NURSING STUDENT GUIDE 2024-2025

Main Campus – Tyler
3900 University Boulevard
Tyler, TX 75799
903.566.7320
Fax 903.565.5533

Palestine Campus
100 University Boulevard
Palestine, TX 75801
903.727.2300
Fax 903.727.2301

Longview University Center
2301 North Eastman Rd.
Longview, TX 75601
903.663.8222
Fax: 903.663.8221
# Table of Contents

DISCLAIMER............................................................................................................. 2

OVERVIEW.................................................................................................................. 5

Introduction .................................................................................................................. 5

History ......................................................................................................................... 5

School of Nursing Mission, Vision, & Values .............................................................. 7

  SON Mission Statement ......................................................................................... 7
  SON Vision Statement ...................................................................................... 7
  SON Values .......................................................................................................... 7

Conceptual Framework ............................................................................................... 8

Academic Programs .................................................................................................. 10

  BSN .................................................................................................................... 10
  MSN .................................................................................................................. 10
  DNP .................................................................................................................. 10
  PhD .................................................................................................................... 10
  Certificates ......................................................................................................... 10

UNIVERSITY POLICIES ............................................................................................ 11

  Academic Calendar ............................................................................................ 11
  Academic Grievance Policy .............................................................................. 11
  Academic Probation/Suspension ...................................................................... 11
  Appeals ............................................................................................................... 12
  Excessive Semester Credit Hours (Undergraduate) ......................................... 12
  Grade Replacement ........................................................................................... 12
  Non-Academic Grievance Policy ................................................................... 12
  Release of Student Information .................................................................... 12
  Scholastic Conduct and Discipline/Academic Dishonesty ............................ 12
  UT Tyler Honor Code ...................................................................................... 13
  Students with Special Needs - Disability Accommodations ....................... 13
  Transient Form .................................................................................................. 14
  Veterans Resources ............................................................................................ 14

SCHOOL OF NURSING POLICIES .......................................................................... 15

NURSING ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT .................................................................... 16

SIMULATION HOSPITAL AND SKILLS LAB ............................................................ 18

COMMENCEMENT AND CONVOCATION ............................................................ 19

  Filing for Graduation ....................................................................................... 19
  University Commencement ............................................................................. 19
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Convocation (Pinning) Ceremony</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWARDS AND RECOGNITION</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nursing Students</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Doris J. Rieman Professionalism in Nursing</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Marian Rowe Community Service Award</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Excellence Award</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding DNP Scholarly Project Award</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Dissertation Award</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Nursing Alumni Award</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookstore</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Support Center</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid Office</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Resources</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Herrington Patriot Center (HPC)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Organizations</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Research, Scholarship, and Sponsored Programs (ORSSP)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriots Engage</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrar's Office</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Instruction (SI)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Texas at Tyler Health Clinic</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upswing</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UT Tyler Student Services</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Center</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This handbook is a general information publication only. It is not intended to nor contains all regulations related to nursing students. The provisions of this handbook do not constitute a contract, expressed or implied, between any applicant, student, or faculty member and The University of Texas at Tyler or The University of Texas System. The University of Texas at Tyler reserves the right to withdraw courses at any time, to change fees or tuition, calendar, curriculum, degree requirements, graduation procedures, and any other requirements affecting students. Changes will become effective whenever the proper authorities so determine and will apply to both prospective students and those already enrolled.

This handbook is intended to be used in conjunction with The University of Texas at Tyler Catalog. The School of Nursing (SON) reserves the right to revise this handbook at any time.
Introduction

Welcome to the School of Nursing (SON) at The University of Texas at Tyler! This handbook has been prepared to introduce you to the nursing program. This guide offers information specific to the nursing program and should be used in conjunction with the general catalog of The University of Texas at Tyler and the University Manual of Policies and Procedures for Student Affairs. It is the student's responsibility to know the official University regulations and the specific nursing requirements and comply with them. This information will assist you in fulfilling your educational goals at The University of Texas at Tyler in the School of Nursing.

History

The School of Nursing was originally established as a Division of Nursing in 1975 on the campus of Texas Eastern University in response to local and regional needs for baccalaureate-prepared nurses in East Texas. Since that initial designation, the University and the School have undergone several name changes. The Division of Nursing was changed to a School of Nursing in 1997 and designated the College of Nursing in 1999. With a restructuring of the university colleges, the School of Nursing name was again adopted in 2015 as the College of Nursing became part of the College of Nursing & Health Sciences. In 1975 the Division of Nursing program was built on a foundation of human caring. Despite several name changes, the philosophy of caring has been a constant throughout the evolution of the school.

