



University of South Carolina Upstate

Mary Black School of Nursing

Overview

The Mary Black School of Nursing, accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036), is one of the Southeast's highly regarded nursing institutions offering a four-year degree. From the University's founding in 1967, with the mission to provide an associate degree to prepare registered nurses, to the initiation 30 years later of one of the first R.N. to B.S.N. degree programs in the state, offering distance learning classes for registered nurses, USC Upstate has earned a solid reputation as an innovator in nursing education.

Partnerships

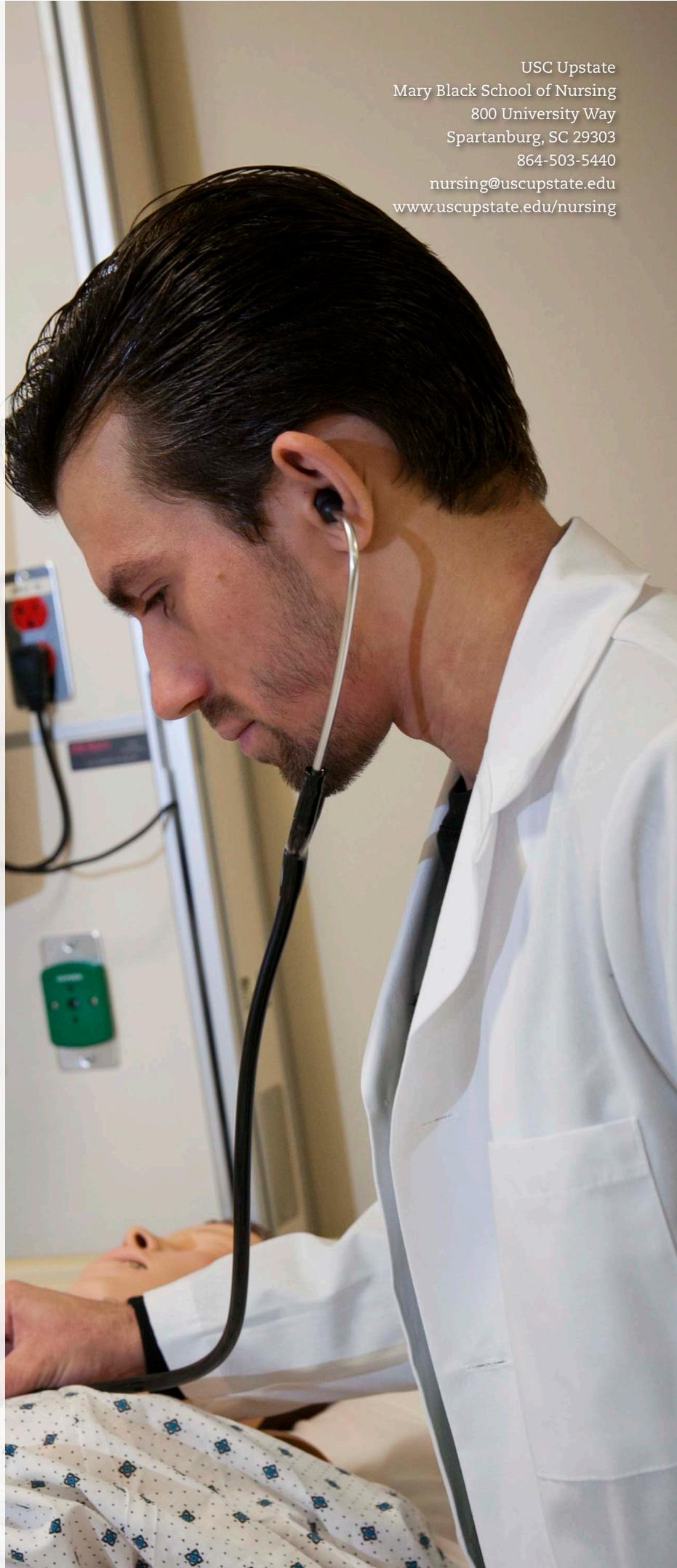
The Nursing Consortium, a partnership between USC Upstate and Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, afforded more than a half-million dollars through the Duke Foundation to hire university faculty. With the help of St. Francis Health System, the University created the St. Francis Nursing Resource Center in Greenville. The University continues to work with other Upstate hospital systems to address the national nursing shortage.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

