

CONTACTS

Admissions

(815) 282-7900

Apply online at sacn.edu/apply

Transfer guides from several area community colleges are available at sacn.edu/transfer

Alumni services

Brandie Messer, DNP

brandie.l.messer@osfhealthcare.org

(815) 282-7900, ext. 27621

Development and donations

Ryan Duvall, Director of Philanthropy

ryan.r.duvall@osfhealthcare.org

(815) 395-5514



SAINT ANTHONY
COLLEGE OF NURSING



SAINT ANTHONY
COLLEGE OF NURSING

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CHOOSE TO BE A BLESSING

In August 2015, we selected “Choose to be a Blessing” as our theme. It is one that can never be exhausted. There are so many people in our communities with whom we can share our own blessings, and thus be a blessing to them, so we have continued this theme for several more years.

- Walter Lawson Stocking Donation
- Walter Lawson Easter Basket Donation
- Rock Valley Blood Drive
- Study Day with Mentor Families
- Boone County Health Department



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It is always a joy to spend a few hours reflecting on the work that has occurred at the college over the 2020-2021 academic year. It is no secret that colleges and universities are facing challenges no one could have predicted as a result of the pandemic. However, it is a joy to report that our college rolled up its collective sleeves and moved forward to ensure we maintain the heritage of excellence.

The watershed moment for the college came in the second week of March in 2020, when it was determined that we needed to cancel in-person classes. During spring break week, we extended spring break a week and emerged from the break to continue the semester via online and alternative modes of delivery. Faculty quickly transitioned to virtual modes of teaching while students transitioned to virtual learning. Staff spent that time figuring out how to work remotely but still fulfill all of the responsibilities of their position. The grace everyone showed during these times was amazing and much appreciated.

That grace continued along with the pandemic into the 2020-21 academic year. We worked hard to keep our commitment to a stellar educational experience and achieved high-quality outcomes. We kept the momentum of the transitions from one semester to the next and used the lessons learned on a weekly basis for quality improvement initiatives. While all of this took the time and energy of every member of the learning community, it also provided lessons on how strongly we work together and how much we can do if only we try. We learned that the “old ways” are valuable, but there is a need to renew and revise practice and procedures. We also learned the importance of developing resilience, self-care, and revitalizing our belief in the college.

This issue of the annual report spotlights some of the wonderful and high-quality work that emerged during the 2020-2021 academic year. The successes of our faculty and students are amazing every year, but more so during this very challenging year. I am incredibly proud of the efforts and outcomes that we have made and very hopeful for our future. I hope that you enjoy reading this report and that it rekindles that flame of pride you have in the college. Stay tuned for the exciting work that is continuing into the 2021-2022 academic year.

Regards,

Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC
President



MESSAGE FROM
THE DEAN OF
THE GRADUATE
PROGRAM



There is much to report about Saint Anthony College of Nursing graduate program success this year! While COVID-19 has clearly provided challenges to educational programming, there is a lot to be thankful for this year. The graduate team continues to celebrate successes in accreditation, student completion, nurse practitioner board certification rates and faculty accomplishments.

The graduate programs successfully completed the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education (CCNE) accreditation visit in February. In this virtual visit, a CCNE team carefully reviewed all aspects of our graduate processes, programming, faculty qualifications and outcomes. The team found no compliance concerns in any of the four standards. I am also pleased to report that CCNE team interviewed faculty, graduate students, the community of interest and alumni. These

sessions were well attended, with positive comments about students and programs. The community reported that our alumni are well prepared for their roles. One specific comment rang true – our students and graduates clearly embrace serving others. All graduate team members, faculty and staff worked very hard on this effort, led by Michelle Brady, associate professor.

Students have continued to pursue their academic goals, in spite of the pandemic. Faculty provided a lot of support to these nurses, many of whom were working in COVID-19 units. This has been a tough year for nurses; as a commitment to the OSF Mission, our faculty have provided support with the greatest care and love.

Our nurse practitioner programs continue to experience a 100% board certification pass rate. Graduates have not had difficulty with employment; many have taken positions locally.

This has also been a successful year for faculty with regard to scholarship. Several nurse practitioner faculty, including Michelle Brady, DNP, FNP-BC, Alissa Bartel, MSN, FNP-BC, Dawn Mosher, DNP, CHSE, presented at the national NONPF (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty) conference on the summer 2020 telemedicine OSCE. Dr. Matthew Dalstrom, with other faculty, published multiple articles. Key areas of his scholarly interests include medical travel, Medicaid and resilience. Several faculty also presented at local, regional, national and international conferences.

There have been a few bittersweet moments this year as well. Two key faculty have left their positions to focus their energies on retirement interests! Dr. Cynthia McGrath, a respected and outstanding teacher, has retired. Additionally, Dr. Andrea Doughty, a well-respected researcher, is beginning to transition to retirement. She is continuing this year as adjunct faculty to complete student projects, support the transition of research, and mentor her successor. Both have been instrumental in building the graduate program in science and in scholarship.

We have been blessed with new faculty as well! Gail Brick, DNP, FNP-BC, transitioned from adjunct to faculty in the fall of 2020. Rebecca Parizek, PhD, CNL, joined the team in the fall of 2021 to teach and oversee research projects. Two alumni, Elizabeth Andekian, DNP, and Jennifer Boomer, MSN, FNP-BC, joined the faculty to support nurse practitioner education.

This has been a wonderful and productive year for the graduate department.

Respectfully,

Shannon K. Lizer, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP
Dean, Graduate Program & Research

MESSAGE FROM
THE DEAN OF THE
UNDERGRADUATE
PROGRAM



Thank you for taking the time to read about what is happening at Saint Anthony College of Nursing. The 2020-2021 school year had some return to “normalcy” as we returned to school in August 2020 with students in the classroom. We were happy to be able to return to most of our clinical sites, so students had the opportunity to have hands-on clinical in the hospital or outpatient settings rather than being limited to simulation. Physical distancing, limits on group size, and masking became the norm in the classroom setting, which limited the students’ ability to participate in their usual small group study sessions on campus.

For years, our students have volunteered to give annual influenza vaccines to Mission Partners at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center. Once the COVID-19 vaccines became available, our students participated in administering vaccines to OSF Medical Group patients as well as Boone County residents through health department vaccine clinics. We estimate that we literally gave thousands of vaccines and were honored by the Boone County Health Department for our work.

In February 2021, we received our annual NCLEX report from the State of Illinois. I am pleased to announce that we maintained a 99% pass rate for 2020. This was well above the state pass rate of 88% and national pass rate of 87%.

In October 2020, we started a new cohort of RN to BSN students at OSF HealthCare Little Company of Mary Medical Center in Evergreen Park. This is one of the newer hospital acquisitions for OSF HealthCare. This enthusiastic group of students are a joy to teach and so eager to learn and improve themselves as nurses.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of Saint Anthony College of Nursing.

Blessings,

Beth Carson, EdD, RN, CN
Dean Undergraduate Affairs



MISSION

In the Spirit of Christ and example of Saint Francis of Assisi, the mission of OSF College of Health Sciences is to offer health science education programs in an environment that encourages and supports open inquiry and advances in scholarship, while preparing exceptional and compassionate caregivers and health care professionals to practice in diverse and ever changing health care environments.

VISION

Embracing our Catholic heritage and teachings, the OSF College of Health Sciences will be a leader in health science education and the academic institution of choice.

