We encourage you to seek out students that might succeed in the career of nursing. Open your mind to the possibilities, and then open their minds. Encourage them to shadow a nurse, to participate in an Otterbein visitation program, or to spend a day in classes with one of our nursing students.

When you ask a student, “Have you ever thought of going into the field of nursing?” and they make a face and declare, “I hate blood!” help them to see beyond that. We are greatly influenced by the narrow perspective of nurses’ roles featured on TV. BSN nurses also provide educational programs, develop computer software, sell medical equipment and pharmaceutical products, and manage health care businesses. Many of the students that continue their education in our nursing graduate program become college professors, nurse researchers, nurse practitioners, and nurse anesthetists. When nursing is viewed as a career, not just as a job, the possibilities are endless.

When you identify a female or male student that is interested in nursing, we suggest that you encourage them to complete a strong college prep combination of courses. Mature students with strong algebra skills and science abilities (biology and chemistry) will be most successful in our curriculum. Reading and writing abilities are also critical in a program that has a liberal arts base; leadership, critical thinking, and public speaking abilities are an asset.

Nursing at Otterbein College is unique in a number of ways:

- Otterbein is a small liberal arts college. The mission of the college emphasizes teaching and community service. You see faculty in the classrooms, not teaching assistants, and our focus on teaching and learning is reflected in open doors and accessibility of the faculty.
- Placing a professional program on a liberal arts campus strengthens its curriculum. Agencies that employ Otterbein graduates report that they have a valuable blend of clinical skills and critical thinking abilities. Our graduates quickly become effective leaders in the nursing profession.
- At Otterbein, the freshman year is spent as a pre-nursing major, and students complete prerequisite courses in English, Psychology, Math, Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology. Students must earn a “C” or better in prerequisite courses and hold a GPA of 3.0 or higher in order to apply to progress into the nursing major. Students that received the High School Guarantee* fill the first seats; the remaining seats are filled by the highest qualified freshman candidates. Otterbein GPA, prerequisite grades, ACT scores and high school GPA are used in the selection process.
- Nursing students experience three years of integrated classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences as they progress through the Otterbein curriculum. Classroom learning is reinforced in campus laboratory facilities outfitted with state-of-the-art technology. Creative simulation experiences prepare students for clinical placements.
- Clinical experiences begin the sophomore year with students placed in a variety of hospitals and health care agencies throughout the Central Ohio area. This requires faculty to be flexible in their teaching approach, and gives students a diverse clinical experience base upon graduation, unlike some nursing programs that use only one or two clinical sites directly connected to their campus.
- Otterbein has an incredibly caring community of faculty that reflect the characteristics of compassion, ethics, commitment, and competence that we want in our professional nurses. We operate with a philosophy of success, and have great confidence in the students we have the privilege to serve.

*High School Guaranteed admission offered to HS seniors with a minimum 3.5 GPA & 24 ACT