The program was initially designed in 1975 for registered nurses to complete the BSN degree. This original program, currently known as the RN-BSN Program, is now offered entirely online and can be completed in 12 months of full-time study with part-time study as an option. In 1979, the school received approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to offer the generic BSN, a program that prepares students to take the licensure exam to become registered nurses, with the first classes in the fall of 1982. The baccalaureate program expanded with the addition of two distant education initiatives: one in Palestine, Texas (45 miles to the south) in 1995, and another in Longview, Texas (45 miles to the east) in 1997. The students at the Palestine and Longview campuses attend all classes at the distance site and participate in clinical experiences in their respective geographic regions. All nursing courses are taught by the campus faculty, who also lead the clinical experiences for their respective courses. The Concurrent
ADN-BSN Program was added in the fall of 2019 to serve students wishing to obtain their ADN degree from a local community college at the same time they work toward earning their BSN degree.

The School of Nursing also boasts an innovative and progressive graduate program. With a cadre of energetic and motivated faculty, the graduate program is known for its responsiveness to community needs and use of creative and novel approaches, including a combination of strategic partnerships. In the spring of 1988, the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), with the first classes offered in fall 1989 and full initial NLNAC accreditation awarded in spring 1992.

Originally the graduate program focused on developing the leadership/management skills necessary to provide expert nursing care. The leadership focus evolved into the current MSN-Administration track, and through a partnership with the College of Business, a dual MSN/MBA degree is offered. The MSN-Education track offers the BSN an opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge to become part of a nursing faculty and lead education departments in clinical settings. The education certificate program also facilitates the transition of the master's prepared clinical nurse into the faculty role. The Family Nurse Practitioner degree exemplifies the inventive approaches, and creative partnerships developed to meet the educational needs of nurses in our East Texas region and beyond. Initially started as a partnership with Texas Tech University in 1996, the MSN-FNP became the third master's degree offered by the School of Nursing in 2008. A post-master's FNP certificate is also available for the MSN-prepared nurse seeking to move into primary care. A fourth certificate-only program in Nursing Informatics, Quality, & Safety was started in 2016. Two new programs were added in 2020: an MSN-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner degree and post-master's certificate and an MSN-Informatics, Quality, & Safety degree.

In the spring of 2005, the College of Nursing was granted authority to develop a doctoral program that admitted the first cohort in the fall of 2008. The PhD was the first doctoral program at The University of Texas at Tyler. In May 2011, the first four PhD graduates from the College of Nursing and The University of Texas at Tyler received their degrees. Students are admitted to either the standard post-master's PhD or the alternative post-BSN to PhD. In response to meeting the needs of professional nurses, courses are offered entirely online, with an on-campus orientation at the start of the program and a concurrent mandatory summer workshop for returning students.
The University of Texas at Tyler School of Nursing received final approval to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from the THECB on January 21st, 2016. The program received approval from SACSCOC in 2016 and CCNE accreditation in 2018. Following approval, course development began in February of 2016. The inaugural class was admitted in summer 2016, and the first eight DNP degrees were awarded in spring 2019.

The University of Texas at Tyler and The University of Texas Health Science Center merged in January 2021. The historic merger presented many opportunities for the College of Nursing & Health Sciences. Upon recommendations of a task force and the university administration, UT System approved the dissolution of the College and establishment of an independent School of Nursing, effective September 1st, 2021.

In 2023, the School of Nursing received legislative funding to support a Critical Care Pathways program. As a result, a doctoral level post-master’s certificate program in Adult Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner launches in fall 2024. A unique flight nursing program will be implemented in 2025, along with a third doctoral program. The Doctor of Nursing Practice – Nurse Anesthesia degree will admit students in fall 2025, preparing them to become certified nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) upon graduation.

**School of Nursing Mission, Vision, & Values**

The School of Nursing is guided by the following mission, vision, and values.

**SON Mission Statement**

To empower students to excel as nurse clinicians, leaders, and scholars in a caring, learner-centered, strengths-based environment.

**SON Vision Statement**

We aspire to be the leader in transforming lives through excellence in nursing education.

**SON Values**

Six key values are integral to our identity and underpin all programs offered by the SON.
• **Caring**: Professional practice that embodies empathy, presence, and advocacy, resulting in compassionate, patient-centered care.

• **Excellence**: The dynamic effort to exceed professional nursing standards of practice, education, and scholarship.