VALUES

Justice: Respect the personal worth and dignity of every student and person served regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender or religion.

Compassion: Provide a response encompassing the greatest care and love to the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of students and the communities and populations we serve.

Integrity: Uphold Catholic ethical principles, Catholic social teachings, and professional codes and ethical standards in education and practice.

Teamwork: Collaborate with each other, with members of the health care team, and with those served to deliver comprehensive, integrated and quality health care education.

Trust: Communicate openly and honestly to foster trusting relationships among ourselves, our students and with those served.

Stewardship: Manage responsibly the fiscal, physical, technologic, and human resources of the College.

Leadership: Provide leadership in health care education and in the communities served.

Student and Mission Partner Well-Being: Demonstrate concern for the physical, spiritual, emotional and economic well-being of students and Mission Partners.

Supportive Learning and Work Environment: Create and sustain high quality learning and work environments which focus on comprehensive, integrated and innovative opportunities for learning, growth, development and desired outcomes.

Teaching/Mentoring: Provide a learning-centered educational environment that focuses on excellence and fosters development in mind, body and spirit to prepare learners of the College to grow personally and professionally in their chosen roles and become health care leaders in their communities.

Scholarship/Research: Cultivate a spirit of inquiry that leads to the development and dissemination of new knowledge and a lifelong commitment to learning.

Service/Practice: Apply knowledge, skills, and attributes of the chosen health science discipline in service to others utilizing evidence-based practices.

2018-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN

- Mission & Catholic Identity**
- Align with *Principles of Good Practice for Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities*.
 - Strategically align faculty, staff and College Board education with *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* expectations.
 - Cultivate partnerships with Catholic higher education and health care communities.

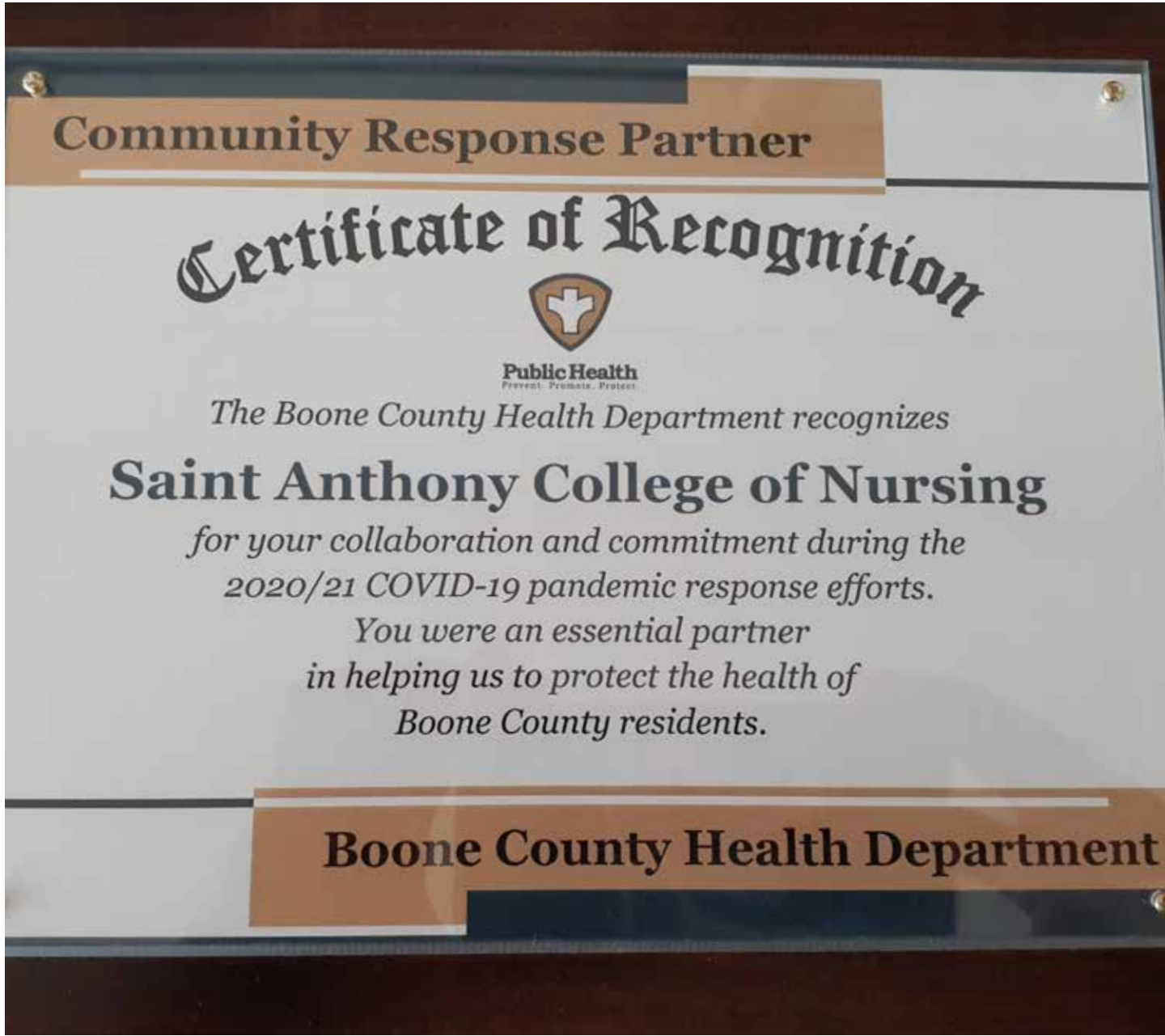
- Academic Quality**
- Establish a student-centered support program for academic tutoring, writing skills, personal counseling and career counseling.
 - Establish a Faculty Development Center for Advances in Teaching which addresses traditional teaching competence, online teaching competence, competence with advanced educational technology and faculty research and scholarship.
 - Capitalize on opportunities for shared scholarship within OSF HealthCare and the community.

- Engagement & Development**
- Enrich and deepen the relationship between the college and the Rockford community.
 - Ensure a public local and regional presence of the college.

- Financial Sustainability & Growth**
- Focus on “Friend Raising” for fundraising.
 - Cultivate an environment of fiscal responsibility by providing orientation and education to fiscal accountability and enriching philanthropic activities and outcomes.
 - Examine the feasibility of establishing a Center for Continuing Education.

- Resources & Planning**
- Focus on the growth of the college through increased enrollments, increased diversity of academic programming, and strategic investment in the people, programs and places that support academic programming.
 - Attain regional recognition as the provider of choice for nursing education.

COVID VACCINE ADMINISTRATION



FARM SAFETY DAY

Students who don’t grow up on farms or living in farm communities can’t appreciate how dangerous the occupation of farming really is. That’s why for the past several years, Saint Anthony College of Nursing has invited its students to an educational event called Farm Day.

The day is hosted at the Baker farm near Orangeville, Illinois. With help from the Stateline Farm Rescue team, it has grown and evolved.

“We discuss tractor rollovers, electrical issues, methane gas and even trampling or pinning of farmers by cattle,” said Sue Newberg, DNP, assistant professor at Saint Anthony College of Nursing. “We do a simulation of a grain bin rescue. We have a trauma reenactment, so they can get their hands on the immobilization boards and intubate a mannequin.”

