

# SCHOOL OF NURSING



SCHOOL OF NURSING  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## History of the University of Michigan School of Nursing

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Nurses standing in front of the training school on Catherine Street in Ann Arbor

## Narrative history

The University of Michigan School of Nursing has a rich heritage that is over a century in the making. Professional nursing education began in the United States in 1873. The national trend came to Ann Arbor in 1891 when the University of Michigan Training School for Nurses was organized in conjunction with the new University Hospital located on Catherine Street in Ann Arbor.

The university's hospital believed it was incomplete without a nurse training school. The program was two years in length and six students were admitted in the first year, which was organized and administered by the Medical School under the direction of Jane Pettigrew. Pettigrew was a trained nurse pursuing medical studies at U-M.

During this time, education was not the primary goal of early nursing schools. Most schools were established by hospitals as a way to use student nurses as staff to care for patients, with education taking a secondary role. The University of Michigan was no exception.

In 1902, the Regents extended the University of Michigan Training School for Nurses from a two-year program to a three-year diploma program. Additional nursing programs started up in the school but the

diploma program continued until 1952. The relationship between the University Hospital and the nursing program was formalized in 1912, when the University of Michigan Training School was reorganized and placed under the administration of the University Hospital. In 1915, the first full-time instructor was appointed and 130 students were enrolled. A four-year high school diploma was required for admission.

In 1919, the first degree program for nursing students was inaugurated as a five-year combined course in letters and nursing. Students spent three years in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, followed by two years in the School of Nursing and received their basic science instruction from the Medical School.

In 1923, a \$600,000 gift from Senator James Couzens provided for the construction of a nurses' residence, Couzens Hall. Completed in August of 1925, it had 250 rooms, mostly singles, accommodating about 260 women. The basement had facilities for instruction, an amphitheater, faculty offices, laboratories, classrooms, an assembly hall, and a game room.

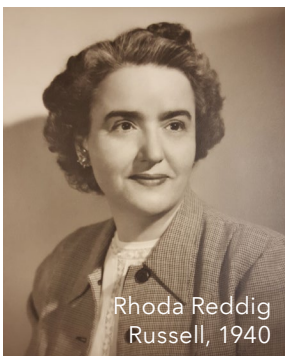
By its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Training School for Nurses could point with pride to the education of over 1,600 nurses. That same year, the Board of Regents created



the faculty of the School of Nursing and gave the title of professor to the director, Rhoda Reddig Russell. The faculty consisted of one assistant professor and 12 instructors. The nursing program was officially recognized as an independent university teaching unit, the University of Michigan School of Nursing (UMSN).

In 1944, the program in letters and nursing was discontinued and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program was initiated. It required completion of two years in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, followed by three years in the School of Nursing.

In 1952, the three-year diploma program and the five-year degree program were discontinued and a four-year program (three calendar years and one academic year) was established. Although the School of Nursing had been recognized as independent



since 1941, it wasn't until 1955 that Rhoda Reddig Russell was appointed as the first dean of the school. Until then, the school operated under the direction of an administrative committee including the hospital and medical school.

In the fall of 1961, the school initiated its first master's degree, in psychiatric nursing. In 1962, a Master of Science in medical-surgical nursing was initiated. This was the first graduate program in the United States to prepare clinical nursing specialists in medical-surgical nursing. The four-year baccalaureate program received full accreditation from the National League for Nursing in 1963. This was the first time the program was accredited for preparation for first level positions in public health. The master's programs in medical-surgical and psychiatric nursing were also fully accredited at this time.

By 1965, the school had grown from its original enrollment of six students in 1891 to a total of 765 students in the baccalaureate program and 29 students in the graduate program, with a nursing faculty of 75.

By 1970, the school had approximately 1,000 students, one of the largest enrollments in the nation. The last summer session was held in 1971. The school's program transitioned to four regular academic years.

In 1975, the school expanded its degree programs by offering, for the first time, a research-based Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in nursing. The University of Michigan was one of the first in the country to offer such a degree. In 1987, the Ph.D. program established four concentrations in high priority areas of nursing research and theory. UMSN was again the first nursing school in the country to develop such nursing focal areas, helping to guide the science and profession of nursing.

The school established a Center for Nursing Research in 1984 to serve as the central coordinating body for faculty research and to foster collaborative relationships with other units and institutions in related research. In the following years, new

master's programs were developed in gerontological nursing, nurse-midwifery, occupational health nursing, home health care, family nurse practitioner, and acute care nurse practitioner. Existing programs, including nursing administration, psychiatric mental health nursing, and the undergraduate studies curriculum were also reviewed and invigorated.

In 1989, the School of Nursing moved into renovated space at 400 North Ingalls, part of the former Saint Joseph's Hospital. This brought the school together under one roof after having been split between Couzens Hall and other buildings in the medical campus.