• **Spirit of inquiry**: A relentless curiosity towards nursing practice resulting in generation of new knowledge, evidence-based decision-making, and improved clinical outcomes.

• **Professionalism**: The outward expression of an individual’s respect for self and others; taking responsibility for behaviors that adhere to professional standards and codes of conduct.

• **Integrity**: Actions that reflect moral accountability in practice, education, and scholarship consistent with professional nursing values.

• **Leadership**: Establishing a clear shared vision; providing the information, knowledge, and resources to realize that vision; coordinating and balancing varied interests of stakeholders; and inspiring others to engage in achieving mutual goals.


*Nursing Practice Act, Nursing Peer Review, & Nurse Licensure Compact: Texas Occupations Code and Statutes Regulating the Practice of Nursing (2017).

**Conceptual Framework**

The SON program curricula are built upon a strengths-based and learner-centered foundation, congruent with the University’s mission to “help our students, patients, and community members achieve their educational and health goals by offering a combination of excellence in higher education, research, public service, and advanced healthcare delivery.” A strengths-based approach is focused on innate individual talents that can be developed into strengths that impact both personal lives and professional practice.
Threaded throughout the curricula are the concepts of

- **Spirit of Inquiry** (Curiosity, Data-Driven Decisions, Research)
- **Quality & Safety** (Technology, Evidence-Based Practice, Reasoning/Decisions)
- **Health Promotion** (Population Health, Wellness, Advocacy)
- **Leadership** (Professionalism and Interprofessional Practice)
Academic Programs

The School of Nursing offers several degree programs and certificates. Detailed information about each program or certificate is linked below.

BSN

The School of Nursing offers three options for obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Degree: the Generic BSN, the concurrent ADN/BSN, and the RN-BSN. Upon successfully completing the generic BSN curriculum at the Tyler, Longview, or Palestine campus, graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

MSN

The School of Nursing offers five different Master of Science in Nursing Degree programs: the MSN-Administration; MSN-Education; MSN-Family Nurse Practitioner; MSN-Informatics, Quality, and Safety; and MSN-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. A dual MSN/MBA degree is also available.

DNP

The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree prepares nurse leaders as healthcare change agents equipped to address complex health issues in a variety of settings. A new DNP-Nurse Anesthesia degree has been approved and will be offered beginning fall 2025.

PhD

The PhD in Nursing degree prepares nurse scientists to conduct research that contributes to the advancement of nursing science and global health. Degree options include an MS to PhD track and a BSN to PhD track.

Certificates

In addition to the graduate degrees, the School of Nursing offers six different Certificate Programs: the post-baccalaureate certificates in Nursing Administration, Nursing Education, and Nursing Informatics, Quality and Safety; the post-master’s certificates in Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; and the post-master’s, doctoral-level certificate in Adult-Geriatric, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.
In addition to the School of Nursing policies, students must be knowledgeable of all university policies, deadlines, and processes as outlined in the general catalog of The University of Texas at Tyler and the University Manual of Policies and Procedures for Student Affairs. A partial list of key policies and resources is listed below.

**Academic Calendar**

Important deadlines for graduation applications, course withdrawals, and other dates are also found on the academic calendar. The student is responsible for reviewing these dates to ensure compliance with meeting requirements.

**Academic Grievance Policy**

See the website (linked above) and the UT Tyler General catalog, current edition, for guidelines.

1. Individual course instructors retain primary responsibility for documenting the course grade earned by the student, and the instructor’s judgment is final unless compelling evidence demonstrates discrimination, differential treatment of a select few students, or procedural irregularities.

2. It shall be presumed that the instructor documented the proper grade until proven otherwise.

3. The grade documented by the instructor shall remain in effect until the appeal process is concluded.

4. Any associated effects (loss of eligibility or privilege) shall be invoked even though an appeal is pending.

5. All grade report records and related materials shall be maintained for a period of six months or until the case is resolved.

6. The burden of proof rests with the student.

**Academic Probation/Suspension**

If the student is dropped from the nursing program, the student may re-apply after she/he demonstrates the potential to be successful, as evidenced by:

1. Good academic standing at UT Tyler
2. Undergraduate students: a GPA at UTT of 2.0 or better, and for graduate students: a GPA of 3.0 or better

3. A clear plan of how to remain successful if readmitted to the nursing program

**Appeals**

Students have the right to appeal. See the UT Tyler policies related to withdrawing from a course:

Appeals Procedure: [https://www.uttyler.edu/registrar/policies/appeals.php](https://www.uttyler.edu/registrar/policies/appeals.php)

Medical Withdrawal Procedure: [https://www.uttyler.edu/studentservices/medical-withdrawal.php](https://www.uttyler.edu/studentservices/medical-withdrawal.php)

**Excessive Semester Credit Hours (Undergraduate)**

**Grade Replacement**

**Non-Academic Grievance Policy**

See the website (linked above) for the *Manual of Policies and Procedures for Student Affairs*, Chapter 1, current edition for guidelines.

