

A Major Decision

Medical



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Editor's Note

Starting college can be both exciting and scary. There's the thrill of new experiences, meeting new people, and figuring out who you want to become, but there's also the pressure of making big decisions, like choosing the right major. It's easy to feel unsure about where to start or what path will lead you to where you want to go.

That's why Talon Student Media created this magazine. A Major Decision is designed to help students understand the wide range of majors available at UT Tyler. Each edition will talk about several majors in a certain field of study.

I'm incredibly thankful for the opportunity to create this magazine. It's been a rewarding experience to show the hard work of our faculty who make UT Tyler such a special place to learn and grow.

Whether you're already set on a path or still exploring your options, I hope this magazine helps you take the next step toward your future.

Dylan Shacklett
Dylan Shacklett
Magazine Editor



For More Information

Much of the information provided in this magazine has been sourced from the official UT Tyler website and academic departments to ensure accuracy and relevance. We appreciate their dedication to supporting students on their educational journey.

If you're interested in learning more about the majors featured in this magazine, we encourage you to visit the official University of Texas at Tyler website for the most up-to-date information, program details, and academic resources.

You'll find comprehensive guides on each major, including degree requirements, course descriptions, and career opportunities.

For specific questions or academic advising, please reach out to the respective department or contact the Office of Admissions at admissions@uttyler.edu or (903) 566-7203.

www.uttyler.edu/academics



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Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Nursing is a career where science, compassion, and critical thinking come together to improve lives. Nurses play a key role in every part of the healthcare system, whether it's providing bedside care, educating patients, or coordinating treatment plans.

A Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) prepares students not just to enter the field, but to lead in it. This four-year degree is designed for those who want to make a meaningful impact on their communities through patient care, advocacy, and lifelong learning.

The History of Nursing

Nursing has deep roots, dating back to ancient civilizations, but the modern profession took shape in the 19th century with Florence Nightingale's reforms in battlefield hospitals. Her emphasis on hygiene, structured care, and formal training laid the groundwork for nursing education as we know it.

In 1909, the first BSN program launched at the University of Minnesota, creating a shift toward a more academic approach to patient care. Over time, nursing has grown into a important profession that combines clinical expertise with leadership, communication, and innovation.

Nursing at UT Tyler

UT Tyler's BSN program is built on the idea that the best nurses are both knowledgeable and confident in their ability to respond in real time. Students train in modern simulation labs that mirror real healthcare environments, practicing everything from routine procedures to emergency responses.

Early and consistent clinical rotations ensure that students don't just learn in classrooms. They apply their knowledge in hospitals, clinics, and community settings across East Texas. The program's small class sizes, experienced faculty, and supportive learning environment help students develop both their technical skills and their professional identities.

