

Nursing News

A Note from the Director of Nursing

Welcome nursing students to the FALL 2025 semester. Currently, there are approximately 231 students enrolled in the nursing program at the Prescott and Verde Valley locations, including a new cohort of 58 first-semester students! This is an almost 24% increase from previous semesters, thanks to a Nursing Education Investment grant (HB2691).

Our RN-BSN program is well underway. We had 11 graduates in May from the Spring 25 and 9 graduates in July from the Summer 25 cohort. Congratulations! The site visit occurred on March 11-13, 2025. Official approval will be determined by September 2025. Once approved, our accreditation status is backdated to the time of our eligibility/ candidacy was accepted which was November 16, 2023. As a result, any graduate from the RN-BSN program will have graduated from an accredited program.

This RN-BSN is post-licensure, meaning applicants must possess an unencumbered RN license to apply and have graduated from an accredited nursing program. All YC nursing graduates will be automatically accepted into the program pending licensure verification. Cost for the RN-BSN program is \$9,303 for 30.5 credits @ \$305/credit (25/26 tuition/fees).

The LPN-RN advanced placement option is going well – we had four students enroll into the third semester in Fall 2025.

The nursing program collaborated with Allied Health to offer an LPN step-out option for nursing students completing year one of the program. The LPN step-out option saw approximately 11 students admitted for the Summer 2025 offering. This course allows students to seek their LPN license and enter the workforce to earn a more livable wage.

Upcoming Events

Next SNA Meeting

09/16/25 @ 3:30 pm

10/14/25 @ 5:30 pm

11/04/25 @ 3:30 pm

12/02/25 @ 5:30 pm

October 24

Student Representation at
Department Meeting (Prescott
02-213/Zoom)

@ 9:00 am

December 12

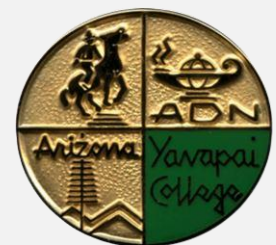
Pinning Rehearsal **@ 10:00 am**

Pinning Ceremony, YCPAC

@ 1:00 pm

Yavapai
COLLEGE
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Be More



Yavapai College (YC) Nursing graduates currently have a first-time pass rate of 84.85% on the NCLEX-RN Licensure for 2025.

Our program completion rate for 2024-2025 was 77.1%.

Currently, according to the Arizona State Board of Nursing, there are 118,146 RN's practicing in Arizona (www.azbn.gov). An increased demand for RNs in Arizona's future estimates 28,000 more needed by 2025* (AZBN Newsletter, Nov 2022). Job Placement Rates for YC nursing graduates in 2024* were 88% with an 89% response rate.

As of January 2025, Yavapai College is still ranked 11th out of 33 nursing schools across Arizona**, according to RegisteredNursing.org. This ranking is up from 12th in 2023 and based on current and historical NCLEX pass rates. The BSN program is ranked 4th in the Best Online RN to BSN Programs in Arizona according to RegisteredNursing.org.

*Data extracted from YC IER

*Data extracted from the AZBN NCLEX Reports

** <https://www.registerednursing.org/state/arizona/>



Student assistance is always required to ensure we have the most accurate data. Be sure to look for post-graduate surveys and respond promptly.

The [Nursing Program Student Handbook](#) for 2025-2026 is available for students to review on <https://yc.edu/nursing>.

Students are responsible each semester for knowing and following the contents of the most current Nursing Program Student Handbook and reviewing all YC communications or emails from nursing@yc.edu for important program announcements and policy updates.

REMINDER: Students can register for nursing classes as soon as registration opens. This will enable students to self-schedule their courses and select their clinical placements. There are several disclaimers to this process:

1. Students who start in the evening cohort will always have first priority to register for the evening courses/clinical. Students who want to move from evening to days or days to evening must schedule an appointment with the Nursing Director to ensure program availability.
2. Students must attend class/clinical on the campus they were accepted to. For example, a student living in Prescott Valley, who accepted program placement on the Verde campus, must attend clinicals in Verde.
3. Please pay attention to which course/campus you are registering for. Several students registered for classes on the incorrect campus.
4. When registering for clinical, students must select a clinical site different from where they work. For example, if a student works at the VA, they must select YRMC; if a student works at YRMC EAST, then they must select WEST or the VA as their clinical site.