**Release of Student Information**

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Texas Public Information Act, Texas Government Code §552.001 et seq., the University policy on the release of student information is found in the UT Tyler catalog.

**Scholastic Conduct and Discipline/Academic Dishonesty**

Students at the University neither lose the rights nor escape the responsibilities of citizenship. Students are expected to obey and conduct themselves in accordance with penal and civil statutes of the local, state, and federal government, Rules and regulations of the Board of Regents, University regulations, and administrative rules.
UT Tyler Honor Code

I embrace honor and integrity. Therefore, I choose not to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept
the actions of those who do.

Since the value of an academic degree depends on the absolute integrity of the work done by the student
for the degree, it is imperative that the student maintains a high standard of individual honor in his or her
scholastic work. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline as per
Chapter 8 of the MOPP for Student Affairs.

It is the student's responsibility to abide by and be aware of The University of Texas at Tyler's academic
dishonesty policies. "Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion,
falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such
as but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the
prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement
or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act.

Regulation Awareness: It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the regulations of the
University and to satisfy them appropriately. Disciplinary policies and procedures are also described in the
University of Texas System Board of Regents Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3 and
are printed in The UTT Student Guide.

Students with Special Needs - Disability Accommodations

The procedure for accommodating a student who may have medical, psychological, learning, or physical
special needs is as follows:

1. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the faculty concerning their
disability/special needs.
2. The faculty refers the student to the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) in the
University Center.
3. The SAR office will forward an accommodation report to the faculty once it has been determined
that the student has special needs. This should be taken care of 30 days prior to the start of
classes each semester to prevent delays in the initiation of accommodations.
Students who receive testing accommodations while in the nursing program are eligible for the same accommodations to take the NCLEX-RN©. Special paperwork must be submitted at the time of application to the Texas Board of Nursing.

**Transient Form**

After a student is admitted to UT Tyler, the student cannot register for any course(s) at any other institution until the Registrar's Office grants approval. Approval by the student's Advisor, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dean, and University Registrar is required to assure that the course taken at another institution will count toward the student's degree. A student should not register at another institution until the undergraduate transient admission form request has been completed and approved.

**Veterans Resources**

The Policies and Procedures Manual can be found using this link. If a student should be called to active duty while in the program, this link contains information related to withdrawals, excused absences, readmission, and the 6-drop rule. The student is expected to notify the academic advisor as soon as information is available related to potential deployment. The appropriate program director must also be notified.
In addition to the University policies, students must be knowledgeable of all School of Nursing policies, deadlines, and processes. Use the link below to access the School of Nursing policies addressing professionalism, admission, progression, academics, and clinical.

Click here for School of Nursing Policies
All nursing majors will communicate with an assigned academic advisor for release to enroll and submit required documentation. Appointments are made by using this link for undergraduate and MSN students. Potential doctoral students are advised by the PhD Program Director or Doctor of Nursing Practice Director. Admitted doctoral students are assigned a faculty advisor.

The student and advisor will sign a degree plan before the end of the first semester. Students are responsible for contacting their advisor each semester to review their progress. No student will be allowed to register for the next semester unless all transcripts are received, all immunizations are documented, and CPR and nursing license are current, if appropriate. The student is ultimately responsible for meeting the requirements for graduation.

All students enrolled in a clinical degree program must have all requirements completed in the Castle Branch system before they attend clinical. Failure to produce documentation of met requirements will result in a missed clinical day.

**Responsibilities:**

**The advisor will:**

1. Review the student's permanent file, including an approved degree plan (approved during the student's first semester in the program), and maintain dated notes of contacts with students.
2. Be available to students during posted office hours and respond to requests for appointments.
3. Provide academic advisement regarding course selection, requirements for progression and graduation, and resources and referrals as needed.
4. Identify potential scholarships/awards nominees.
5. Complete degree plans and graduation evaluations.

**The student will:**

1. Review and sign a degree plan during the first semester.
2. Maintain a current name, address, email, and telephone number in their file from the time of admission through graduation. Failure to maintain current contact information could delay receipt of important SON messages.
3. Promptly submit transcripts to the Registrar's Office for courses completed at other colleges/universities prior to the end of the first semester of admission.

