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## Nursing Education at Northwestern University

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In 1905 the medical school administration recommended to the University trustees that the training schools for the nurses of Mercy and Wesley hospitals become affiliated with Northwestern. The curricula were placed under the general supervision of the medical school, with laboratory instruction provided by medical school faculty. A high school diploma was required for admission.

Although the courses for nurses were separate from the medical students, the laboratories and other medical school facilities were freely available. Elementary laboratory instruction included anatomy, chemistry, dietetics, and bacteriology. The practical instruction for nurses was provided in each hospital.

Diplomas were presented to the nursing graduates at the University's Annual Commencement beginning in 1906.

In 1911, the nursing school at Evanston Hospital was added to the affiliated program. Instruction was given in the laboratories of the College of Liberal Arts on the Evanston campus and at the hospital. The course of study, methods of instruction, and requirements for graduation was determined by a joint committee of the hospital and university. The coursework was practically the same as that required at Mercy and Wesley Memorial hospitals.

By 1920, the University's affiliation with Mercy Hospital had ceased.



In 1926 the medical school moved to the new campus on Chicago Avenue, continuing the affiliation with Wesley Memorial Hospital and its nursing school, still located on the former Dearborn Street campus.

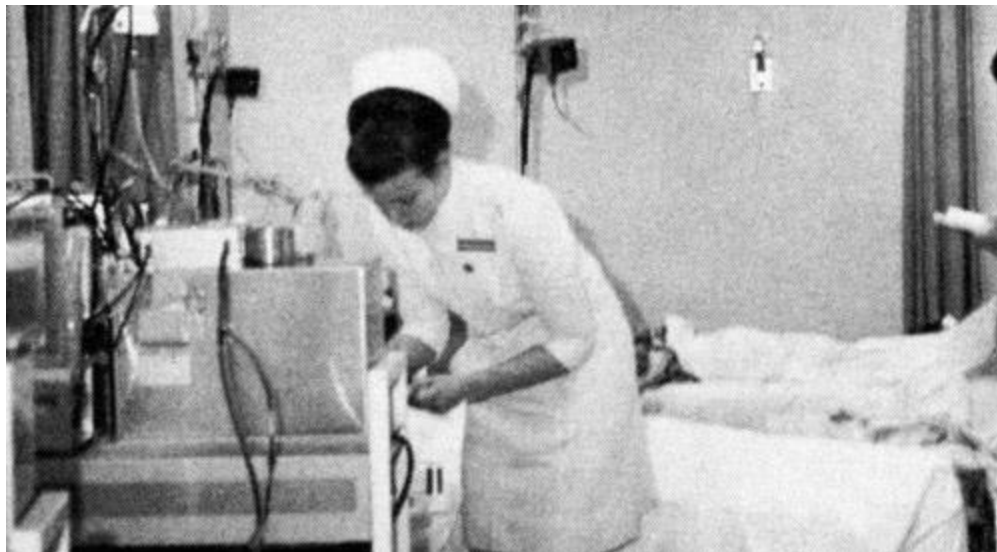
Passavant Memorial Hospital, which opened in 1929, was the first hospital on the new campus. A nursing school was established and became affiliated, with slightly higher admission requirements than the completion of high school so as to meet the requirements for admission to the College of Liberal Arts. Further courses offered by the medical school faculty included physiology, pharmacology, and pathology. There was discussion of establishing a combined baccalaureate degree nursing program; however, as mutually advantageous as the proposal was, negotiations dragged on for years.

During the Great Depression the nursing schools at Passavant and Wesley were closed, only the Evanston program continued.

After Wesley Memorial Hospital moved to the Chicago campus in 1941, the nursing school was re-opened in affiliation with the University. Courses in anatomy and related sciences were taught by the medical school faculty. Wesley adopted Northwestern's grading and quarter system to coincide with the University's academic calendar, in anticipation of establishment of a baccalaureate degree nursing program.

In 1943, the University approved a five-year combined Registered Nurse/Bachelor of Science degree awarded through its College of Liberal Arts. That same year, the University established a program for graduate nurses leading to the Bachelor of Philosophy degree. In order to facilitate the degree program, admission requirements at Wesley were raised, with nursing school applicants required to have graduated in the top one third of their high school class.

In 1948 Passavant Memorial Hospital announced plans to reopen its nursing school. A joint committee of the Hospital and the University agreed to supervise instruction on the wards, in the laboratories, and in the classroom. The school, named the James Ward Thorne School of Nursing, opened in 1951.



Wesley and Passavant nursing schools began working together for educational reform. Faculty from the University's affiliated nursing schools (Wesley, James Ward Thorne, and Evanston) formed the Northwestern University Council on Nursing, which coordinated the schools' combined degree programs: a three-year program leading to a Diploma of

Graduate Nurse; a five-year program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree with Diploma of Graduate Nurse; or a five-year program leading to a PhB degree with Diploma of Graduate Nurse.

In the 1960s, the Council on Nursing set as its goal the creation of a four-year integrated collegiate nursing program at the University. The combined diploma/BS/PhB programs were not accredited by the National League of Nursing and were phased out in the early 1960s as a result of continuing difficulties in transferring credits to graduate-level nursing programs.

Despite years of discussion, a number of studies, and the formation of several task forces, significant progress was not made toward development of a baccalaureate nursing program at the University.

In 1969, the frustration of both schools' administration was manifested in a recommendation that the words "affiliated with Northwestern University" be omitted from Wesley and James Ward Thorne diplomas, and that participation in the University commencement ceremonies be discontinued.

With the formation of Northwestern Memorial Hospital in 1972, both Passavant Memorial and Chicago Wesley Memorial hospitals anticipated a degree-granting program to be established by the University as a part of their formal academic program and that the merger of the two nursing schools was considered an interim measure. The official name chosen was the Wesley Passavant School of Nursing.



The University created a division of Allied Health Sciences in 1973. Planning proceeded, admitting the first class in 1979. Students in the program earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University. In 1978, the Wesley-Passavant School of Nursing admitted a final class in its traditional three-year program, designed primarily for high-school graduates with the last graduation ceremony in 1981.

The Evanston Hospital School of Nursing closed in 1984.

The Programs in Nursing Education of the University established a graduate program in 1982. Its major objectives were to develop leaders who were prepared to advance nursing knowledge and initiate improvements in healthcare systems and to provide a cadre of scholars who would have a theoretical and research base to pursue doctoral study.

The Program was granted independent status as a new University Center for Nursing in 1985, but its existence was very short-lived. Without warning, the University announced the closing of the Center in 1988 and phased out the programs in 1990. The Provost of the University cited a deficit, declining enrollments in the undergraduate program, and the presence of several less expensive nursing programs at public institutions in the area as reasons for the closing.

Through a span of 85 years, more than 5,100 graduates in the various nursing programs affiliated with the University have provided health and nursing services to many generations. Some are still in practice today.

<http://www.wardrounds.northwestern.edu/2013/10/nursing-education-at-northwestern-university/>