From the Desk of Lorrie Vodika, Prescott Instructional Support Specialist
928-776-2017 lorrie.vodika@yc.edu



I've been with Yavapai College for 8 years and have served as the Nursing ISS on the Prescott campus for almost a year. I support the Associate Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences and faculty while managing the business side of the program — from finance to building facilities. Although most of my work happens behind the scenes, I'm always happy to assist students when needed. Please don't hesitate to stop by my office, call, text, or email if I can help.

From the Desk of Alaina Graciano, Verde Instructional Support Specialist
928-634-6512 alaina.graciano@yc.edu

Welcome to the Fall 2025 semester! I've been the Nursing ISS on the Verde Valley campus for over a year, and my focus is supporting students. If you have questions about applications, admissions, class schedules, or requirements such as CastleBranch, I serve as the main point of contact. I handle most student-related inquiries outside of clinical coordination and am always happy to help by phone, text, email, or in person. If you're on the Verde campus, please stop by — I'd love to meet you!



Please make sure to **check your YC scholar email regularly**. You'll find notifications of important clinical and program updates, and other time sensitive correspondence on your YC email account. Also, please keep your voicemail box open to receive important messages as needed.

From the Desk of Pam Linkner, Clinical Coordinator
928-717-7106 pam.linkner@yc.edu



Welcome Students. I am an RN and have been the Clinical Coordinator here for 2 years, arranging clinical rotations and facilitating the student onboarding process. Hospital requirements for accepting students are constantly changing and vary from facility to facility. I will try to give you all the information you need to complete these requirements, but you are always welcome to call, email or stop by my office if you need help or have questions. I look forward to seeing returning students again and meeting our incoming first semester students soon!



Welcome to the new school year! I have been in the RN-BSN Coordinator position for almost a year. In case you haven't heard, Yavapai College has an RN-BSN program you can complete, 100% online, part-time or full-time, right after you obtain your AAS degree and RN license. Earning your BSN is a great way to build your confidence, open up more career paths, and grow as a leader in nursing. Please contact me with any questions about this program- I'd love to chat with you about it!

Clinical Updates:

Health requirements are to be current throughout the entire semester. Students must meet all clinical compliance requirements by established due dates to be eligible to proceed into the clinical setting. Students who do not comply risk being administratively withdrawn from the clinical setting by the Nursing Director.

1 st semester	At time of admission to the nursing program	
2 nd semester	Fall: September 8 th	Spring: February 8 th
3 rd semester	Fall: July 8 th	Spring: December 8 th
4 th semester	Fall: September 8 th	Spring: February 8 th

There are **two clinical tracking systems** used in the nursing program: **CastleBranch** and **myClinicalExchange**.

CastleBranch

CastleBranch is a clinical tracking system that is used by the YC Nursing Program to ensure students are up to date on their clinical requirements. CastleBranch is first implemented upon admission to the program for students to purchase their background checks, drug screens, and the clinical health requirement checklist and must be maintained throughout the course of the nursing program.

myClinicalExchange (mCE)

myClinicalExchange is used by the clinical agencies for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th-semester clinical requirements. Students must complete the required hospital onboarding modules in MyCE before orientation at the clinical site. Both sites must be maintained while in the nursing program.

Mrs. Jennifer Pimenidis, Simulation Coordinator

Hello, I'm Jennifer Pimenidis, BSN RN. I am the Simulation Coordinator for the Nursing Department. We are so fortunate to have a state-of-the-art simulation center on the Verde Campus. During the simulation, you will gain experience with conditions you may not encounter during clinicals and become more confident in handling those situations.

I also provide clinical lab support for student clinical learning and growth. I look forward to working with all of you!



New Faculty:

We are pleased to introduce our new Full-Time Nursing Faculty: Melinda (Mindy) Brandli.