4. Prior to registration each semester, make an appointment with the designated advisor. If unable to keep the appointment, the advisor must be notified, and the appointment rescheduled.

5. Prior to withdrawing from a course, students are required to consult with the academic advisor. Failure to consult with the academic advisor prior to withdrawal may jeopardize the student's continuation in the program.

6. If encountering difficulties in academic or clinical matters, seek guidance, resources, and/or referrals from the course faculty and the academic advisor.

7. Notify the appropriate advisor in writing/e-mail for changes in student status such as part-time, withdrawal, or change in progression.
SIMULATION HOSPITAL AND SKILLS LAB

It is our wish for students to utilize the Skills Laboratory and Simulation Hospital to further their learning of skills and apply them during simulation. Time spent in the Skills Lab and Simulation areas should be treated with the same expectation as in clinical areas. Students are expected to follow the guidelines for clinical areas when participating in simulation and skills lab opportunities.

When utilizing the simulation hospital and skills lab areas, students are expected to follow the guidelines below.

1. Wear the approved UT Tyler nursing student uniform, including a name badge and other necessary equipment.
2. Arrive for simulation or skills lab promptly.
3. Maintain the level of professionalism expected of UT Tyler nursing students.
4. Treat all skills lab and simulation areas as clinical sites and assist with cleaning up the work area.
5. Do not move any equipment or manikins without the assistance of the Lab Staff.
6. Do not bring pens into the skills labs or simulation area. Pens will stain the manikin skin.
7. To ensure adequate preparation for participation, complete pre-simulation/skills lab assignments prior to arrival.
8. Adhere to the School of Nursing Simulation/Skills lab privacy and confidentiality guidelines. When a simulation is completed, professional discussion of the simulation is permitted in debriefing with the clinical instructor.

Failure to comply with the above requirements may result in an unexcused clinical absence and/or negative clinical evaluation. Individual situations may require a collaborative effort with the faculty to reach an appropriate resolution.
Filing for Graduation

1. University graduation requirements are outlined in The University of Texas at Tyler Catalog.
2. The student is ultimately responsible for meeting the requirements for graduation.
3. Students will follow the process to apply for graduation and meet the expected deadline date.
4. Students may apply for graduation as early as nine months before the final filing deadline (see link in #3).
5. No applications are accepted after the final deadline date.

University Commencement

Commencement is traditionally held at the end of each semester.

Nursing Convocation (Pinning) Ceremony

The Convocation Ceremony celebrates the accomplishments of BSN nursing graduates. The ceremony is typically held at the end of the semester, the day before graduation. Information and instructions about the ceremony will be posted in Canvas or emailed to students through the Patriots email.
Recognition is given to graduating students and alumni during the Convocation ceremonies.

**DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nursing Students**

The [DAISY Foundation](#) was established in 1999 by members of the family of Patrick Barnes, who died at age 33 of complications an auto-immune disease. The DAISY Foundation created an award to recognize the extraordinary care Pat and his family received from Pat’s nurses. The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nurses honors nurses who go above and beyond and make extraordinary differences in patients and families experiences in healthcare. The DAISY Foundation also created an award for students. The [DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nursing Students](#) is given each semester to a nursing student who exemplifies the delivery of clinical care in an extraordinary and compassionate way to patients and their families as they are learning.

**Dr. Doris J. Rieman Professionalism in Nursing**

The award for ‘most professional’ is a long-established tradition at UT Tyler School of Nursing. In spring 2017, it was renamed the Dr. Doris J. Riemen Professionalism in Nursing in honor of one of the founders of the UT Tyler School of Nursing. The BSN student receiving this award must be of good character, be an active member of a professional student nursing organization and maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher. The students must also demonstrate a commitment to the nursing profession, excellence in nursing standards, and professional values.

**Dr. Marian Rowe Community Service Award**

This award is named in honor of Dr. Rowe, one of the three founding nurses who started the nursing program at UT Tyler and was known for her dedication to the community. The BSN student demonstrating the highest commitment to service during his or her time at UT Tyler and who posted the most community service hours is recognized at each convocation.

**Graduate Excellence Award**

Each semester faculty nominate and vote to honor a master's student to receive the Graduate Nursing Excellence Award. Criteria for the award include grade point average, academic activities, professional
growth, and community service. The recipient demonstrates clinical expertise, commitment to human caring, professional and community involvement, and promotes a positive image of nursing.