Whenever possible, the college arranges for a medical transport helicopter to visit so the students can learn about flight nursing. And the day has grown to address the mental health challenges of farming, including suicide rates and drug and alcohol addiction.

“Many of these students don’t truly understand rural farm life and how high risk it is,” Dr. Newberg said.

Here are some of the comments and takeaways shared by Saint Anthony College of Nursing students who attended Farm Day in spring 2021.

- One of the biggest takeaways of the day for me was just how dangerous the farming profession is. There are so many ways that a farmer can get injured on a daily basis. In addition to that, these farming accidents affect people of all genders and age groups.

- I didn’t know how long it takes to get to and from country areas for rescue. I learned that it really does matter where you are sending a patient (i.e. trauma center or not) and what the outcome might be for them. I also learned that you can use pretty much anything on your body to create a tourniquet and that we should absolutely know how to do that for ANY situation, not just nursing. Overall, it was a very interesting and fun day! I am really intrigued by flight nursing and trauma nursing now.
- Farm Day was AMAZING! I enjoyed every minute of it. There was a lot to learn about farm safety but it also opened my eyes to another avenue of nursing outside of inpatient nursing.
- On Farm Day, I learned how to insert an intraosseous IV, how to safely remove someone from a grain bin, and that I really want to become a flight nurse in the future. I really enjoyed the experience!
- At Farm Day, I learned what steps to take if I ever encounter a farmer trapped in a grain bin. I also learned how nurses have to be fast at planning and decision making in an emergent situation.
- I am thankful I was given this opportunity to attend this awesome event, as I have come home with valuable knowledge that I didn’t have before. I learned how to rescue someone out of a grain bin, the types of injuries that farmers can experience, as well as how to care for these patients if a farming accident occurs.



EMBRACING ONLINE LEARNING

Implementing online education during the COVID-19 pandemic was not easy, but Saint Anthony College of Nursing faculty and students stepped up to that challenge with grace, resourcefulness and tenacity.

“Honestly, with the way things could have turned out, I think everything has really gone well,” said assistant professor Heidi Penney, MSN, RN, CNE. “Students kept learning and progressing in their programs. They’re passing their boards and they’re working. So whatever we did and as hard as it was, it worked.”

Faculty had to pivot quickly to online learning when the pandemic forced a government shutdown of Illinois schools in March 2020. Teaching skill building in a virtual way was particularly vexing, but faculty responded with a high degree of creativity.

“We’re really lucky here at Saint Anthony because most of us had training pre-pandemic on how to deliver online courses effectively,” said Alissa Bartel, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, an assistant professor and clinical specialty coordinator.

Faculty used various methods to foster engagement, including asking students to activate their web cameras; implementing online skill checkers, similar to a pop quiz; asking students to submit videos of themselves demonstrating certain skills; and utilizing student presentations, Bartel said.

The biggest challenge for Dawn Mosher, DNP, RN, CHSE, the college’s skills lab simulation coordinator, was figuring out how to create a virtual clinical experience when hospitals and other facilities closed their doors to students for safety reasons.

Simulation in the lab has always been part of the college’s curriculum, but the pandemic forced those simulations to be done remotely via videos, podcasts and computer links, she said.

Students were assigned simulated patients with an electronic health record and were required to create a care plan, answer questions and document how they’d respond to changes in the patient’s condition. Instead of checking the patient’s vital signs with a stethoscope, students evaluated audio recordings of lung and heart sounds appropriate to the patient.

“Throughout the simulation, we would ask them questions to help develop their ability to think critically and make clinical decisions,” Mosher said. “Following the simulation, students

had virtual one-on-one debriefing sessions with their instructor, so they left the simulation with the connections and knowledge that we would expect if they were leaving an in-person simulation.”

Students were also given supplies to practice hands-on skills at home. “I heard stories about students who created their own IV bags out of milk jugs to practice at home. We do have such high-quality students, so for them to think outside the box and get really creative did not surprise me at all,” Penney said.

To help keep students engaged during synchronous lecture classes, Penney began each class by genuinely asking how everyone was doing, while a colleague invited students to show off their coffee mug or pet before getting down to business.

“We kept it very personal, which I think is what we are known for as a college,” Penney said.

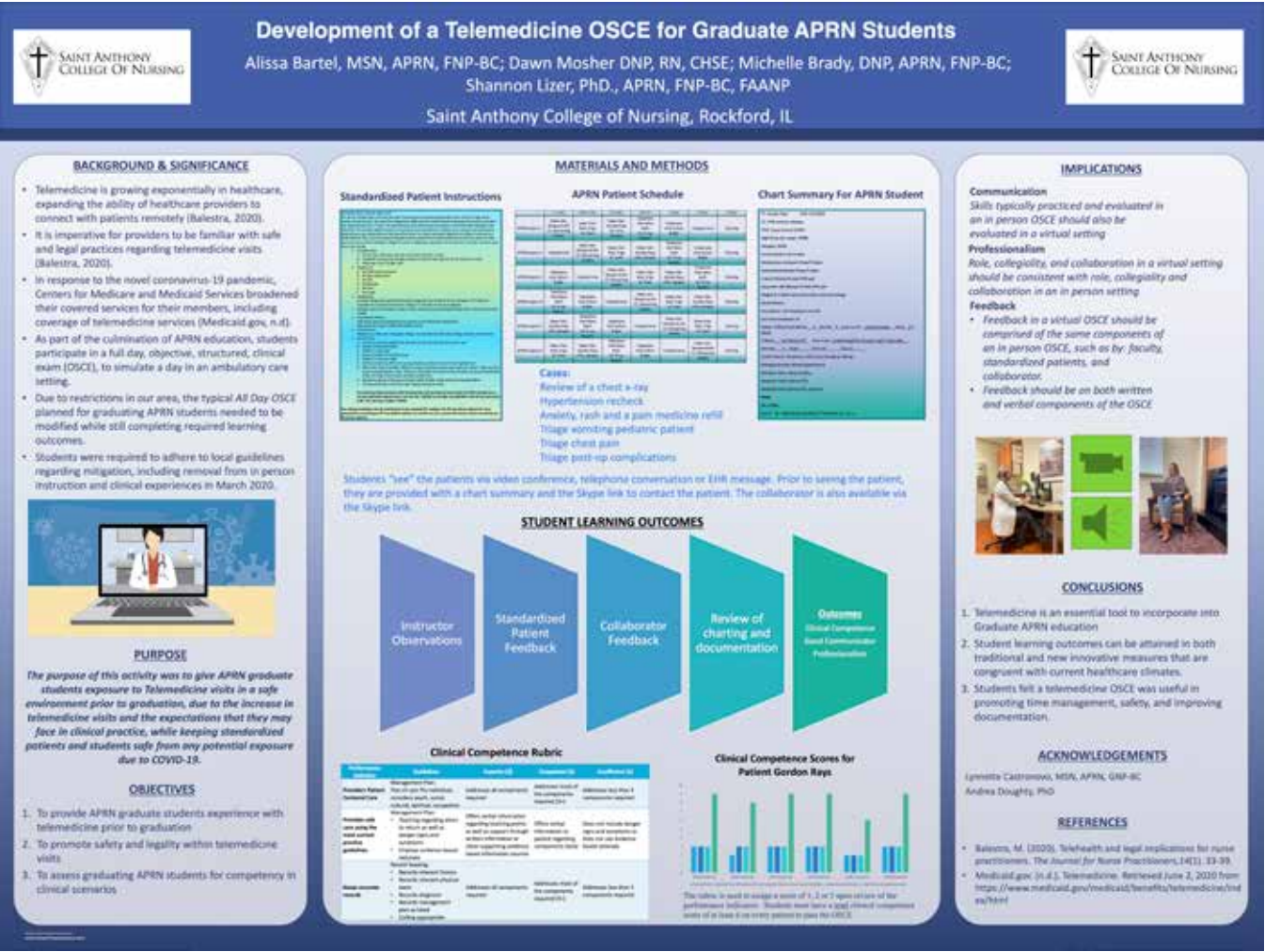
Bartel spearheaded transformation of the college’s annual all-day Objective Structured Clinical Experience (OSCE), which evaluates end-of-the-program APRN readiness to practice, to a telehealth experience.

