



# RISING OUTCOMES

Together we will inspire students and transform communities. **FALL 2022**

## FIRST SENIORS TO GRADUATE WITH 4-YEAR BSN

UW-Green Bay's Nursing Department is getting ready to celebrate a major milestone with the Spring 2023 graduation of its first traditional four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) prepared nurses.

As our alumni and friends, you are aware of the University's track record for offering quality, accredited undergraduate and graduate nursing programs, starting with the BSN Completion program in 1982.

We are proud of the more than 2,600 health care workers who call themselves UW-Green Bay alumni. In May, 33 prelicensure nurses will join the ranks of graduates with our newest degree program.

To celebrate this first class of prelicensure students, we asked what inspired them to study nursing. Here's a sample of their responses:

**Jordan Barnes**

*Hometown:* South Milwaukee  
*Major(s):* Human Development, Nursing  
*Minor(s):* Psychology and German



"When I was very young, my dad was diagnosed with colon cancer that metastasized and caused him to pass away at the mere age of 48 years old. Having three children to raise as a single

parent, my mom went to school for nursing to support my sisters and me. Not only did she become a nurse, but she became a hospice nurse because of the impact that my dad's hospice nurse left on our



UW-Green Bay nursing students pose for a photo during their clinical rotation at HSHS St. Vincent Hospital (9th Floor Oncology) in Green Bay. Pictured are: (bottom, from left) Jordan Barnes, Elizabeth Horner and Pakou Vang; and (top, from left) Anna Fleming, Lily Reimer, Assistant Professor Jenna Liphart-Rhoads, Napho Xiong, Catrina Danforth and Kiana Xiong.

family. I saw how much comfort my mom was able to provide for these patients and their families and wanted to be able to do the same."

*Career goals:* Work in maternity or NICU, or pursue becoming a nurse midwife.

**Karen Gonzalez Alvarez**

*Hometown:* Green Bay  
*Major:* Nursing  
*Minor:* Psychology



"I have dreamt of being a nurse from a young age. Something that has inspired me to pursue a nursing career is that Green Bay has a fast-growing Hispanic and Latino community.

*Continued on Back Page*



# BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

College of Health, Education and Social Welfare



## Dear friends and alumni,

Student interest in nursing is at an all-time high but nationally nursing programs

struggle to find nursing faculty to teach courses and cover clinical hours at health care settings.

Nursing programs nationwide turned away more than 80,000 qualified applicants in 2020 due to limited nursing faculty and clinical placements at health care settings.

We're thrilled to have been awarded a grant, titled Expanding Nursing Clinical Instructor Capacity, as part of the Wisconsin Workforce Innovation Grant Program. Gov. Tony Evers shared in announcing the UW-Green Bay award in June that "prioritizing programs that help ensure a strong future for our health care workforce has never been more important."

The grant has the potential to help the University grow its nursing enrollment and graduate more nurses by employing nurses from Northeast Wisconsin health care organizations as co-clinical instructors.

Many nurses are interested in teaching but are often reluctant to transition to academia because of lower salaries. The grant provides funding for co-clinical

instructors at health care organizations and a nursing faculty, Dr. Jenna Liphart-Rhoads, to coordinate the project and teach nursing courses.

It's a win-win opportunity. The grant will help UW-Green Bay develop its final year of the program and potentially build future growth. A benefit for health care organizations to share their expert nurses, who must have a Master's of Science in Nursing to participate, is direct exposure to soon-to-be graduated nurses. Improved communication will be another outcome, with feedback from practicing nurses about aligning clinical content and skills preparation with priorities of health care systems.

The grant began in fall semester with HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and Aurora BayCare Medical Center as initial health care partners. Additional partners will be added throughout the grant, which ends December 31, 2024.

Through this project, a sustainable model for co-clinical instruction will be developed to ensure a strong pipeline of new nurses into the workforce.

Sincerely,

Dean Susan Gallagher-Lepak, RN, PhD  
College of Health, Education and Social Welfare  
Contact: 920-465-2034; gallaghs@uwgb.edu

**P.S. Your support is critical to supply Wisconsin with more qualified nurses. Let's build the Nursing Scholarship Fund.** Use the enclosed envelope or go to [www.uwgb.edu/foundation](http://www.uwgb.edu/foundation) and select the Nursing Scholarship Fund.

## HOPKINSON NAMED DIRECTOR OF MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

Susan Hopkinson started as the chair of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program in June 2022. She holds a doctorate in Nursing Science from the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

She served as Chief of the Center for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry (at Tripler Army Medical Center Honolulu, Hawaii, and

Womack Army Medical Center Fort Bragg, NC) before retiring from the Army in 2021 (after 27 years).

Susan is active in research with publications on military nursing and clinical nursing care, is an associate editor for research in the journal Nursing and Health, and is a manuscript reviewer for



the American Journal of Nursing, MEDSURG Nursing, and Journal of Clinical Nursing.

