

Nursing News

Upcoming Events



SNA Meetings

9/9/26 @ Virtual, 5:30 pm
10/7/26 @ Virtual, 5:30 pm
11/18/26 @ Potluck, 5:30 pm
Prescott 02-216
Verde i-138
12/9/26 @ Virtual, 5:30 pm

October 30

Student Representation at
Department Meeting
(Prescott 02-216/Zoom)
@ 1:00 pm

December 4

Nursing Advisory Council Meeting
(Prescott 03-119/Zoom)
@ 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

December 11

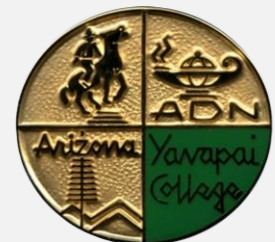
Pinning Rehearsal & Ceremony
@ JLLPAC

Welcome to the Fall 2026 Semester

The Nursing Program welcomes the new Dean of Health Sciences and Nursing Program Administrator, Dr. Jennifer Ritter, who transitioned into leadership from a faculty role as of February 2026. We also welcome the new Nursing Department Chair, Dr. Bambi Pish-Derr, and the Coordinator to the Dean of Health Sciences, Alaina Graciano.

The nursing department would like to extend a warm welcome and a huge thank you for entrusting us with your nursing education. We are here to support you on your journey, so please let us know how we can best assist you; our doors are always open!

Currently, there are approximately 208 students enrolled in the Yavapai College Nursing Program across the Prescott and Verde Valley campuses, including a new cohort of 46 first-semester students.



The LPN-RN Advanced Placement option continues to be offered, pending seat availability.

RN job placement rates for Yavapai College nursing graduates in Fall 2025 were 76%, with an 86% response rate. Data collection is currently underway for Spring 2026 graduates.

The [Nursing Program Student Handbook](https://yc.edu/nursing) for 2026-2027 is available for students to review on <https://yc.edu/nursing>. Updates have been made for the Fall 2026 semester.

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.

Exciting Update: A New Look for Our Nursing Students!

Beginning Fall 2026, the official uniform color for the nursing program will be **khaki**! Faculty introduced this exciting update in May, and our students are already looking great in the new color.

We would also like to give a special **shout-out to our valued community partner, Scrubs 4 Less in Prescott Valley**, for their collaboration and generous discount to our nursing students as we transitioned to the new uniform color. We appreciate your continued support of our students and nursing program.

The new uniforms look fantastic, and we're excited to see our students represent the program in style!



New Faculty Spotlights:

Dr. Barbara Dapcic (Verde Campus):

Dr. Barbara Dapcic is an advocate in cross-cultural holistic nursing and healthcare equity. She has been in the healthcare field for over 35 years. She holds a master's degree in medical anthropology and one in nursing, as well as a doctorate in naturopathic medicine. She has worked with diverse patient populations in community, home health and psychiatric acute care environments. Over the past 13 years she has focused on clinical and academic education. Her passion is to bridge the gap between Western medical systems and the integration of traditional healing practices, language access, and religious/spiritual accommodations into mainstream healthcare settings.

Dr. Dapcic is a resident of Flagstaff and has been ever since the Southwest captured her heart 30 years ago. She loves to volunteer in the healthcare field and has done so in India and Mexico and most recently at Ghost Ranch Retreat Center in New Mexico.



Julie Edwards (Prescott Campus):

My name is Julie Edwards; I recently joined Yavapai College as a Faculty Clinical Instructor. My nursing background includes family practice, specialty clinics, ICU, peri-op in ambulatory surgery, LTC/Rehab, and home health and Neuro MedSurg. For the past four years I have been a clinical instructor working with nursing students in ADN, and LPN programs for a community college in Fort Collins, Colorado.

I earned my Master of Science in Nursing Education in 2018, and I am especially interested in helping students connect what they learn in the classroom with the realities of caring for patients. I believe that good nursing education should build both clinical competence and confidence, while encouraging students to remain curious, compassionate, and willing to think critically.

Outside of nursing and teaching, I enjoy hiking, traveling, exploring the outdoors, and spending time with my family and new puppy. I am excited to begin this new chapter at Yavapai College and to being part of the nursing faculty and the Prescott community.



Skills Lab Open Lab Hours:

Prescott Campus open lab hours are available **every Friday from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm***.

Verde Valley Campus open lab hours are available **every Tuesday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm***.

*Except during closures and holidays. Please contact your instructor with any additional questions.

BSN Program Updates

Our post-licensure RN-BSN program is fully accredited with ACEN as of September 2025. All YC nursing graduates are accepted into the RN-BSN program pending licensure verification.

Why Stop at RN When Your BSN Is So Close?

After completing your AAS degree at YC and obtaining your RN license, you can keep the momentum going for just three more semesters (full-time) and earn your BSN degree, right here at Yavapai College, with a fully accredited program. YC graduates enjoy guaranteed acceptance, the program is 100% online, and it's a fantastic way to grow as a nurse, building both leadership skills and confidence.

If you have questions or would like to learn more, please contact Jennifer Buskey at 928.776.2331

BSN Faculty Spotlight:

Casey Truse

My name is Casey! I have been an educator since 2013, and a Registered Nurse since 2008! My areas of focus have been pediatrics, inpatient medical, surgical services, and family practice over the course of the years since I've graduated. I received my MSN-FNP in 2012 and practiced in Family Practice as a NP prior to becoming a full-time educator. Working with students has always been a desire of mine, whether at the bedside, or in the classroom setting!

I have 3 children, Laney-12, Nolan-11, and Hadley-9. They keep us busy with several hobbies including volleyball, basketball, wrestling, gymnastics, soccer and softball! Our family enjoys anything outdoors! Camping, boating, fishing, and hiking are some of our favorites! I am passionate about nursing, and love being a part of every student's journey in this remarkable profession! It truly is an honor!



What is the Student Nursing Association?

Who We Are

The Yavapai College SNA hosts many benefits with an emphasis on making lifelong friends and developing a strong peer support network. The goal of SNA is to help nursing students to not only survive but also to thrive at nursing school.

Leadership Opportunities

Students can develop leadership skills through officer and involvement roles such as Co-Presidents, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Ambassadors, Media Coordinator, and Peer Mentors, gaining valuable professional experience.

Peer Support & Mentorship

The SNA peer mentorship program provides nursing students with the opportunity to meet with a student who is a semester or two ahead to help support and guide them through. study tips and resources.

Volunteer & Community Engagement

SNA offers flexible volunteer opportunities to fit a variety of interests and schedules. Activities may include the nursing pinning ceremony, Yavapalooza, Spooktacular, blood donor drives, influenza immunizations, movie nights, restaurant events, and letter-writing initiatives. Students choose events that work best for them.

Academic & Study Support

SNA supports academic success by facilitating study groups and dosage calculation sessions, along with sharing helpful study tips and resources.

Meet Your SNA Officers:

	<u>Faculty Advisor</u> Professor Rob Wallace	
<u>SNA Co-President - Prescott</u> Courtney Handley	<u>SNA Co-President - Verde</u> Sara Pfister	<u>Treasurer</u> Harley Groves
<u>Vice President - Prescott</u> Cheyenne Holmes	<u>Vice President - Verde</u> Paul Chheo	<u>Secretary</u> Dallana Beltran
<u>Prescott Ambassador</u> Jasmine Watts	<u>Verde Ambassador</u> Brenda Buss	<u>Social Media Coordinator</u> <i>This Could Be You!</i>
	<u>LPN Ambassador</u> <i>This Could Be You!</i>	

Join the Yavapai College Student Nurses Association and thrive together!

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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:

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

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