“It really does simulate what a day in the life of a nurse practitioner could be and it builds so much confidence for them, so we felt strongly about still doing this OSCE, but we had to figure out how to do it in a way that would keep everybody safe during the pandemic,” she said.

Bartel drew on her own experience as a practicing nurse practitioner with OSF HealthCare. “We were delivering care in both an in-person model and also through telemedicine. So I thought: What if we make our simulation completely telemedicine-based?” she said.

During the remote OSCE, students worked from home to treat six standardized patients via telehealth, while periodically receiving in-basket lab work and triage messages. “There were a lot of moving pieces, but at the end of the day our students were able to achieve their learning outcomes,” Bartel said, adding that telemedicine will continue to be part of future OSCE experiences.

Bartel presented the OSCE transformation journey virtually at this year’s National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties conference, along with co-authors Mosher, Michelle Brady, and Dr. Shannon Lizer, dean of Graduate Affairs and Research.



Students were able to return in person for many classes and most clinicals in the fall and spring semesters as COVID-19 numbers fluctuated.

“In the fall of 2020, we did need to do a little bit of catch up, especially with the group that were brand new students and really didn’t get that hands-on patient care experience, though they had all their skills labs,” Mosher said.

Jacob Zills, who’s set to graduate in December, said not having that initial hospital bedside experience affected his confidence, but he was able to recover after finally having in-person clinicals.

“My first actual in-person clinical was mom-baby, which kind of scared me because it’s such a specialized area of nursing, but after that eight-week process, I was able to apply all the learning that I had taken from all the previous semesters and regain my strength and confidence to become a nurse,” he said.

Classmate Danielle Coleman, also a December graduate, said working as a CNA at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center during the pandemic helped her practice fundamental skills, such as daily patient care and interacting with patients.

“Although the pandemic was something we never could have predicted and there are various barriers as to why students couldn’t stay in the program, I do think it was like a test to see if we’re really dedicated to staying in nursing school. I’m happy Saint Anthony was dedicated to giving us the best education possible,” she said.

The ultimate proof that students continued to learn was their NCLEX results. “We had two graduating classes now that graduated during COVID, and both of them had 99 percent pass rates,” Penney said.

Bartel added, “It’s kind of incredible how resilient these students were. They really went through a lot, and they still came out on top.”

SISTER MARY LINUS NOVAK RESEARCH AWARD

Hannah Miller



Established in 2014, the Sister Mary Linus Novak Research Award was created to further the application of research as a scholarly activity in the nursing profession. Any poster with a registered nurse as an author is eligible for the award as long as it has been IRB approved. Two judges score technical aspects of the poster, its content, scientific merit and student presentation.

Hannah Miller, BSN, DNP, received this year's prestigious Sister Mary Linus Novak Research Award for a research poster she presented virtually at the UIC Health Sciences Campus Rockford Research Day.

"I was kind of surprised that I won the award," said Hannah, who received her doctor of nursing practice degree from the college in July. "There were a lot of people who presented that were very deserving."

For the second year in a row, posters were presented virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "It was a little disappointing that we couldn't be there to actually talk about our project, but it was kind of cool that I could see everybody else's poster even though I couldn't be there in person," Hannah said.

Titled "Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems: A Change in Practice," Hannah's project focused on whether a toolkit offered by the CDC called "E-Cigarettes and Youth Toolkit for Partners: How You Can Help End the Epidemic" could impact providers' attitudes and beliefs about electronic nicotine delivery systems in southern Wisconsin and increase their comfort level in addressing the issue with adolescent and young adult populations.

While her research showed no significant changes in participating providers' practices based off the intervention, some providers reported increased comfort levels when talking to adolescents about vaping, Hannah said.

"I thought the topic was interesting because we're constantly seeing kids vaping and people mistakenly think it's a safer alternative to cigarette use," she said. "I will absolutely be addressing the issue with patients in my practice."

A Wisconsin, native, Hannah is a labor and delivery nurse at Beloit Memorial Hospital and plans to continue working at the hospital as a family practice nurse practitioner. Her twin sister, Hailee Mikkelsen, is a cardiac nurse at the hospital who also received her DNP from the college at the same time as Hannah.

"I chose Saint Anthony to get my advanced degree because it had a good balance between in-person and online learning," Hannah said. "It was a chance to meet people, build connections and really get hands-on experience as a nurse practitioner."

Hannah said her interest in nursing began as a child when she would visit her grandmother, who was often hospitalized due to illness. "The nurses would always be so nice and would take care of her, and I just thought I wanted to do that for somebody, too," she said. "I've wanted to be a nurse for as long as I can remember."

In her off time, Hannah enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband and 1-year-old daughter and mindful stretching exercise.

Fellow students Elizabeth Andekian and Renee Carter also presented research posters at the UIC Rockford Research Day.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ben Guth



Ben Guth, DNP, knew from a young age that he wanted to help people, and that desire led him on a natural path to nursing.

"I really enjoyed science classes ever since I was little," said the Rockford native. "I also knew I had a passion to serve others and take care of people."

Ben, who earned his Doctor of Nursing Practice from Saint Anthony College of Nursing in July 2021, works as a nurse in the Critical Care Unit at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center. He hopes to join OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute after he takes his ANCC family nurse practitioner board exams.

Ben started his nursing career at SwedishAmerican Hospital in Rockford. While in school, he had felt a calling to do medical missions work but didn't know how to approach that at the time. While he was working as a nurse, a mentor connected him with the international nonprofit organization Mercy Ships, which uses hospital ships to deliver free health care services to those without access in the developing world.

"I volunteered and spent about six months in 2014 working as a ward nurse onboard a hospital ship called the Africa Mercy, helping people along the western coast of Africa," Ben said. "They set up shop and do surgeries for patients who can't otherwise get the surgeries they need."

Among insights he took away from that experience was the importance of community to a patient's well-being, Ben said.

"They were allowed to have one family member with them, and it became a real community aspect in the ward, which had 10 to 20 beds," he said. "Everyone would be together talking, interacting, singing and playing games. I saw how having all that support around a person helps so much."

After returning to Rockford, Ben joined the staff at OSF Saint Anthony and decided to pursue his Doctor of Nursing Practice at the college.

"I saw being a family nurse practitioner as the next phase of my career as a nurse, because I realized that would allow me the greatest flexibility and the greatest ability to accomplish that goal of taking care of people," he said. "Pursuing my doctorate degree at the college helped me build a professional network in the health care arena, which is really exciting and an invaluable thing to have."

Ben, who married his wife, Emily, last April, said he loves treating patients holistically, knowing that mental states and emotions all play a role in a patient's physical health.

