

Student Activities, Organizations & Recognitions

Research College of Nursing believes in the value of student activities and organizations as a means to facilitate attainment of our Mission and Purposes for every student. Participation outside the classroom provides opportunities for students to learn and practice organizational, interpersonal and leadership skills. The goal is for students to become better prepared to be active participants in a community of professionals and providers of service to society.

Student Affairs Office

Staff in this office assist students and organizations with assessing the needs of students, planning activities, scheduling facilities and programs, and solving problems. Our goal is to help students be successful by providing the support, services and tools needed.

Student Activity Fee

Each undergraduate student enrolled in nursing courses pays an activity fee each semester that provides funding for organizations, projects, services, and social, educational and professional activities. Activities and programs are sponsored by student organizations, the Student Affairs Committee and the Student Affairs Office. Graduate students do not pay an activity fee. Opportunity to participate in some activities and programs is extended to graduate students as appropriate. The Student Affairs Committee is responsible for recommending policies related to the utilization and allocation of these funds. The Director of Student Affairs reviews and approves requests for activity fee funding. Requests may be submitted by student organizations, classes and committees. Specific guidelines are published in the [Student Organization and Activity Handbook](#).

Class Composites

A class composite (includes a photo of each student) is produced of each senior class (Traditional and Accelerated). An 11x14 copy of the composite is provided to each member of the class who sit for the photograph. Students also have the opportunity to order portrait packages directly from the composite company.

Organizations

Student Government Association (SGA)

The purpose of the Student Government Association is to provide an organization which is representative in nature and through which business that pertains to the undergraduate student body and to individual classes can be conducted. SGA initiates recommendations which are the result of student body thinking and submits them to college administration for consideration and approval. Finally, it stimulates interest and promotes cooperation and communication between the faculty and student body.

SGA consists of members elected by each class. Representatives are elected every spring. Freshman and AO representatives are elected by the end of the fall semester. Each representative is required to be in good standing with a grade point average of at least 2.25 (A=4.0). Officers are elected annually in the spring and they must be junior or senior students in good standing.

Past events have included picnics, holiday parties, ice skating parties and the annual semi-formal dance. Elected members are also encouraged to attend leadership development workshops and conferences annually.

It is from SGA that students are selected for faculty committees. All students, including freshmen, are encouraged to participate in SGA as committee members and through activities. Involvement in student government provides unique opportunities for developing leadership and team building skills which add valuable dimensions to your education.

Research Student Nurses' Association (RSNA)

The Research Student Nurses' Association is a constituent of the Missouri Nursing Students' Association (MNSA) and the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA).

Membership in RSNA is predicated on joining NSNA and MNSA. Dues for membership cover the state and national pre-professional organizations for student nurses. RSNA does not collect dues. Nursing students who do not wish to join NSNA and MNSA may still affiliate with RSNA but will not receive any of the benefits of full membership.

The purposes of RSNA are:

1. to assume responsibility for contributing to nursing education to provide the highest quality health care,
2. to provide programs representative of fundamental and current professional interests and concerns and,
3. to aid in the development of the individual's responsibility for health care of people in all walks of life.

RSNA members plan and participate in community projects. They also provide educational experiences and support for both MNSA and NSNA.

Student Nurse Christian Fellowship (SNCF)

The Student Nurse Christian Fellowship is open to all students. SNCF is a spiritual support group for students. It is the student branch of the international, national, state and local R.N. Nurse Christian Fellowship which strives to form a foundation of Christian values for nursing. The group meets regularly to discuss ethical issues and nurture values that impact the student as well as the nursing profession. It is assisted with planning and organizing by a faculty moderator. SNCF sponsors receptions each semester open to all interested persons.

College Recognitions, Awards and Honors

Research College of Nursing has established several awards to recognize nursing students' academic achievement, leadership and service. The awards are presented to the deserving graduates at college ceremonies each year. To be eligible for the awards, students must be in good standing with the College. This includes being free of any discipline matters both academic and non-academic.

Barbara A. Clemence Award

This award is given in honor and remembrance of Barbara A. Clemence, President and Dean of Research College of Nursing 1985-1992. The recipient of the award is a student who demonstrates quiet strength and a willingness to be a risk-taker. This student is someone who exhibits insightfulness and a team player mentality.

Board of Directors Awards

First, second and third place awards are given to the Traditional B.S.N. graduates who have achieved the highest academic standings for all nursing courses in the program.

Dean's Achievement Awards

These awards are given to the three Accelerated B.S.N. graduates who have attained excellent academic achievement in all nursing courses and have demonstrated superior professionalism as judged by the Research College of Nursing faculty.

Dean's Award

This award is given by the Dean of the College of Nursing to the graduate of each undergraduate B.S.N. who has achieved the highest academic average for the entire program.

Dean's Award for Graduate Achievement

This award is given by the Dean of the College of Nursing to the graduate of the Master of Science in Nursing program who has achieved the highest academic average for their entire graduate program.

Distinguished Service Award

This award is presented to the graduating senior who has made significant contributions to Research College of Nursing through leadership and service.

Outstanding Graduating Student Nurse Award

This award is sponsored by the Missouri League for Nursing and is presented to the Traditional B.S.N. graduate who best fulfills the criteria of leadership potential, interpersonal skills and continuing professional growth. The recipient receives a one-year membership in the Missouri League for Nursing.