Melinda (Mindy) Brandli (Prescott Campus):

Hello everyone! I am Professor Mindy Brandli, some of you may know me from my clinical instructor position for the second and third semester students, or met me while I was obtaining my practicum hours for my Master's in Nursing Education through Grand Canyon University last year. This year, I will continue to work with students in the clinical setting and in the classroom as an associate professor. As a bedside nurse, I worked critical care for the last 7 years, primarily cardiovascular intensive care. I worked at eight hospitals as a travel nurse through COVID-19 and gained varied and unique experiences. Throughout my career, teaching has consistently been the most rewarding aspect of my role. Whether guiding new nurses through complex critical thinking scenarios or providing support during initial experiences in high-stress environments, I have found immense satisfaction in helping students succeed. My approach to teaching is grounded in evidence-based practice, safety, and a commitment to lifelong learning. I strive to present complex information in a clear and accessible manner, adapt my teaching strategies to meet diverse learning needs, and fine-tune my ability to provide appropriate and encouraging feedback.

When I am not teaching or working in the CVICU you can find me paddle boarding with my dog, hiking, taking a hot yoga class at Bend, or planning my next trip out of the country. I am looking forward to meeting you all this semester!



Open Lab Hours:

Open lab hours are flexible on the Prescott and Verde Valley Campuses based on staffing availability. Please contact your instructor with any additional questions.

Student Nurses Association:

Being a part of SNA is a wonderful opportunity to learn and experience new opportunities within the community. Through the efforts of past and current SNA officers, we have created a new, creative logo. In addition, we have combined both Verde and Prescott Campuses to serve the needs of our SNA members better. SNA is a wonderful way to meet other students, gain resources and insight, and help them succeed in nursing school while giving back to the community.

The [SNA Store](#) is a great resource for member dues, donations, and SNA merchandise. QR codes are also available on all SNA bulletin boards at both campuses.



If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of the officers via text or email, or our faculty advisor, Professor Troxel.

SNA Officers and Contact Details:

<u>SNA Co-President - Prescott</u> Erika Weaver efish001@scholar.yc.edu	<u>SNA Co-President - Verde</u> April Beltran abeltra8@scholar.yc.edu	<u>Treasurer</u> Kassidy Ward Kassidy.Ward@yc.edu
<u>Vice President - Prescott</u> Rebecca "Joy" Morris rmorri12@scholar.yc.edu	<u>Vice President - Verde</u> Timothy Miller tmille22@scholar.yc.edu	<u>Secretary</u> Tyler Brimer Tyler.Brimer@yc.edu
<u>Public Affairs</u> Adrian Diaz adiaz3@scholar.yc.edu	<u>Prescott Ambassador</u> Skylar Pierce Skylar.Pierce@yc.edu	<u>Verde Ambassador</u> Hunter Schoemaker hstewart@scholar.yc.edu
	<u>LPN Ambassador</u> Gavin Miller gmiller5@scholar.yc.edu	

YCSNA Leadership Introduction:

Erika Weaver – Co-President from Prescott Campus:



Hello. My name is Erika, and I am a 3rd semester nursing student at Prescott Campus. This will be my third semester in SNA and I am excited to be the co-president with April! I am a mother to a wonderful little girl, two huskies and an old scruffy cat. Currently, I work as a business manager for a Mobile Veterinary clinic and hope to be using my LPN certificate somewhere in the Prescott area soon. In my free time I enjoy reading, hiking, Pilates, martial arts, kayaking and writing. My long-term goal after nursing school is somewhat of an enigma as I am interested in both Emergency Medicine and Obstetrics. Eventually, I would like to become an NP providing care to underserved communities, primarily homeless populations.

April Beltran – Co-President from Verde Campus:



Hi, my name is April Beltran. I'm a wife and mother of three. After spending a decade working overseas directing a community service project in India, I recently returned to the United States. I felt compelled to further my education to obtain meaningful work in the US, and thus, I am a third-semester nursing student on the Verde campus. I am passionate about public health and plan to pursue my bachelor's degree in nursing at YC, focusing on Pediatrics and community health. I love ceramics and camping, I still love to travel, and I get involved in overseas help projects whenever possible. I am excited to serve as a Co-President for SNA on the Verde campus.