As for advice he would give new nursing students, Ben said, "Being a nurse, we kind of see the extremes of life. It will be the best of times and it will be the worst of times. Given our current climate, we see both. In the ICU, we see a lot of the terribly sick COVID patients. But on other side, we also get to care for patients who have life-saving procedures like open-heart surgery. They recover well and achieve their goals of getting discharged home, and those are rewarding moments."

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Lynette Castronovo



Dr. Lynette Castronovo, DNP, APRN, GNP-BC, is a third-generation nurse whose interest in geriatrics was sparked as a young girl accompanying her grandmother to work in a nursing home.

“From the time I was little, I just knew that I wanted to be a nurse,” said Dr. Castronovo, an Ohio native who started teaching at Saint Anthony College of Nursing in 2013. She has worked in geriatrics nearly her entire professional career.

Dr. Castronovo completed her doctor of nursing practice degree at the college in May. She had been working part time as a nurse practitioner at an outpatient neurology-memory clinic while going to school and teaching until the clinic was closed last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

She hopes to find a new part-time nurse practitioner position as the pandemic improves and will continue to teach full time. “I’ve always felt that it was important to give back to the profession, and I think teaching is a good way to do that,” she said.

Dr. Castronovo is proud that the college has a 100% pass rate for board certifications. “I think Saint Anthony has a wonderful program, and we take a lot of pride in the fact that we really provide a lot of personal attention to our students,” she said.

Her confidence in the program is so high that she often refers family members to nurse practitioners who have graduated from the college.

For her DNP research project, Dr. Castronovo focused on the impact of the VetsRoll program with World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans. VetsRoll is a program started in 2010 that takes veterans to Washington, D.C., on a four-day bus trip to view the war memorials constructed in their honor to give them closure and show gratitude and respect for the sacrifices they made through their service.

“My husband and I went as assistants on VetsRoll for two years in a row, and on the trip in 2019, I enlisted participants in my research,” Dr. Castronovo said.

She interviewed 26 veterans six weeks after the trip on what they had gained from the experience. “We had intensive questions and really wanted to see what it was that was so valuable to these participants,” Dr. Castronovo said. “I think there was a lot of value in them finally getting that gratitude, respect and closure that many of them, especially the Vietnam vets, never got.”

Dr. Castronovo worked with Matthew Dalstrom, PhD, and Brandie Messer, DNP, RN, on the project and has submitted a manuscript to a professional journal. “We will be putting together some additional data and hopefully will be able to submit again for two more professional journal publications,” she said.

Dr. Castronovo offered this advice to new nurse practitioner students, “A graduate program is a huge commitment, especially when you’re working and you have a family, but it’s worth every ounce of energy that you put into because you will gain so much back with caring for patients and families at the advanced practice level.”

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Marla Farone



Marla Farone, MSN, RN, CNL, CCRN-K, has worked her entire career in ICU nursing at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center and wouldn’t have it any other way.

“ICU nursing is my passion,” said the Sycamore native who earned both her BSN and MSN from Saint Anthony College of Nursing.

After working more than 25 years in the cardiac ICU as a staff nurse and then charge nurse, Marla became the ICU educator and professional development coordinator nearly six years ago.

“I do education for onboarding nurses and CNAs, as well as ICU education for both critical care and neuro intensive care,” she said.

Marla knew from a tender age that she wanted to be a nurse. “I have no idea why. Something just struck me around 5 years old that that’s what I wanted to do,” she said.

When Marla decided to attend the college, it was still a three-year diploma nursing program but was geared to working in the hospital. “Less classroom time and more hands-on learning in the hospital appealed to me,” she recalled.

Marla completed her BSN in 2014 and finished her MSN and CNL certification in December. The physicality of many years as bedside nurse in the ICU inspired her to seek her advanced degree.

“There was something about me getting older and appreciating the way health care was going and realizing that delivering safe quality care was paramount to health care, and that’s what the CNL is responsible for: quality, safety and outcomes, and patient-nurse satisfaction,” she said.

Asked what she loves about nursing, Marla said, “I can’t think of a lot that I don’t love about nursing. I love the teamwork and camaraderie of nurses. We’re all in this together and we are going to save these people’s lives. We’re going to do what we need to do, and we’re going to do it together.”

She also loves the challenge of ICU nursing. “I love the critical thinking part and the autonomy,” she said.

Teaching was a natural evolution because of the years of experience Marla offers. “I want this to be a place where people want to come work and are proud of that. I feel like it’s my responsibility to pass on my knowledge and experience and help the new nurses and even the more experienced nurses continue developing as nurses,” she said.

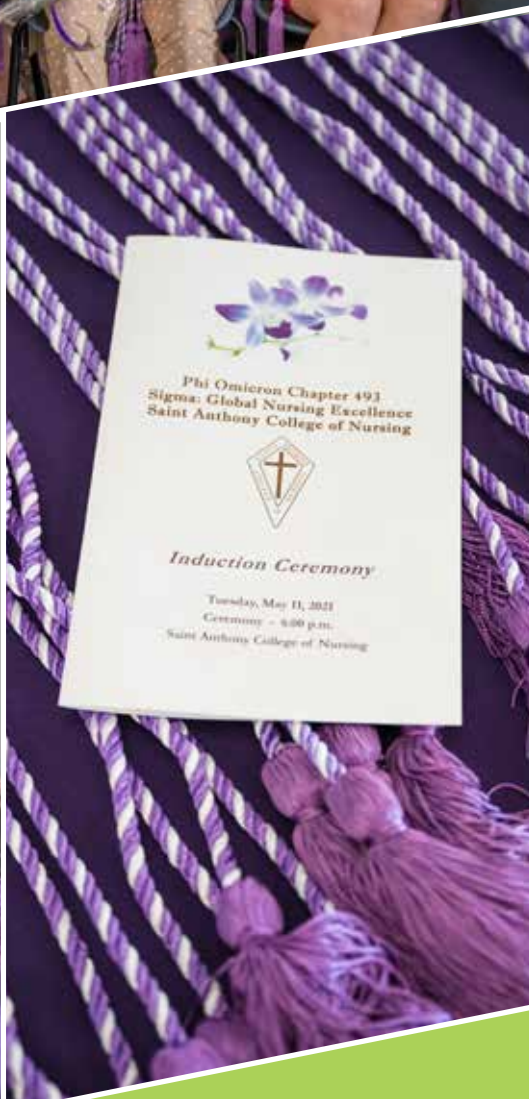
Marla advises new students to love what they do. “I don’t think nursing is for everybody, but I know very few people who have gone to nursing school and regretted that they went,” she said.

“Nursing is a lifelong learning endeavor. You have to want it, and you have to love to do it. That doesn’t mean that you have to love to do it every single day, but in your heart, you have to know this is for you,” she said.

In her spare time, Marla is a dance fitness instructor, sports fan and an animal lover, particularly dogs.



White Coat Ceremony



Sigma Theta Tau Ceremony



SIGMA THETA TAU RECOGNIZED FOR INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Sigma Theta Tau International, the honor society of nursing, recognized the Saint Anthony College of Nursing chapter for its efforts to further the field of nursing in Japan through partnerships with several Japanese nursing schools.

"It is not how much we do – it is how much love we put into the doing."

– St. Teresa of Calcutta

SCHOLARSHIPS

For 2020-21, the College of Nursing awarded 57 students a total of \$168,047.75 in scholarships.