In 1991, the School of Nursing celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of training and educating future nurses. The Honors Program for high-ability undergraduate students began in 1995. In 1996, the school introduced the second career nursing program in which those with bachelor's degrees in fields other than nursing were able to complete a BSN degree and prepare for the Registered Nurse NCLEX exam and licensing in 20 months. This program was sunset in 2017.

In 2017, the School of Nursing offers BSN, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Ph.D., and Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs in a variety of specializations, showing the remarkable professionalization of the field in the last 50 years.

Recent years have seen a continued emphasis on driving the science and profession of nursing. UMSN now offers degree programs through three departments: Undergraduate Studies, Health Behavior and Biological Sciences, and Systems, Populations and Leadership. A certification in nursing education prepares and encourages graduate students to teach in schools of nursing, and our faculty partners with others in the health sciences

at the U-M Center for Interprofessional Education, helping to ensure that health care professionals from U-M can work creatively and collaboratively with practitioners from all of the health care fields.

In 2015, after two years of construction, the School of Nursing Building opened. It included space for classes, faculty and staff offices, and an expanded Clinical Learning Center. The 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in April, 2016 highlighted the school's first purpose-built building for nursing education, with integrated technology and state of the art simulation facilities, as well as revealed its global reach. Speakers and attendees from the Caribbean to Thailand came together for the school's Symposium on Global Health: 125 years of research and impact.

Since 1997, UMSN has been a designated Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization Collaborating Center.

UMSN remains committed to responding to the changing social, economic, and scientific landscape as we evolve to best serve our profession and our students.

## Timeline

Date	History
1891	University of Michigan Training School for Nurses established in response to a growing need for professional nurses. School organized and operated under the auspices of the Medical School. Six students admitted on December 7 to a two-year program.
1896	U-M Homeopathic Hospital Training School for Nurses established with an enrollment of 16 students, under the auspices of the Homeopathic Hospital.
1902	Regents extend program of the University of Michigan Training School to three years. Three-year program maintained until 1952.
1912	University of Michigan Training School for Nurses reorganized; now the responsibility of University Hospital. Enrollment: 100 students
1915	First full-time instructor appointed and enrollment increased to 130 students. Four-year high school diploma required for admission.
1916	Enrollment limited to 140 students. Graduating students receive diploma and school pin. Students expected to take State Board Examination for registered nurses. Graduate executive courses have been in effect for three years; four nurses have earned diplomas.
1918	Enrollment increases to 180 students.
1919	First degree program for nursing students established with the inauguration of a five-year combined course in letters and nursing. Students spend at least three years in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA), followed by two years in the School of Nursing.
1922	Homeopathic Training School merges with the University of Michigan Hospital Training School.
1926	Through joint arrangement between the hospital and the Medical School, instruction in the basic sciences in the Medical School now available to students in nursing. Students required to meet LSA admission requirements. Training School for Nurses becomes a distinct part of the University of Michigan.
1928	Official name of the Nurse Training School becomes "University Hospital School of Nursing of the University of Michigan." School's mission is to provide preparation in administration and teaching for nurses in hospitals, schools of nursing, and institutions of various types, as well as actual bedside care of the sick in hospitals and homes.
1934	School becomes a member of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Nursing.
1937	Aim of the school "to prepare nurses to meet the community's varying health needs." Emphasis is on preparation of the nurse health educator.
1940	Title of Rhoda Reddig, who holds dual responsibility for nursing education and nursing service, changes from "Director of Nursing Service of University Hospital" to "Director of the School of Nursing and Director of Nursing Service."



## Timeline continued

- 1941 Board of Regents creates faculty of the School of Nursing. Faculty include one assistant professor and 12 instructors. Director's title changes to Professor of Nursing, Director of the School of Nursing, and Director of Nursing Service, University Hospital. School officially called the University of Michigan School of Nursing. Student admission requirements demand that students graduate in the upper third of their high school class.
- 1944 Program in letters and nursing discontinued and new degree program initiated requiring the completion of two years in LSA or in another college, followed by three years in School of Nursing. Students graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- 1952 More extensive revision of the curriculum. Three-year diploma program and five-year degree program are discontinued and four-year program is established - three calendar years and one academic year, leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Curriculum continues to combine nursing principles and skills with knowledge in liberal arts.
- 1955 Rhoda Reddig appointed as first Dean of the School of Nursing.
- 1956 718 total students; 95 students graduate with a BSN.
- 1960 Total enrollment is 655. School of Nursing bestows 159 BSN degrees, the largest number of students ever graduated from a single nursing school. Faculty totals 55.
- 1961 First students admitted to the four-semester master's program in psychiatric nursing. Program funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.
- 1962 First students admitted to the four-semester master's program in medical-surgical nursing. Program funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
- 1963 Four-year basic baccalaureate program receives full accreditation from the National League for Nursing, including a first-time accreditation for first-level positions in public health. Master's programs in medical-surgical and psychiatric nursing also fully accredited at this time.
- 1965 Enrollment expanded to a total of 765 students in the baccalaureate program with 26 full-time and three part-time students in the graduate program. Seventy-five faculty members actively involved in curriculum revision.
- 1966 Diamond jubilee of nursing education at the University of Michigan. Since its founding in 1891, 2,622 nurses received certificates or diplomas and 1,628 earned BSN degrees. The Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies has granted 27 Master of Science degrees, 16 with a major in psychiatric nursing and 11 with a major in medical-surgical nursing.
- 1971 Rhoda Reddig Russell retires after more than 30 years at the helm of the School of Nursing. Norma Marshall appointed acting dean.
- 1972 School receives its first federal monies. "Capitation funds" used to build school's first computer lab.
- 1973 Carolyne Davis assumes the deanship of the School of Nursing. School has enrollment of 1,100 undergraduates and employs 115 faculty members. Pediatric nurse practitioner master's program established. Joint program in Nursing Health Services Administration established with the School of Public Health.

