



Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

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Evolution and Excellence: Norwich University's Nursing Program



First class of ADN students – 1961

In the ever-evolving landscape of healthcare education, Norwich University's Nursing Program has not only adapted to the changing times but has also played a pivotal role in shaping the nursing profession in Vermont.

The roots of the program extend back to the nursing crisis that unfolded in Vermont during the 1950s. Faced with increasing demands on nurses' time and a shortage of trained professionals, the state sought innovative solutions. Enter Mildred Montag, a nursing education pioneer, who introduced the associate degree in nursing (ADN) in 1958. Vermont College was the state's first to offer the ADN in 1961, prior to merging with Norwich University in 1972.



The nursing crisis became even more pronounced during the Vietnam era, prompting Vermont College and Norwich University to respond dynamically. As the armed forces drew nurses into their ranks, both institutions innovated nurse education, addressing the nationwide shortage. By 1979, the collaborative efforts led to the introduction of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) completion program.



Dr. Jessica Wood M'09

In 2010, the nursing department found its place within Norwich's School of Mathematics and Sciences, offering a comprehensive four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Additionally, an RN to BSN program caters to graduates of associate degree and diploma nursing programs, highlighting Norwich's commitment to accessible and quality nursing education.

Dr. Jessica Wood M'09, Director of the School of Nursing has been teaching at Norwich since 2008. A passionate leader for nursing, Dr. Wood is a testament to the program's dedication to excellence. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of New Hampshire, a Master of Science in Health Systems Leadership from Norwich University, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Duke University.

Her wealth of experience in the field of nursing is evident in her commitment to producing well-rounded professionals. Today's nursing students have access to new simulation laboratories on campus. Affiliations with academic medical centers, such as Dartmouth-Hitchcock and the University of Vermont Medical Center, provide students with real-world clinical learning, and opportunities to study in impoverished areas of Nicaragua provide hands-on experiences in global health and community engagement.

As Norwich's nursing program continues to evolve and thrive, it remains a beacon of excellence in nursing education. From its early days addressing Vermont's nursing crisis to its current status as a comprehensive and forward-thinking program, Norwich University's Nursing Program stands as a testament to adaptability, innovation, and a commitment to shaping the future of healthcare professionals.

Records documenting women's history and experience at Norwich are available through the University Archives. <https://archives.norwich.edu/>

In 1972, Vermont College merged with Norwich University. 2024 marks the **50th anniversary** of the first women to live on the Northfield campus and the first to join the NU Corps of Cadets—two years prior to the US Service Academies!

Attend a Women Kicking Glass Event.

- Saturday, May 18, 2024 - [Women Kicking Glass So. California Gathering](#), Los Angeles, CA
- Sunday, June 23, 2024 - [Washington DC Women Kicking Glass Reception](#), Military Women's Memorial, Arlington, VA
- Friday, September 20, 2024 - [Women Kicking Glass Gala](#), Plumley Armory, Norwich