SAINT ANTHONY COLLEGE OF NURSING AMONG TOPS IN STATE, NATION

Saint Anthony College of Nursing ranks No. 2 in the state of Illinois and No. 74 in the nation for best nursing schools, according to the RNcareers.org 2021 report.

In its sixth-annual report, the website evaluated more than 1,800 nursing schools and more than 100,000 data points to create unique, merit-based nursing school rankings. With an overall ranking of 96.89 percent, Saint Anthony College of Nursing is in the top tier of all nursing schools across the country, ranking 74 in the nation.

“We are extremely proud of this honor,” said Dr. Sandie Soldwisch, president of Saint Anthony College of Nursing. “It shows how dedicated our faculty are to providing the best education to our nursing students.”

To help nursing students in their search for a top program, the website publishes annual findings of the best nursing schools for both Illinois and the country. Schools ranked on the list have proven their ability to educate highly competent nurses, according to the organization.

Saint Anthony College of Nursing is proud to offer student scholarship opportunities through an online application system. The following institutional scholarships are made possible through the generosity of alumni, college faculty, staff and community members.

Nursing Legacy Endowment

The Saint Anthony College of Nursing Legacy Endowment Scholarship campaign was launched in 2002 and was designed to provide scholarships for future nurses and nurses that are continuing their education.

Doris and Albert Von Morpurgo Scholarship

Doris (Stromquist) Von Morpurgo was a 1944 alumna of the school of nursing and she led an extraordinary life. She served in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II and the Korean War and then went on to earn her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing. Doris passed away in 2011 and bequeathed a generous gift to Saint Anthony College of Nursing that supports student scholarships.

Ina Cholke and Olga Dean Bullard Charitable Trust Scholarship

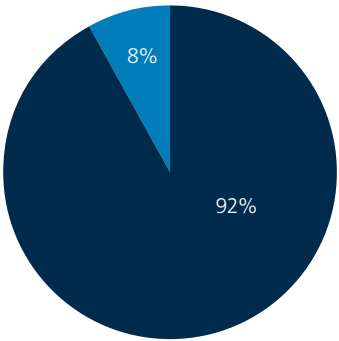
An endowment fund established by a charitable trust that provides scholarship opportunities to nurses who wish to advance their education.

FINANCIALS

Total Revenue <i>(including Federal Support)</i>	\$6,749,828
Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	\$4,190,901
Other Expenses	\$366,365
Total Net Income	\$2,192,562

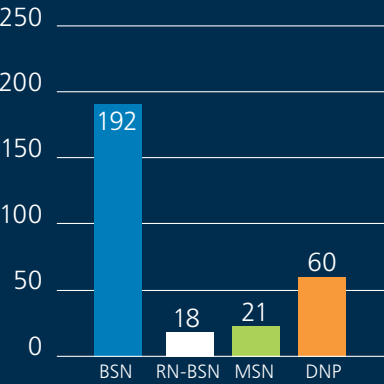
FY 21 Expenses

- Salaries & Benefits
- Other Expenses

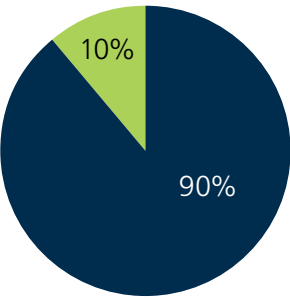


OUR STUDENTS

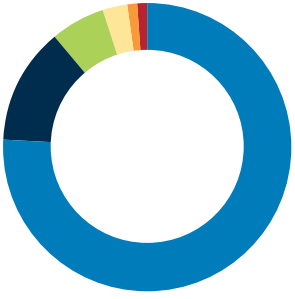
SACN Enrollment, Fall 2020
Total Enrollment: 291 Students



Overall Demographics



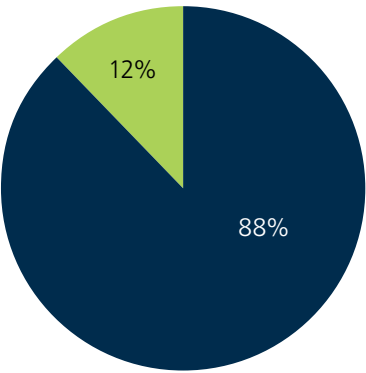
- Female
- Male



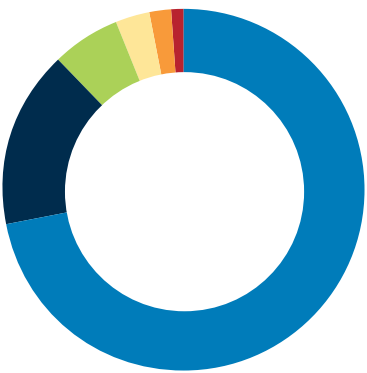
- White
- Hispanic
- African American
- Asian
- 2 or more races/ethnicities
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

Undergraduate Demographics

- Female
- Male

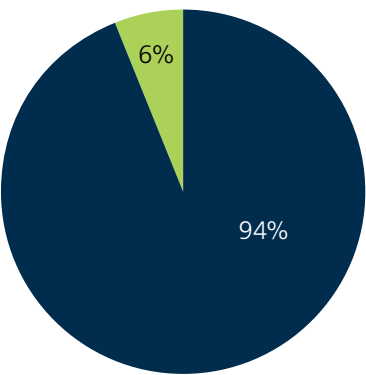


- White
- Hispanic
- African American
- Asian
- 2 or more races/ethnicities
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

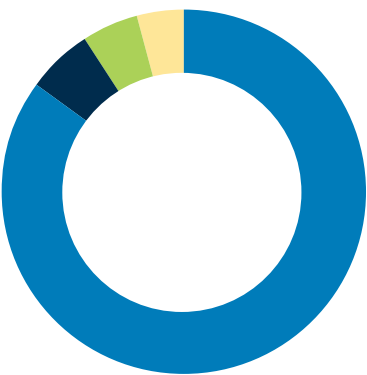


Graduate Demographics

- Female
- Male

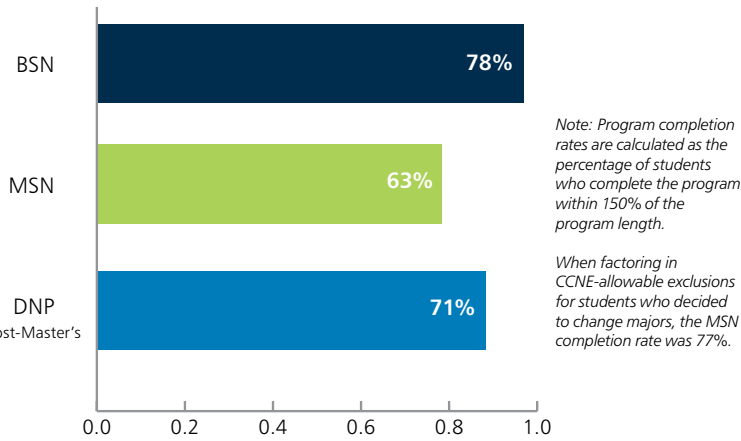


- White
- Hispanic
- African American
- Asian



SACN AT A GLANCE

2020 Program Completion Rates



Average GPA

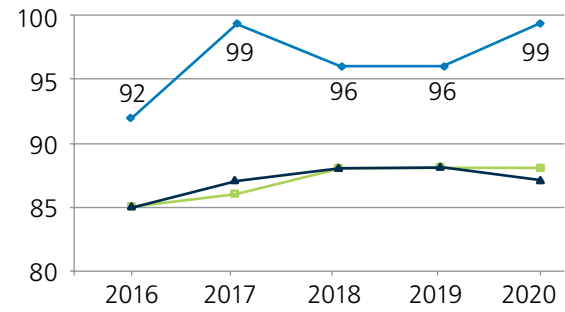
As of end of Spring 2021 semester

BSN	2.99
MSN	3.93
DNP	3.86

Pass Rates (1st attempt)