Rebecca "Joy" Morris – Vice President – Prescott Campus:

My friends call me Joy. I am a third semester Nursing student. This is my third semester in SNA. I grew up in the Tri-city area. I have three daughters. I have a farm in Chino Valley, we love animals and helping people. I have worked in the healthcare field for over 20 years. I am excited to continue my adventures in the healthcare field and be a part of SNA.



Timothy Miller – Vice President – Verde Campus:



Timothy Miller is a third-semester nursing student with over 25 years of experience in the medical field. Throughout his career, he has developed a passion for teaching and helping others. Timothy has been an active member of the YCSNA for three semesters, having served as both President and Vice President. He is dedicated to supporting fellow nursing students and looks forward to helping others succeed in their journey.

Kassidy Ward - Treasurer:

Hi! I'm Kassidy, a second year nursing student at YC Prescott. I am honored to serve as the Treasurer for SNA for the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters. I'm passionate about both healthcare and organization and I look forward to helping our club thrive by keeping our finances transparent, accurate and aligned with our goals. My focus is on budgeting for events, fundraising initiatives, and ensuring we have the resources we need to support professional growth and community service. I'm excited to be part of a team that uplifts future nurses while giving back to the community!



Tyler Brimer – Secretary:



Hello my name is Tyler, I am a 4th semester nursing student at YC also serving as RA in the dorms for the 3rd semester in a row. I have spent a lot of time with SNA (including pre-nursing) and I have watched it grow and change in a lot of really great ways. I have served in several roles and have returned for the Fall 2025 semester to serve SNA as Secretary. I am so excited to participate in events this semester and ensure proper documentation of meetings, events, and create organization from chaos in the best way!

Adrian Diaz – Public Affairs Officer:



Hello everyone, I'm Adrian Diaz and this is my third semester as a Yavapai College nursing student. I'm honored to serve as YCSNA's Public Affairs Officer as well as serve as the Public Affairs Officer at Embry-Riddle's Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 028. Prior to nursing, I was a content creator for 3 years, helping people to improve their physical and mental health. My future goals include attaining my Doctorate degree and serving as a Combat Rescue Officer in the Air Force. I'm looking forward to representing YCSNA and fostering the growth of the Yavapai College and Embry-Riddle cross-town agreement.

Skylar Pierce – Ambassador – Prescott Campus:

Hi, I am Skylar. I am an 18-year-old college student who is a 3rd semester nursing student also pursuing an associate's degree in business. I hope to become a pediatric trauma nurse who advances to a pediatric flight nurse. Currently I work at YRMC as a CNA, and just recently obtained my LPN. Once graduated I hope to get my bachelor's in nursing and continue on to get my Doctorate in Physical Therapy and my CRNA. I love to volunteer at my church and the local animal shelter, as well as spend time with family. As well as being outdoors and traveling for new adventures. I am excited to represent the Prescott campus SNA as an ambassador for the upcoming semester.



Hunter Schoemaker – Ambassador – Verde Campus:

Hi, my name is Hunter Schoemaker. I'm currently in my third semester of nursing school and I am thrilled to begin this new chapter as the ambassador for Verde while continuing my involvement in SNA. My passion lies in labor and delivery, with the ultimate goal of becoming a midwife. I'm deeply committed to supporting mothers through pregnancy and postpartum, ensuring they feel empowered and well cared for during this transformative time. Outside of school, I cherish time with my wonderful husband and our two strong-willed boys. We love exploring the outdoors—whether it's hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, swimming, or camping. In the rare moments of free time between school and family life, I enjoy reading, baking, and diving into all kinds of crafts. As I step into my roles with SNA and as a tutor for Verde, I'm excited to connect with my peers and support one another on our journey to becoming nurses. I can't wait to meet everyone and share this incredible experience together!



Gavin Miller – Ambassador – LPN – Prescott Valley Center:



Hi! My name is Gavin and I will be the LPN ambassador for the Fall 2025 cohort.

I have a large healthcare background with close to 4 years of experience between the OR as a tech, floating MedSurg/ICU/Pediatric units as a PCT, and in clinic specialties with General Surgery, Cardiology, and Urology as a Medical Assistant. I got my start here at YC originally in aviation but transitioning to nursing after my first semester. I am familiar with both Prescott and PV campuses and will proudly support and help grow SNA as I know it would likely help develop me as a nurse and beyond. I plan to finish LPN, RN, and then move on to CRNA school afterwards. I love to inspire students to further advance their careers in whatever aspect they want to follow. I plan to dedicate myself to the SNA program and am honored to be a part of such a great student led program within YC.

