



CURRY COLLEGE NURSING HISTORY

The Curry College Nursing Program began in September 1977 in response to a decision by Children's Hospital in Boston to phase out its nursing diploma program. The educational excellence of Children's Hospital School of Nursing continued as their students were welcomed and admitted as members of the first nursing class of the Curry College Division of Nursing. The first graduates of that class received the Associate degree in Nursing in 1979. That same year, the Division of Nursing faculty advocated for a higher educational entry level for nurses by restructuring the existing associate degree nursing curriculum into a four-year Baccalaureate Nursing Program and by establishing one of the earliest Registered Nurse Completion Programs in Massachusetts. The first graduates of the traditional four-year program graduated in 1983. Graduates of the Registered Nurse Completion Program have graduated each May since the program's inception. Efforts to champion for a higher educational entry level for nurses are well-aligned with the current national American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) initiative to create a more highly qualified nursing workforce.

In 1983, the Baccalaureate Nursing Program was granted full approval by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (BORN). The National League for Nursing (now the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission) granted accreditation to the Nursing Program in 1984 and 1992. Preliminary approval by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for accreditation was granted in the spring of 1998. In March 2000, the undergraduate Nursing Program became the first nursing program in Massachusetts to be granted accreditation by CCNE. The undergraduate Nursing program was awarded a decennial accreditation at that time and again in 2009. The next undergraduate CCNE on-site visit is scheduled for 2019.

In addition to offering the nursing major on the Milton campus, the Division of Nursing expanded to the South Shore in 1988 by offering nursing classes to associate degree prepared nurses on the campus in Plymouth, MA. Through the Plymouth program, the number of registered nurses with baccalaureate and graduate degrees in nursing has increased to better serve an area that might otherwise have experienced a dearth of nurses with higher educational preparation.

In 1990, the Curry College Nursing Honor Society became a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society. Curry College and Simmons College merged with the chapter at Boston University to become a chapter-at-large after the Boston University School of Nursing closed. Theta-at-Large Chapter is the seventh oldest Sigma Theta Tau chapter in the United States and the oldest in New England. Each year Curry and Simmons induct new members into the chapter.

In January, 2004 the Division of Nursing welcomed the first cohort to the Accelerated Entry Level to Nursing Program (ACCEL). Our ACCEL Program was the first accelerated second-degree baccalaureate program to be established in the Boston area and the second in Massachusetts. The first graduates of the ACCEL Program graduated in 2005 and a cohort has graduated each May since the program's inception. Admission to the ACCEL Program remains very competitive. The ACCEL Program admitted its 13th cohort in January of 2016 and will double in size in January 2017.

In 2007, the Division of Nursing was selected as one of 15 schools of nursing nation-wide to participate in the Robert Wood Johnson *Quality and Safety in Nursing Education* (QSEN) pilot program (2007-2009). Our faculty were among the first to submit contributions to the QSEN website (www.qsen.org). Participation in the QSEN program provided faculty with an early introduction to quality and safety concepts. These same concepts were eventually added to the new AACN Master's Essentials (2011). The faculty's early QSEN work with the undergraduate program supported the quality and safety course construction in the Masters of Nursing Science Program which, at that time, was in the early phases of development.

In September 2008, the Division welcomed the first cohort to the Masters of Nursing Science (MSN) Program at Curry College with a *Clinical Nurse Leader* (CNL) focus. Like our ACCEL Program, our clinical nurse leader-focused MSN program was the first to be established in the Boston area and the second in Massachusetts. The MSN program accommodates a nursing workforce schedule by offering 2-3 courses one day a week, and enrolls approximately 25-45 students across the starting, continuing, and finishing cohorts. The first graduates of the MSN program graduated in 2010 and a cohort has graduated each December since the program's inception. The MSN program will admit its 9th cohort in September of 2016. In 2015 the Master of Science program was modified to become a Nurse Leader and a Nurse Educator track.

The School of Nursing was established in June of 2016. The journey to create it has been filled with excitement and challenge and the School of Nursing continues to search for new ideas, new programs, and creative methods of teaching and learning. With a current enrollment of almost 1000 students, the School of Nursing continues to implement effective, relevant, and responsive strategies that maximize opportunities to advance scholastic and professional achievement for students and faculty.

Timeline of Major Events for the Curry College Nursing Program

- 1977 Program established through an agreement to close Children's Hospital School of Nursing
- Initial approval by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing
- 1979 Baccalaureate degree nursing program established
- RN-BS Completion Program was established
- 1983 Massachusetts Board of Nursing Registration grants full approval of baccalaureate nursing program
- 1984 National League for Nursing (later National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission/ Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing) grants initial accreditation for eight (8) years
- 1988 Nursing courses offered to registered nurses at the Plymouth, MA campus.
- Curry College Nursing Honor Society formed to prepare for Sigma Theta Tau chapter
- 1989 National League for Nursing grants full approval for Plymouth campus for registered nurses
- 1990 Theta Chapter-at-Large established in conjunction with Theta Chapter at Boston University and Simmons College, the seventh Sigma Theta Tau International chapter
- Massachusetts Board of Nursing Registration grants approval for preceptored nursing experience for senior nursing students
- 1997 First international undergraduate nursing experience
- 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Nursing Program, Suzanne Gordon as the guest speaker
- 1998 Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) begins to accredit nursing program programs and grants preliminary approval
- 2000 CCNE grants 10 year Accreditation – first program accredited by CCNE in Massachusetts. This required a change in the Massachusetts Board of Registrations regulations.

- Kennedy Building rebuilt and renovated
- 2002 Nursing program offered to registered nurses at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and New England Baptist Hospital
- 2004 Accelerated Nursing Program (ACCEL) begins with first entering class
- 2005 First graduates from ACCEL Program
- 2007 Nursing Division selected as Quality Safety Education in Nursing (QSEN) pilot school
- 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Nursing Program, Donna White PhD, APRN, BC was the Key Note speaker
- 2008 Massachusetts Board of Higher Education approves the MSN program
- First MSN class is selected and enters
- 2009 Combined CCNE site visit for both the baccalaureate and MSN programs, fall 2009
- 2010 May 24, 2010 MSN program receives initial CCNE accreditation
- First MSN graduates graduate December 2010
- 2014 MSN CCNE visit for reaccreditation in fall 2014
- 2014 CCNE Accredits the Master Degree Program in Nursing
- 2015 Launch of the Masters of Science Nursing Degree in Nursing with Nurse and Nurse Leader tracks
- MSN program awarded 10 year accreditation by CCNE
- 2016 School of Nursing launched
- 2017 Additional cohort of ACCEL students accepted initiated effectively doubling the ACCEL program size
- 40th Anniversary Celebration with Elizabeth Kudzma, DNSc Key Note Speaker
- 2018 RN to BS online option launched
- Simulation Program formalizes
- 2019 First ACCEL cohort admitted to the Plymouth Campus
- Partnership to offer RN-BS courses at Massasoit

Part-time option added to MSN program

2020 CCNE rewards 10-year Accreditation to the baccalaureate and MSN programs

HRSA Award starts a Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment program

Plymouth campus relocates to Cordage Park

Associate Dean added