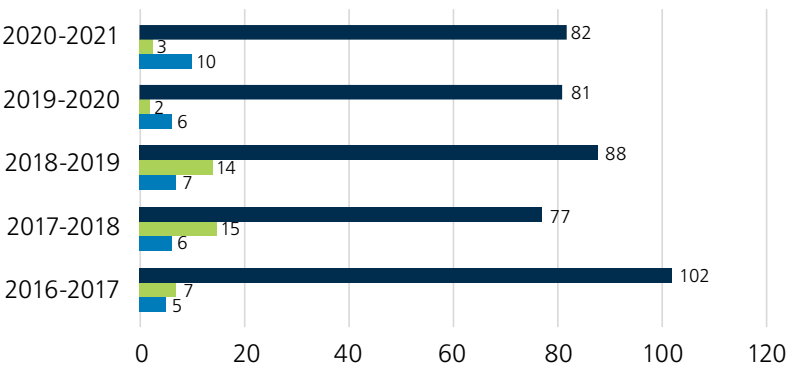
99% of BSN graduates pass their NCLEX-RN exam on the first attempt.

NCLEX-RN Pass Rates — SACN — IL — USA

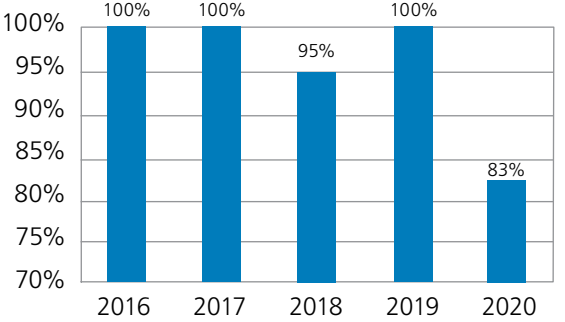


Graduation – Class Size by Degree

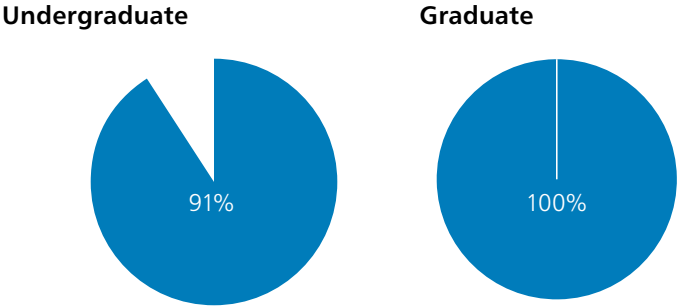
SACN Graduates — BSN — MSN — DNP



MSN/DNP Graduates’ Certification Pass Rates



Job Placement Within One Year (2019-2020 Graduates)



Note: Job placement rates are primarily based on alumni surveys. For 2019-2020 alumni, reporting on 94% of undergraduates and 100% of graduates.

RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Articles

Dalstrom, M., Chung, R., & Castronovo, L. M. (2020). Strategies to reduce healthcare costs: What medical conditions are US seniors treating with Mexican pharmaceuticals? *Journal of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jphsr/rmaa002>

Dalstrom, M. D., Weinzimmer, L. G., Foulger, R., & Klein, C. J. (2021). Medicaid expansion and accessibility to healthcare: the Illinois experience. *Public Health Nursing*. 2021; 00: 1– 10. <https://doi.org/10.1111/phn.12899>

Klein, C. J., Dalstrom, M. D., Foulger, R., & Weinzimmer, L. G. (2021) Auto-assignment of providers in Medicaid Managed Care and factors influencing seasonal flu vaccine uptake: a retrospective analysis. *Journal of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research*, rmab012, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jphsr/rmab012>

Klein, C. J., Dalstrom, M. D., Weinzimmer, L. G., Cooling, M., Pierce, L., & Lizer, S. (2020). Strategies of advanced practice providers to reduce stress at work. *Workplace health & safety*, 68(9), 432–442. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2165079920924060>

Panozzo, G. (2020) Strengths-based care. *Home healthcare now*. 38 (6), 340. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NHH.0000000000000920>

Weinzimmer, L. G., Dalstrom, M. D., Klein, C. J., Foulger, R., & de Ramirez, S. S. (2021). The relationship between access to mental health counseling and interest in rural telehealth. *Journal of Rural Mental Health*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/rmh0000179>

Book Chapters

Dalstrom, M. (2021). Care work and medical travel: Exploring the emotional dimensions of caring on the move (C. Vindrola-Padros, Editor). Lexington Books. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793618863/Care-Work-and-Medical-Travel-Exploring-the-Emotional-Dimensions-of-Caring-on-the-Move>

Book Reviews

Dalstrom, M. (2020). The importance of (im) mobilities in medical travel. [Review of the book Critical Ethnographic Perspectives on Medical Travel, by C. Vindrola-Padros]. *Transfers*, 10(2), 119-120.

Faculty Posters

Bartel, A., Brady, S., Castronovo, L., & Mosher, D. (2021, April 21-25). *Development of a Telemedicine OSCE for Graduate APRN Students* [Poster presentation]. 47th Annual NONPF Conference. Denver, Colorado.

Faculty Presentation

Brady, M. (2021, April 16). *Trauma informed care: a primer*. [Podium presentation] Nurses EXPO 2021. Rockford, IL.

Carson, B. & Lizer, S. (2021, April 16). *Sexual harassment in the workplace*. [Podium presentation] Nurses EXPO 2021. Rockford, IL.

Mosher, D. (2021, April 16). For the love of nursing. [Keynote presentation] Nurses EXPO 2021. Rockford, IL.

RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Student Posters and Presentations

Andekian, E., Lizer, S. K., Brady, M., Dalstrom, M. D. & Westerman, M. (2021, April 19). *Use of a farming specific website to promote farmer wellness and manage stress* [Poster presentation]. University of Illinois College of Health Sciences at Rockford 26th Annual Research Day, Rockford, IL.

Carter, R., Dalstrom, M. D., Brady, M., & Brick, G. (2021, April 19). *Bedside reporting* [Poster presentation]. University of Illinois College of Health Sciences at Rockford 26th Annual Research Day, Rockford, IL.

Forner, J. (2021, January 11). *Get up, Get walking: a brief nursing intervention to improve quality of life of adult cancer patients* [Paper presentation]. OSF Saint Anthony Patricia D. Pepe Center for Cancer Care - Cancer Care Committee. Rockford, IL.

Keilhauer, V. (2020, December 10). *Chart audit in a long-term care facility using STOPPFrail to motivate practice change* [Paper presentation]. Alpine Fireside Health Center – Care Planning Committee. Rockford, IL.

