humanities is recommended. Students are selected by a variety of methods, including an evaluation of high school transcripts, test scores and other indicators of ability to be successful in the program.

Once enrolled, all students are required to undergo a criminal background check, fingerprinting and random urine drug screening, as well as have up-to-date required vaccinations to participate in the program.
REPUTATION FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE

Shenandoah University enjoys a strong reputation locally, regionally and nationally. Our nursing graduates are recognized within the health care community as knowledgeable, capable and able to excel in the workplace. In addition, many return after graduation to pursue master’s degrees, post-master’s certificates and doctoral degrees.

“Once I had a tour of the Health & Life Sciences Building, I knew I had to come here.”

– Clelia Wilson ‘20
HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING

Come study in our state-of-the-art, 71,000 square-foot science facility. The HLSB offers premier academic classrooms and specialized nursing labs. Our many specialized skills labs are where students practice and hone their skills prior to starting clinical rotations, enabling them to learn the most from their clinical preceptors. It’s also where students, faculty and staff – as well as community members – come to meet and learn together in study rooms or faculty offices, as well as in the rotunda, used for special events and to showcase student and faculty research.
FACULTY MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

There’s a special bond between Shenandoah University students and their professors. You’ll enjoy close relationships with faculty members who will mentor you in and out of the classroom. This remains a hallmark of our nursing education.

Shenandoah’s experienced and practicing faculty take every opportunity to provide you with the academic foundation you’ll need to meet the standards and rising expectations for practice in the nursing profession. They provide an environment where you can be inquisitive, grow and excel.
Professor of Nursing Pam Cangelosi, Ph.D., RN, ANEF, CNE, is an active scholar in research and publication. She has been honored as an American Nurse Educator Fellow by the National League of Nursing.

Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the RN-to-BSN program, Rose Chevere, Ph.D., RN, is a master teacher who shares her passion of caring for adults with her students.

Assistant Professor of Nursing Selena Truban, MSN, RN, CRNN teaches in medical-surgical nursing and health assessment. She also has expertise in the areas of critical care and home health nursing.

“As soon as I knew that I had to develop a patient wait time app, I wanted to focus all of my energy into it. Instead of shutting me down, the faculty allowed me to integrate this idea into projects for other classes so that they could help me continue to explore and develop the possibilities and also move forward with learning the other lessons and develop the other skills that I needed to be an RN. They really individualized my experience to ‘be my best me’ and catered to my personal interests and career goals while also helping me to become an ER nurse.”

– Brianne Casey ‘16 RN, BSN, Emergency Room nurse at Winchester Medical Center and CEO/Founder of Checked In, LLC
HANDS-ON LEARNING

SIMULATION TECHNOLOGY

Shenandoah University uses high-fidelity simulation equipment in laboratories that enhance student learning. Simulation technology, in the form of human models/mannequins, allows faculty members to design specific events or scenarios that simulate actual clinical situations and events. This technology provides an interactive, educational approach to teaching theory, assessment, technology skills, pharmacology and decision-making in a safe environment that allows you to apply and integrate knowledge, skills and critical thinking.

OUTSTANDING CLINICAL PRECEPTORS

Shenandoah University enjoys collaborative relationships with many regional hospitals and, in addition to our full-time faculty, our clinical preceptors are some of the finest practitioners in the region. Nursing students study with clinical preceptors at:

• Valley Health
• Inova Health System
• Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center

And an additional 250 affiliated clinical locations

INTERPROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing fosters interdisciplinary learning and practice through collaboration with our other health care programs, including pharmacy, physician assistant studies, physical and occupational therapy, athletic training, respiratory care and music therapy.

“All preceptors are BSN – prepared clinicians with expertise in their specialty. Under the preceptor’s guidance, students learn to apply their knowledge to complex patient care and prepare for their transition to professional practice in a variety of settings.”

– Assistant Professor of Nursing Lisa Levinson, RN, MSN
Several organizations support the academic and professional development of nursing students as well as facilitate volunteer activities.

**Student Nurses Association (SNA) and National Student Nurses Association (NSNA)** are pre-professional organizations open to all nursing students.

**Rho Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI)** is Shenandoah University’s chapter of the distinguished national honor society. Membership encourages excellence in nursing and provides opportunities for you to do research and make contributions to the nursing profession and to worldwide public health.
NURSING FACTS

• Many nursing students study abroad and travel internationally on experiential learning and mission trips. Recent trips have taken students to Spain, Haiti, Brazil and the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

• Nursing students regularly participate and share their student research at the university’s annual Student Project and Research Summit - SUpr SUmmit. The event also includes presentations from students who have participated in the most recent Global Citizenship Project and Global Experiential Learning trips around the world.

• Nursing faculty spearhead the annual The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) SU Campus Walk-a-Thon.

• The baccalaureate degree in nursing at Shenandoah University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791. Approved by the Virginia State Board of Nursing.