The offering of a graduate certificate in nursing leadership has been popular for aspiring and existing health care leaders. Students take four of the MSN courses for the certificate. Students can choose to continue after completion of the certificate for the MSN degree. Learn more about these programs at [www.uwgb.edu/msn](http://www.uwgb.edu/msn).

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



The Nursing Skills Center includes three classrooms transformed into lab spaces on the third floor of Wood Hall on the Green Bay campus.

## WOOD HALL TRANSFORMED INTO HIGH IMPACT LEARNING SPACES

UW-Green Bay's nursing facilities have been in a state of transformation since 2019 as high impact skills labs for the traditional, four-year BSN program have been created. Much of the work now is complete, including a new look for the third floor of Wood Hall on the Green Bay campus.

The Aurora BayCare Medical Center Nursing Skills Center includes Room 317, a six-bed skills lab with low to medium fidelity patient simulators where students practice using Electronic Medical Records software and automated medication dispensing system.

Room 324 is equipped with two mock hospital rooms with two-way mirrors for faculty observation of students as they provide care for a simulated patient assignment using two medium fidelity patient simulators.

Room 328 is an eight-station health assessment lab where students learn skills for comprehensive and focused health assessment. Adjacent to

the labs is the Cloud Family Digital Learning Lab, where nursing students practice for the NCLEX exam.

Creation of a Home Care Simulation Lab will be the next project. A traditional classroom will be renovated to provide an immersive learning experience that simulates a home setting, and the challenges that carpet, residential furniture and small spaces can present in care.

## UW-GREEN BAY A PREFERRED PARTNER OF ADVOCATE AURORA

UW-Green Bay has been invited to join the Advocate Aurora Health (AAH) Preferred Partners Program. The program has nine partners. AAH has added two new educational partners, including UW-Green Bay.

This partnership creates opportunities and increases the total tuition reimbursement offered to employees. Full-time employees in a nursing bachelor, masters or doctorate program receive up to \$7,200 per academic year for full-time enrollment, or \$3,168 per year for part-time.



## CHAIR'S REPORT

UW-Green Bay's newest nursing program is the traditional (four-year) BSN program. Started in 2019, the program has adopted an innovative concept-based nursing curriculum.

The first class of prelicensure students (33) will graduate in May and enter the workforce. After the first smaller cohort, 48 students have been admitted as sophomores each year.

### UW-Green Bay Nursing Enrollment Fall 2022

137

Pre-nursing

128

Prelicensure BSN

183

RN-BSN Completion

4

Graduate Leadership Certificate

31

Master of Science in Nursing

Nursing students bring diverse backgrounds and experiences to the program. Students enrolled in the traditional BSN program, for example, are **20 percent students of color, 34 percent PELL eligible, and 50 percent self-identify as first-generation.**

Thanks to our generous community and alumni, nursing scholarship support is on the rise. This is critical as more than 83 percent of UW-Green Bay students have financial need. Our students are grateful for the help and encouragement.

**Christine Vandenhouten**

Director of Nursing Programs  
and Chair of Nursing and Health  
Studies Department





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SAVE ONE LIFE,  
 YOU'RE A HERO.  
 SAVE 100 LIVES,  
 YOU'RE A **NURSE**.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Update your information and contact the UW-Green Bay Nursing Department at 920-465-2826 or nursing@uwgb.edu

*From Front Page*

As a minority student, I would like to help ease the language barriers and help minorities have the same access to health care as everyone else. I am passionate about making a positive impact in my community. I will continue serving and caring for others so that I can help them reach their health goals."

*Career goals:* To help others become the best version of themselves.

**Napho Xiong**

*Hometown:* Green Bay  
*Major:* Nursing

"What inspired me to go into nursing is my personal experience with great nurses. When my mom suffered a stroke and my dad was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, the nurses who cared for my parents were absolutely amazing. They showed me how much compassion, empathy, and kindness can impact the quality of care. I hope that one day I will have



**Napho Xiong works in the Aurora BayCare Medical Center Nursing Skills Center at UW-Green Bay.**

the same positive impact on my patients and their families."

*Career goals:* Work in a NICU and/or pediatrics.

**Brooklyn Simonar**

*Hometown:* Luxemburg  
*Major:* Nursing

"Since I was young, I've always



had a passion and found my purpose in helping other people. When I started college, I was a psychology major and thought I wanted to be a social worker or a child psychologist.

I ruled out nursing as a career for me because I felt I didn't have the mental strength or the stomach for nursing. But my heart was being pulled in the direction of nursing. I had the opportunity to job shadow my aunt, who is a nurse at Bellin, in January of 2020. I only had to stay for six hours, but I stayed for 10 hours because of how intrigued I was! After that job shadow, I knew nursing was my calling. I got my first CNA job at Aurora in October of 2020 and applied for the nursing program at UW-Green Bay."

*Career goals:* Continue working at Aurora BayCare Medical Center in the Women's Health Float Pool, and eventually, travel nursing.