## Timeline continued

- 1975 Maxine Loomis assumes acting deanship as Carolyn Davis moves into the position of Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs at U-M. Doctoral program in nursing established. First students enroll in the master's program in parent-child nursing.
- 1976 Mary Lohr named Professor and Dean at the School of Nursing.
- 1977 Master's program in community health nursing moves from School of Public Health to School of Nursing.
- 1980 Pediatric nurse practitioner program subsumed under program in parent-child nursing.
- 1981 Rhetaugh Dumas named Professor and Dean at the School of Nursing, the first African American Dean at U-M. Size of entering freshman class reduced to 100.
- 1982 Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs position established to serve as liaison between School of Nursing and University Hospital.
- 1983 Home health care concentration established. Chronically mentally ill concentration established with a grant from National Institute of Mental Health.
- 1984 U-M Center for Nursing Research established and nursing research becomes central to the mission of the School of Nursing.
- 1985 Center for the Study of Gerontological Nursing established.
- 1987 The Ph.D. program established four concentrations in high priority areas of nursing research and theory. U-M was the first nursing school to develop such nursing focal areas for its students.
- 1988 Nursing Simulation Laboratory dedicated. The lab was built with a grant from the Helene Fuld Health Trust.
- 1989 School of Nursing moves to its own facility in the 400 North Ingalls Building. For the first time in recent memory, entire school is housed together. Revamped program in nursing administration approved. First students matriculate.
- 1990 First ten students enroll in the certified nurse-midwifery program track, the only nurse midwifery program in Michigan.
- 1991 School celebrates 100 years of nursing leadership. Dual degree program in nursing administration and business administration program initiated with a grant from the Commonwealth Fund. Cooperative BSN Program agreement with Jackson Community College established.
- 1992 The RN to master's program, a master's program that combines undergraduate and graduate studies for registered nurses, initiated.
- 1994 Rhetaugh Graves Dumas named Vice Provost for Health Affairs and the Lucille Cole Professor of Nursing at the University of Michigan.
- 1994 Ada Sue Hinshaw named Dean and Professor at the School of Nursing.

## Timeline continued

- 1995 The honors program for undergraduate students was established. In response to changing health care demands, the family nurse practitioner program was developed. Additionally, acute care practitioner programs for adults and pediatrics also enrolled their first students.
- 1996 Second career nursing program, for students with bachelor's degrees in fields other than nursing, was created to allow students to complete a BSN degree and prepare for the Registered Nurse NCLEX exam and licensing in 20 months. The program was sunset in 2017.
- 1996 The Office of International Affairs was established and Professor Shaké Ketefian was named director. The charge of the office was to provide leadership and facilitation to faculty and student exchanges for study and research. A formal visiting scholar program was established within the office.
- 1997 The School of Nursing was designated a Pan American Health Organization-World Health Organization Collaborating Center.
- 2001 Two new dual degrees in nursing and health policy and nursing and information systems were initiated.
- 2005 The new Clinical Simulation Labs are officially opened with support from the Provost's Office and the University of Michigan Health System.
- 2006 Kathleen Potempa named Dean and Professor at the School of Nursing.
- 2007 The school achieved 5<sup>th</sup> place ranking nationally in the, "U.S. News and World Report" ranking of nursing schools, continuing its record placement among the top five nursing programs in the United States for over two decades.
- 2009 The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program is approved by the faculty.
- 2011 The U-M School of Nursing becomes the first nursing school to partner with the Peace Corps in its Peace Corps' Master's International program.
- 2012 U-M Board of Regents approved the construction of a new School of Nursing building of approximately 75,000 square feet to include instructional spaces, a clinical learning center with simulation and skill labs, and simulated patient suites.
- 2015 The new School of Nursing building opens for the 2015 fall semester. A grand opening ceremony, open house and alumni gala were held to celebrate.
- 2016 UMSN celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Special events held to honor the past and embrace the future of nursing education, research, and global impact.
- 2017 Michigan state legislature expands the scope of practice for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), allowing APRNs, including clinical nurse specialists and nurse-midwives, to practice to the full extent of their training. In doing so, Michigan joins more than 20 other states to allow full practice authority to APRNs.



