



10 Long-reads about Leading Edge Nursing Programs

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In recognition of the scholarly impact of its faculty, its **cutting-edge** technology and the varied opportunities it offers to its students, the University of Arizona's College of Nursing has earned the **No. 20** spot among the "*Top 30 Cutting-Edge Nursing Schools*"

The ranking, released by **Nursing School Hub**, took into consideration the *UA College of Nursing's* excellence in nursing and health care education, research, practice and top-notch mentoring. Other institutions on the list include **Columbia University, Duke University**, the **University of Illinois-Chicago, Yale University** and **Johns Hopkins University**.



"In order to provide a cutting-edge experience, a school needs to do more than just provide high-tech equipment," said *Chris Collier*, chief author and researcher for the list.

"To make this ranking, a school has to be technologically advanced, but they also have to do a great job of integrating technology into the nursing experience," *Collier* said. "These schools are the best of the best. They strive to provide students with educational opportunities and experiences that other programs simply can't compare with."

U.S. News & World Report also ranked the UA nursing college, placing it among the top 6 percent of graduate nursing programs in the country. The National Research Council ranked the college No. 7 in the nation, while NurseJournal.org ranked the college No. 11 among the "*Top 50 Most Social Media Friendly Nursing Schools*" in **2012**.



The UA college, with one of the most highly regarded graduate nursing programs in the nation, was established in 1957 with 42 students and has since grown to serve about *600 students* each year.

The UA college is highly regarded for leading-edge online access to learning, including courses that are completely Web-based or blended with intensive face-to-face learning. Additionally, college leaders are advancing global nursing development through collaborations with universities in **Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Asia** and elsewhere.



Accredited by the **Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education**, the college offers a range of nursing degrees, from entry level to advanced, including the *Bachelor of Science in Nursing* and a *Master of Science in Nursing*. The college also offers a *Doctor of Nursing Practice*, doctorate in nursing degree and a dual **DNP/Ph.D.** degrees among its offerings. Earlier this year, the *UA's Master of Science for Entry to the Profession of Nursing* program, the only one of its kind in **Arizona**, graduated its first group of nurses.

"Nursing is a versatile profession that allows one to have multiple varied careers over a lifetime without ever leaving nursing," **College of Nursing Dean Joan L. Shaver** said in May when the college honored and graduated dozens of students. "*We are committed to preparing our students to embrace a myriad of opportunities and to ensuring that people have the highest quality health care possible from outstanding nurse leaders.*"



The three main research areas of the college are: to advance the understanding of mechanisms to prevent and treat biological **injury**; to reduce **risks** and promote health among vulnerable and underserved populations; and to **aid** in the management of consequences associated with aging and chronic illness.

One of the colleges researchers – *Barbara B. Brewer*, a clinical associate professor at the college – was awarded a four-year, \$1.3 million grant by the **National Institutes of Health** to study the top reason for medical errors: communication issues. **Brewer** and her team will advance the scientific application of social network analysis – the mapping and measurement of communications patterns – in 26 nursing units nationwide, including medical, surgical and step-down units, with the goal of improving patient safety and quality outcomes.

A total of **28 active** and emeriti faculty at the college are fellows of the **American Academy of Nursing**, a national peer-elected group of nursing profession "thought leaders" representing the most accomplished leaders in nursing education, practice, administration and research.



Also, nine faculty members have been elected as fellows to the **American Academy of Nurse Practitioners**, the largest and only full-service national professional membership organization for **NPs** of all specialties, advocating for the active role of **NPs** as providers of high-quality, cost-effective, comprehensive and patient-centered health care.