Miller, H., Messer, B., McGrath, C., Bartel, A. & Doughty, A. (2021, April 19). *Electronic nicotine delivery systems: a change in practice* [Poster presentation]. University of Illinois College of Health Sciences at Rockford 26th Annual Research Day, Rockford, IL. Winner of the Sister Mary Linus Nowak Research Award.

Grants/Scholarships

St. Mary’s Alumni Scholarship (2021) went to Erin Clayton (\$5,000).

SAINT ANTHONY COLLEGE OF NURSING BOARD

College Board Members

J. Maichle Bacon, MS, MPH
College Board Chair
Carol Boeke, BSN, RN
Sister Theresa Ann Brazeau, O.S.F.
Father Ryan Browning, STL
Alex Campbell, BSA
Paula Carynski, MS, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE
ex officio
Thomas Cross, JD, BS
Lois Halstead, PhD, RN
College Board Vice Chair
Edison Lim, MD
Carol Lockwood, JD, DPhil
Ricardo Montoya-Picazo, MA, BA POLS
Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC
College Board Secretary
Alan Zais, MPA
Linda Zuba, JD, MSN

Honorary Board Members

Linnette Carter, MSN, APRN/CNS-BC, NEA-BC
John Crone, CPA
Mary Anne Doherty, RN
Kim Entsminger, BJ
Marian Frerichs, EdD, RN
David Johnson, DDS (*retired*)
Jon Schmidt, BS

COLLEGE LEADERSHIP

Sandie Soldwisch, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC
President, Professor
PhD, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Elizabeth Carson, EdD, RN, CNE
Professor, Dean Undergraduate Affairs
EdD, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Shannon Lizer, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP
Professor, Dean Graduate Affairs & Research
PhD, Rush University, Chicago, IL

Nancy Sanders, MBA
Associate Dean Support Services
MBA, Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, WI

Heather Klepitsch, MLIS
Supervisor, Medical Library & College Learning Resource Center
MLIS, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

SUPPORT STAFF

Dawn Arns | *Administrative Secretary*
Teresa Daugherty | *Executive Secretary*
Deborah Denny | *Bursar*
Elizabeth Harp, MA | *Institutional Effectiveness/Assessment Specialist*
Pamela Hatch, MLS | *Medical Librarian*
April Lipnitzky, BA | *Enrollment Management Coordinator*
Alina Llanas, BA | *Recruiter*
Beth Marlewski | *Administrative Secretary*
Jean Odom | *Student Affairs Specialist – Graduate Program*
Lea Rappa | *Student Affairs Specialist – Undergraduate Program*
Maria Santos | *Administrative Secretary*
Susan Staab, GradCert ETL, BS | *Educational Technology Coordinator*
Serrita Woods, BA | *Financial Aid Coordinator*

FACULTY

Teresa Allen, MSN, RN
Instructor
MSN, Saint Anthony College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Christine Anderson, MS, APRN, CNS-BC
Adjunct Instructor
MS, Rockford University, Rockford, IL

Alissa Bartel, MSN, FNP-BC
Instructor
MSN, Saint Anthony College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Ellen Bonner, PhD, APRN, CCRN, RN
Assistant Professor
PhD, University of Texas, Tyler, TX

Darla Bradle, MS, RN
Adjunct Instructor
MS, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Michelle Brady, DNP, FNP-BC
Associate Professor
DNP, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL

Gail Brick, DNP, FNP-BC
Assistant Professor
DNP, University of Illinois College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Maximilian Button, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
Instructor
DNP, Saint Anthony College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Lynette Castronovo, MSN, APRN, GNP-BC
Assistant Professor
MSN, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Lori Compton, DNP, BSEd, RN, AGCNS-BC
Instructor
DNP, Saint Anthony College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Kathryn Cook, DHSc
Adjunct Assistant Professor
DHSc, A.T. Still University, Kirksville, MO

Kimberly Cooper, MSN, RN
Instructor
MSN, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL

Matthew Dalstrom, PhD, MPH
Professor
PhD, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

Nicole Daugherty, MSN, RN, CMSRN
Instructor
MSN, Saint Anthony College of Nursing, Rockford, IL

Andrea Doughty, PhD
Associate Professor
PhD, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Miaake Driscoll, MSN, RN, CPN
Assistant Professor
MSN, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL

Judi Forner, DNP, APRN-CCNS, RN-BC
Adjunct Instructor
DNP, Saint Anthony College of Nursing, Rockford, IL

Mary Jo Frichtl, MS, RN, CNE
Adjunct Assistant Professor
MS, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Lois Haidle-Lundgren, MS, RN
Adjunct Assistant Professor
MS, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Elizabeth Harp, MA
Adjunct Instructor
MA, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE

Meghan Hess, MSN, APRN
Adjunct Instructor
MSN, University of Illinois at Chicago

Minami Kakuta, MSN, RN, CNL
Instructor
MSN, University of Texas Health Science Center,
San Antonio, TX

Erica Laethem, BeL
Adjunct Assistant Professor
BeL, Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum,
Rome, Italy

Christine Lepianka, MS, RN
Assistant Professor
MS, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Linda Matheson, PhD, RN
Adjunct Associate Professor
PhD, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

Richard McLaughlin, DNP, AG-ACNP
Assistant Professor
DNP, Saint Anthony College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Cynthia McGrath, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
Associate Professor
DNP, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL

Grant McNall, MSN, RN
Assistant Professor
MSN, Benedictine University, Lisle, IL

Brandie Messer, DNP, RN
DNP Program Coordinator Assistant Professor
DNP, Saint Anthony College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Dawn Mosher, DMP, RN, CHSE
Assistant Professor
DNP, Saint Anthony College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Elizabeth Myers, DMP, APRN, FNP-BC
Adjunct Instructor
DNP, Saint Anthony College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Susan Newberg, DNP, MBA-HCM, RN
Assistant Professor
DNP, Saint Anthony College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Fiona Okoroti, DNP, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Adjunct Instructor
DNP, Saint Anthony College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Twyla Ottowitz, MSN, RN
Adjunct Instructor
MSN, Saint Anthony College of Nursing,
Rockford, IL

Gina Panozzo, DNP, RN-BC, CNE
Adjunct Assistant Professor
DNP, Rush University, Chicago, IL

Rebecca Parizek, DNP, RN, CNL
Adjunct Instructor
DNP, Saint Anthony College of Nursing, Rockford, IL

Heidi Penney, MSN, RN, CNE
Assistant Professor
MSN, Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL

Melissa Pettigrew, MSN, CCRN
Adjunct Instructor
MSN, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL

John Roska, MD, CMD
Adjunct Assistant Professor
MD, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

Jessica Schneiderman, MSN, APRN, ACNS-BC, CCRN-K, CPPS
Adjunct Instructor
MSN, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL

Andrea Shewalter, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, CNOR
Instructor
MSN, Saint Anthony College of Nursing, Rockford, IL

Dauphne Sims, PhD, APRN, RN, CNS
Assistant Professor
PhD, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

Phyllis Thomson, PhD, RN, CNE
Assistant Professor
PhD, Loyola University, Chicago, IL

Fr. Kenneth Wasilewski, STL
Adjunct Instructor
STL, Alphonsian Academy, Rome, Italy

Mary Westerman, MSN, RN
Assistant Professor
MSN, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL

Erin Wojewodzki, MSN, RN
Assistant Professor
MSN, Saint Anthony College of Nursing, Rockford, IL

COMMENCEMENT 2021