Rev. Robert F. Weiss, S.J. Award

This award is given in honor of Reverend Robert F. Weiss, S.J., President of Rockhurst College 1977-1988, to the graduating Traditional B.S.N. senior of the Research College of Nursing-Rockhurst University Nursing Program who demonstrates the values of integrity and personal caring for others that were modeled consistently by Father Weiss during his years at Rockhurst.

William V. Longmoor Award

This award is given in honor and remembrance of Mr. William V. Longmoor, consistent friend and supporter of nursing education at Research, to the Traditional B.S.N. graduate selected by the faculty who best exemplifies the standards and aims of Research College of Nursing and Research Medical Center.

Sigma Theta Tau

The Research College of Nursing Honor Society was founded in 1985. Members of the Honor Society share a commitment to promoting excellence in academics, leadership and practice. In 2008 the Honor Society was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, The International Honor Society of Nursing. It is now recognized as the Upsilon Tau Chapter.

In 1922 six nurses founded Sigma Theta Tau at the Indiana University Training School for Nurses, now the Indiana University School of Nursing, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The founders chose the name from the Greek words Storge, Tharsos and Time meaning love, courage and honor. The honor society became incorporated in 1985 as Sigma Theta Tau International, Inc., a not-for-profit organization with a 501 (c) (3) tax status in the United States.

The mission of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is to support the learning, knowledge, and professional development of nurses committed to make a difference in health worldwide.

The vision of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service and learning to improve the health of the world's people.

Membership is by invitation to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, and to nurse leaders exhibiting exceptional achievements in nursing. An Induction Ceremony is held in the spring semester.

Dean's Honor Roll

Dean's Honor Roll consists of those full-time students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above for the semester's work. At the end of the semester they are cited for academic achievement by being listed on the Dean's Honor Roll.

Class Honors

Full-time students whose grade point average through the first semester of the current year is B (3.0) or above are awarded class honors.

Graduation Honors

Graduation honors are awarded to graduates based upon their cumulative Grade Point Average: 3.5 - Cum Laude, 3.7 - Magna Cum Laude, 3.85 - Summa Cum Laude. The Senior Gold Medal is awarded to the highest ranking senior at Rockhurst University. Nursing students are eligible for these honors as are all Rockhurst students.

College Events

In addition to social events planned by SGA and RSNA other college events and activities are offered to enrich the collegiate experience.

Fall Convocation

This event is a welcome back to school that is required for all students. Each year a different theme is explored through a keynote presentation and smaller breakout sessions. The goal is to unite the College as the school year begins. Past themes include respect and civility, social justice, dealing with stress and celebrating diversity. This event occurs every September on the Friday after Labor Day.

Research College of Nursing Phone-A-Thon

Each September dozens of Research College of Nursing students participate in helping to raise funds for nursing scholarships by making calls for the Research College of Nursing Phone-A-Thon. This event is a great opportunity to not only raise funds for nursing scholarships provided by The Research Foundation, but also a way to connect with former nursing students who are either retired from nursing or currently working in the field of nursing. You'll find that sharing your experience as a student will cause them to share some of their experiences in nursing as well. Refreshments, prizes, camaraderie and fun are provided.

Sophomore Welcome Ceremony

This ceremony is a tradition introduced in January 2000 to welcome sophomore students to the nursing program and the College community. It features many speakers, including students who share personal testimonials, and a presentation of a special welcome pin to sophomore students. Juniors, seniors and Accelerated B.S.N. students are encouraged to participate in this ceremony. This occurs every January.

Bobbie Siler Scholarship Day

This is an opportunity to celebrate the scholarly work of students, faculty and alumni of the College of Nursing. This event is grounded in the College's commitment to excellence in nursing education by providing an atmosphere conducive to the development of scholarship. This event occurs every April.

Festival of Student Achievement

Held each spring on the Rockhurst campus, students receive recognition for scholarly works, academic honors and special awards. Nursing honors and awards are announced at this time and are presented at the May Pinning Ceremony.

Nightingale Gala

Every year the Student Government Association hosts the Nightingale Gala. The event includes dinner, faculty awards presentation, class slide shows and student awards. This is followed by a night of dancing. This event is typically held every May prior to graduation.

Graduation Activities

Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program participate in the joint graduation ceremonies of Rockhurst University and Research College of Nursing.

Several activities take place throughout the year, coinciding with scheduled degree completion dates. Students may purchase announcements to send to family and friends that include date, time and location information.

Hooding and Graduation Ceremony

Graduate students are provided a hooding and graduation ceremony following completion of the degree requirements for the M.S.N. program. This ceremony takes place in December of each year.

Pinning Ceremony

Undergraduate nursing students receive their nursing pin in a ceremony exclusively for the nursing students, their families and friends. Pinning ceremonies are held in August for Accelerated B.S.N. students completing the undergraduate nursing program at the end of the summer term and in May for Traditional B.S.N. students.

Baccalaureate Mass

The Mass is a cap and gown ceremony at Rockhurst that takes place the day before May commencement exercises. All graduates are invited to attend.

Commencement

Commencement is the cap and gown ceremony at which degrees are conferred and diplomas awarded. It is a joint program with Rockhurst University and is held each May. All graduates are invited to attend. AO students wishing to participate may do so in May following their completion of the program.