The professional program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing offers two tracks of study: the four-year track for students who wish to begin a career in professional nursing and the RN to BSN track for registered nurses seeking a baccalaureate degree. In the four-year track, students begin their academic studies by completing general education requirements prior to their first nursing course. The RN to BSN track allows working RNs to spend one day a week on coursework in classrooms at the Greenville campus or through online courses.

Both tracks of study are designed to provide students the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills needed for effective professional nursing practice in a wide variety of settings. The programs rest upon a foundation of partnerships with the community, including health care organizations and health care providers in Upstate South Carolina.

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Master of Science in Nursing Clinical Nurse Leader Certification

The Mary Black School of Nursing also offers a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program with a concentration area of Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL). Upon completion of the program, the graduate will be eligible for CNL certification through the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). This program is for registered nurses who are graduates of an accredited Bachelor of Science program in Nursing. Students in the MSN program have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills needed for leadership roles in professional nursing practice in a wide variety of settings.

Clubs and Organizations

Nursing externship programs are available at Mary Black Memorial Hospital with each providing a four-hour semester credit externship with paid tuition and a student stipend throughout a six-week clinical experience in the summer. Community service opportunities include a variety of health fairs, screenings, and healthcare teaching experiences.

Nursing clubs and organizations active on campus include the Student Nurses Association (SNA), a local chapter of the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA), and the Mu Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, which seeks to improve the health of people worldwide by improving nursing scholarship. Membership is by nomination, grade point average, and class ranking.

Employment Opportunities

Students who earn an undergraduate degree in nursing and pass the NCLEX-RN examination are qualified to work in hospital settings, such as general adult care units or specialty areas, including cardiology, psychiatry, critical care, emergency room, obstetrics, pediatrics, neonatal units, and geriatrics.

Other career options include home health nursing, hospice, military nursing, corporate nursing, extended care facilities, or working in a physician's office, school or industry. A Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree also allows for entry into master's and doctoral programs, such as nurse practitioner, anesthesiology and nursing education.

Student Profile

"Nursing is a difficult and challenging program especially for me as an international student from Tanzania with English as my third language," says Abbas Fidahusseini, a recent USC Upstate nursing graduate. "I have tremendous support from the faculty who are there to guide and encourage me. At USC Upstate, we are known by name rather than number. Our faculty work hard to prepare us for the licensing exam with lots of NCLEX-like questions. We have hands-on experience with high tech simulators to enhance our learning."



Up. For USC Upstate.

Up is much more than a direction or a place. It's a way of approaching life and learning. It's making the most of every challenge, and daring yourself to achieve more than you ever thought possible. That's the kind of academic quality you'll find at the University of South Carolina Upstate.

From the moment you step on campus, you feel the energy of a dynamic university. USC Upstate, a senior comprehensive public institution of the University of South Carolina, is one of the leading metropolitan universities in the Southeast and has been ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top five Comprehensive Colleges in the South.

USC Upstate is among the fastest-growing universities in South Carolina, and includes a 330-acre campus in Spartanburg, a junior- and senior-level commuter campus in Greenville, and the George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics located in downtown Spartanburg. Home to 6,000 students from 26 states and 17 countries, USC Upstate offers more than 40 degree programs, over 90 active student organizations on campus, as well as 12 nationally affiliated sororities and fraternities. The University fields 17 athletic teams—known as the Spartans—which compete in the NCAA Division I Atlantic Sun Conference.

The best adventures in life are the ones that are different from all the rest. You should expect no less from your college experience. That's what we call the *Up* attitude: exploring the kind of new and surprising learning opportunities that, in the end, will truly set you apart from the pack.

The University of South Carolina Upstate.

Up is where we live.



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