Please feel free to reach out to the SNA Officers on how you can be a part of SNA and take advantage of the many wonderful opportunities to advance current skills, develop leadership skills, volunteer in community events, network and be a part of unique experiences outside of the Nursing Program.

Nursing Store

We are pleased to inform you that our nursing store is open for purchasing additional patches and Yavapai College pins for the Pinning Ceremony. The nursing store will serve various purposes, and we will keep you updated via email whenever new items are added. To access the nursing store, you can follow this link: [nursing store](#), or alternatively, you may use any of the nursing store QR codes available on bulletin boards, within your ISS's office.



Nursing Store

From the Academic Advising Office

Welcome to Fall 2025!

Your **Academic Advisor** is like your personal GPS for college. We are here to help with things like program planning, transfer plans, and connecting you to support, both academic and personal.

Not sure who your advisor is? No stress, just log into your YC portal, look to the left under your name and click "Your Advisor." You'll see your Academic Advisor *and* your Financial Advisor, plus their contact information, so you can reach out anytime.

Important tip: Bookmark the Academic Calendar. It's your go-to for key dates like registration deadlines, financial aid dates, holidays, etc.

Thinking about a Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) with a University or a RN to BSN program at YC or a University? Let's talk! Your advisor can help you plan the best path forward and make sure you're on track.

We will check in with you each semester, so **keep an eye on your YC Scholar email** (not Canvas messages; they're different!). You'll find it by logging into your YC portal and clicking on "My Email." We use this for privacy reasons, so don't miss anything important.

Questions? Need a pep talk? Reach out to your advisor – we've got your back!

YC Tutoring Hours of Service

Prescott (Building 1, Room 207)

Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Friday: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

928-776-2085

prescottlearningcenter@yc.edu

Verde (Building M, Room 111)

Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Friday: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

(928) 634-6562

verdelearningcenter@yc.edu

Bookstore Return/Book Buy-Back Information

Check with the bookstore for the best price on your textbooks! The bookstore has gone online only as of the Spring 2025 semester, but still has various items including stethoscopes and uniforms for purchase.

[YC Bookstore](#)

Price Match - Find A Lower Price? We'll Match It!



YC Learning Center Resources & Items

Both the Prescott and Verde Learning Centers have two group study rooms, laptops, headphones, a full body skeleton, boxes of bones, true-to-life human x-rays with a head with removable parts, anatomy & nursing flash cards, a neuromuscular junctions kit, and a muscle module for students to use while studying there. Check with them for Nursing tutor hours – they will be available on Zoom!

Important YC Contact Information:

Prescott	Verde
YC Campus Safety (928) 776-2185 - non-emergency (928) 237-0420 - emergency	YC Campus Safety (928) 634-6599 - non-emergency (928) 239-0172 - emergency
Disability Resource Specialists – Prescott Petra Bennett 928-776-2057 Mandi Lopez 928-717-7158	Disability Resource Specialist – Verde Kay Rivers 928-634-6567

A Little Reminder:

Don't wait until you've reached your goal to be proud of yourself.

Be proud of every step you take toward reaching that goal!

— unknown

Food for Thought:

FORGIVE YOURSELF; YOU ARE NOT PERFECT. SHOW YOURSELF GRACE; YOU ARE STILL LEARNING.

SHOW YOURSELF PATIENCE; YOU ARE ON A JOURNEY – UNKNOWN

LET US NEVER CONSIDER OURSELVES FINISHED NURSES. WE MUST BE LEARNING ALL OF OUR LIVES — FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

NOTHING WILL WORK UNLESS YOU DO — MAYA ANGELOU

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Thank you for choosing the YC Nursing Program. Please feel free to reach out to the YC Nursing Office with any questions or concerns:

Prescott: 928-776-2017

Verde: 928-634-6512 or nursing@yc.edu.

RN-BSN: 928-776-2331 or RN-BSNnursing@yc.edu



NURSING PROGRAM