

Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science

Advancing Healthcare



Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Advanced Practice, and Simulation: **\$18 million**

Background

Thanks to a gift from Betty and Bob Beyster, the University of San Diego recently opened and dedicated a nursing institute that's only one of three of its kind in the country. The Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Advanced Practice, and Simulation doubled the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science's research and teaching facilities and is a national model for lab training.

The institute will serve as a regional and statewide resource for healthcare and address the shortage of qualified nurses throughout the country. Healthcare philanthropists have long supported the need to find cures for diseases, but there's also a need to support patient care.

Objectives

The new Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research, Advanced Practice, and Simulation, is specially equipped to provide an unparalleled education and meet the needs of a growing number of students at the school — where enrollment has tripled since it opened in the 1970s.

The 29,260-square-foot building is adjacent to the school of nursing's Hahn Pavilion. The building features a 4,000-square-foot plaza and healing garden, and each of its three floors is dedicated to a distinct area of research and instruction.

The ground floor houses a simulation laboratory, where students examine and treat actors trained to be "standardized patients" in a space that mirrors real clinic, hospital, and emergency room settings. Floor two is dedicated to doctoral-level education with high-tech, specialty classrooms. The nursing research center, the heart of the institute, is on the third floor, along with a

library and study. The nursing research center also offers a unique space for students who are pursuing a specialty in gerontology and palliative care.

Gerontology and palliative care are further critical aspects of our healthcare system that have not adequately been addressed. As the baby boomer generation ages, senior citizens now make up roughly 13 percent of the U.S. population, or one in every eight Americans. By 2030, that figure will nearly double, and 72 million Americans will be over the age of 65.

Seniors have special healthcare needs and many require living areas that are built to ensure their safety. USD's Adult-Gerontology Health Clinical Nurse Specialist program prepares nurses to become experts in the care of seniors in both homes and hospitals, where they can educate families and staff, and facilitate support groups.

Impact

The Hahn School of Nursing has graduated more than 2,100 nurses, more than 250 of these with doctorate degrees. Consistently ranked in the top 10 percent of nursing schools, the school of nursing is the only school in Southern California dedicated to graduate nurse education, and the preparation of nurse educators, advanced practice registered nurses, and nurse scientists, both civilian and military.

The availability and quality of nursing is the cornerstone of healthcare in any community, including San Diego and Southern California. Unfortunately, the United States is in the midst of a critical nursing shortage. The key driver in the nursing shortage is the lack of nurse faculty. Across the country, an estimated 50,000 qualified nursing school applicants are turned away on an annual basis, due to the nurse faculty shortage. As a graduate-only school, the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science is uniquely positioned to reduce the

critical nursing shortage and improve the quality of nursing.

The U.S. will have a projected nursing shortage of 260,000 registered nurses by 2025. California has one of the worst shortages — ranking 46th among all states in terms of nurses per 100,000. USD's School of Nursing now produces up to 43 percent of the faculty for other nursing schools in this region.

The Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science drives the quality of nursing in Southern California. The Institute of Medicine recently recommended more graduate education for nurses to deal with an increasingly complex healthcare system, more acute patients, new technology, increased medical errors, and rising healthcare costs. Only 50 percent of all nurses hold a bachelor's degree, and the majority of California's registered nurses hold only an associate's degree.

Nurses with master's and doctorate degrees, or those who complete advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) programs, manage specialty programs — such as oncology, trauma, critical care, and geriatrics — and also provide primary care, especially for the elderly and chronically ill. As primary care physician shortage increases, the role of APRNs will become even more critical.

The school of nursing also drives quality by graduating scientists who oversee nursing research in prevention, patient care, and clinical systems that improve patient outcomes and control medical errors. The school ensures quality nursing through its research on the physical and mental health of women and children,

returning veterans, the elderly, hospice and palliative care patients, and those with chronic illnesses.

The Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science faculty members, together with graduate students, conduct research on how patients and families can prevent illness, or best cope with its symptoms and treatment, or, inevitably, experience a dignified painless death.

The school of nursing's research also includes preparation of nurses for treating wounded soldiers at the battlefield, or caring for our wounded warriors upon their return. While medical research examines the cause of disease, often at the molecular level, nursing research examines how best to help individuals and families cope with or prevent illness.

The Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science is a pioneer in simulation clinical education in its Simulation and Standardized Patient Nursing Laboratory (Lab). The new lab is one of the few nursing schools in the country to use "standardized patients," who are actors trained to enact specific cases, along with computerized "patient" mannequins, and a computer system that records and analyzes student performance.

For More Information

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