## Leadership

Name	Position	Time
Jane Elizabeth Pettigrew	Head Nurse	Dec 1891–June 1893
Mrs. C. A. Davis	Head Nurse/Matron	February 1892–June 1892
Alice Maud Padfield	Head Nurse/Principal	1893–1896
Anna Ritchie Harrison	Head Nurse	1896–1898
Amy Smith Miller	Directress	1898–1899
Lillian Grace Ellsworth	Superintendent	1899–1901
Helen M Balcom	Superintendent	1901–1903
Ida M Tracy	Superintendent	1903–1906
Mary Catherine Haarer	Superintendent	1906–1909
Anna Elizabeth Whitely	Superintendent	1909–1910
Luella Bristol	Superintendent	1910–1911
Elizabeth Winnifred Holt	Superintendent	1911–1913
Jane Maulsby Pindell	Superintendent	1913–1915
Fantine C Pemberton	Superintendent	1915–1918
Mary Anorah Welsh	Superintendent	1918–1922
Anna Louise Gliem	Acting Superintendent	1922–1923
Alice Livea Lake	1923 - Superintendent April 1924 - Director of Nursing	1923–1925
Shirley Carew Titus	Director of Nursing	1925–1930
Marian Durell	Director of Nursing	1930–1940

## Leadership continued

Name	Position	Time
Rhoda Reddig Russell	1940 - Director of the School of Nursing and Director of Nursing Service 1941 - Professor of Nursing, Director of the School of Nursing; and Director of Nursing Service, University Hospital 1955 - Dean of the School of Nursing	1940-1972
Norma Kirkconnell Marshall	Acting Dean	1972-1973
Carolyne K Davis	Dean	1973-1975
Maxine E Loomis	Acting Dean	1975-1976
Mary M Lohr	Dean	1976-1980
Rhetaugh Graves Dumas	Dean	1980-1994
Shaké Ketefian	Acting Dean	1991-1992
Ada Sue Hinshaw	Dean	1994-2006
Richard Redman	Interim Dean	July-November, 2006
Kathleen Potempa	Dean	2006-2016
Patrica D. Hurn	Dean	2016-

# Images of our past

1890



1893 Anna Harrison was a member of the first graduating class. It was then known as the University of Michigan Training School for Nurses. She would later serve as superintendent of the school.

1900

The class of 1903.



1910



1915 Elba L. Morse, maternity nursing instructor, with U-M Training School nursing students.

1920

1920s Mrs. Chase was one of the earliest training mannequins for nursing students. Nicknamed for the manufacturing company, this model from the '20s was considered very advanced for the time because "she" has an injection site on her arm and an internal reservoir.



1930



1939 This photo from the school's "Scalpel" yearbook was accompanied by the quote "Tis education forms the common mind; Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined," from the English poet Alexander Pope.



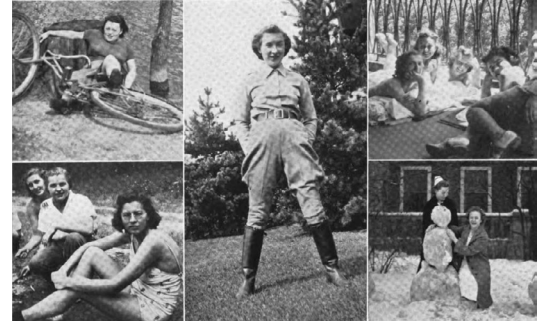
# Images of our past continued



**1943** Capping ceremonies were held to mark the end of the nursing students' probationary period. The ceremony was considered a highly meaningful transition into the nursing profession.

**1940**

**1940** The school's "Scalpel" yearbook captures nursing students having a good time.



**1950**



**Late 1960s**  
Nursing cap.

**1958** Nursing senior preparing medication.



**1970**



**1970s** The message from this promotional material still rings true today. Pictured is alumna and former faculty member Dr. Retha Wellons.

**1980**

**1976** Alumna Mary Lynn Morris Harrison sent UMSN this photo from her sophomore striping ceremony. Mary Lynn said, "Cutting off the uniform skirt to wear it with white pants was a new and very controversial thing."



**1985** Nursing students conduct an experiment in their physiology lab. The experiment focused on muscles and the strength of their contractions.