**Outstanding DNP Scholarly Project Award**

Each year, faculty nominate and select one graduating DNP student whose work exemplifies excellence in evidence-based practice to receive the Outstanding DNP Scholarly Project award.

**Outstanding Dissertation Award**

Each year, faculty nominate and select one graduating PhD student whose work exemplifies excellence in research and dissemination to receive the Outstanding Dissertation award.

**Outstanding Nursing Alumni Award**

The SON recognizes a BSN, MSN, or doctoral graduate who has made a significant contribution to the profession of nursing through leadership, education, clinical practice, research, health policy, service, or entrepreneurial initiative. The [Outstanding Nursing Alumni Award](#) is conferred each year in the spring.
Bookstore
The UT Tyler Barnes & Noble Bookstore offers onsite and online services to purchase books, supplies, discounted software, and UT Tyler merchandise.

Technology Support Center
The Technology Support Center can provide assistance with student email accounts and UT Tyler learning management sites. It also provides discounted software for purchase.

Financial Aid Office
The Financial Aid Office offers an extensive list of federal, state, and private financial aid opportunities, with over $5 million in financial aid available.

Library Resources
The UT Tyler Robert R. Muntz Library offers an extensive collection of online databases. A librarian designated to the School of Nursing can offer assistance with online searches. The librarians will also assist students in obtaining necessary research articles through interlibrary loan.

Louise Herrington Patriot Center (HPC)
Physical well-being is critical for student success. Features of the HPC include classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, a gymnasium/convocation area with basketball and volleyball courts seating for over 2,000, indoor walking/jogging track, aerobics and free weights areas.

Nursing Organizations

The University of Texas at Tyler Nursing Students Association (UTTNSA)
NSNA is dedicated to fostering the professional development of nursing students. With 60,000 members nationwide, NSNA is the voice of the future of the nursing profession.

Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF)
The Purpose of Nurses Christian Fellowship, as a ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA, is to establish and advance in nursing, within education and practice, witnessing communities of nursing students and nurses who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord: growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture, and God's purposes in the world.

SIGMA International Honor Society of Nursing
Information about the UT Tyler chapter is available at https://iotanu.sigmanursing.org/home

Students who meet the criteria are invited to join Sigma in Level 3. Sigma is an international community of nurses dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, teaching, learning, and service through the cultivation of communities of practice, education, and research.
UT Tyler Alumni Association
Patriot alumni have many exciting opportunities to stay connected and engaged in the life of the university. Benefits of being an alum include invitations to alumni events, eligibility to join the UT Tyler Herrington Patriot Center at a discounted rate, scholarship opportunities available to children of alumni, career services resources, and more.

Office of Research, Scholarship, and Sponsored Programs (ORSSP)
The ORSSP at UT Tyler assists in securing external funding by facilitating, enhancing, and strengthening faculty and student research and scholarship by providing services from identifying funding sources to post-award management and compliance.

Patriots Engage
Discover unique opportunities at Patriots Engage! Find and attend events, browse, and join organizations, and showcase your involvement.

Registrar's Office
From registration steps to graduation procedures, the Office of the Registrar can help. Their office also handles loan deferments, name/address changes, and many other vital items related to your university experience.

Supplemental Instruction (SI)
Increase your understanding of academic course material and sharpen your study skills through The University of Texas at Tyler's Supplemental Instruction (SI) program. SI is a series of weekly peer-assisted study sessions in courses identified by previous students as difficult. The sessions are guided by an SI leader and are proven to be effective. UT Tyler students participating in SI have consistently demonstrated higher grades and course completion rates.

The University of Texas at Tyler Health Clinic
The University Health Clinic is dedicated to the highest quality treatment and care of UT Tyler's students, faculty, and staff. Immunizations required by the SON can be obtained at the Clinic. Information about services provided and hours of operation can be found on the website.

Upswing
Online tutoring for undergraduate UT Tyler courses is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Through Upswing, an online tutoring platform, students can connect with UT Tyler peer tutors and professional tutors without having to be present on campus. Upswing services are free to currently enrolled undergraduate UT Tyler students.

UT Tyler Student Services
The University of Texas at Tyler Department of Student Services supports student success and the mission of the University through high quality support services and programs that encourage the health and wellbeing of the campus community.
Writing Center
The Writing Center is available to assist online students and those on campus. The Center provides assistance with APA formatting, reading/critiquing, tutoring in grammar and usage, mechanics, and sentence structure. Students are encouraged to utilize the services with writing assignments.