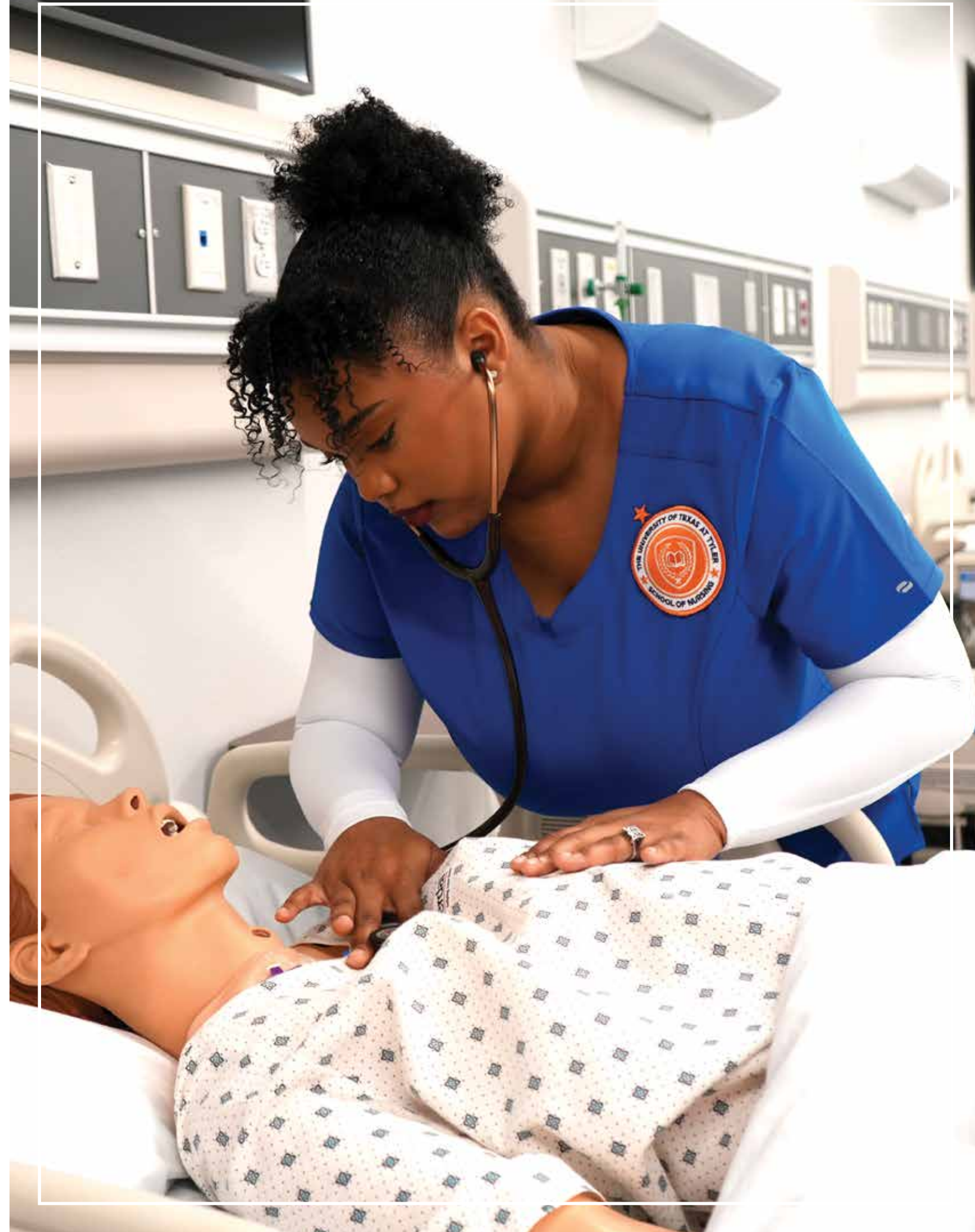
What Sets UT Tyler's BSN Apart?

Students in the BSN program benefit from the flexibility of multiple campuses in Tyler, Longview, and Palestine, each offering strong faculty support and immersive learning opportunities. With an emphasis on early clinical experience, students start building practical skills from the beginning. Faculty mentors guide students through patient care, research projects, and critical decision making scenarios. UT Tyler BSN graduates consistently surpass national and state averages on the NCLEX-RN licensure exam, entering the workforce with confidence and competence.

The Growing Demand for BSN Nurses

Today's healthcare environment is fast paced and constantly evolving, and BSN prepared nurses are in high demand. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, many hospitals now require or strongly prefer a BSN for new hires. The degree has been linked to better patient outcomes, lower mortality rates, and higher job satisfaction.

Whether working in trauma units, rural clinics, public health departments, or leadership roles, BSN graduates have the training and adaptability to meet healthcare challenges head on, and to grow with the field over time.



Top Jobs for

BSN Graduates

Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Nurse
Monitors and manages critically ill patients who require complex and continuous care, often using advanced life support technology.

Public Health Nurse
Works in community settings to provide education, preventive care, and outreach programs aimed at improving overall population health.

School Nurse
Promotes student health by managing chronic conditions, treating injuries, and providing health education in educational environments.

Operating Room (OR) Nurse
Prepares surgical rooms, assists during procedures, and ensures patients receive safe, sterile, and effective surgical care.

Clinical Nurse
Provides direct, evidence-based care to patients in a hospital or outpatient setting, often serving as the primary point of contact for patient treatment.

Emergency Room Nurse
Delivers urgent care in fast-paced ER environments, quickly assessing and stabilizing patients with acute injuries or illnesses.

Oncology Nurse
Supports cancer patients through chemotherapy, symptom management, and emotional care throughout the treatment process.

Clinical Research Nurse
Collaborates on medical studies by enrolling patients, administering research protocols, and collecting data to support clinical trials.

Pediatric Nurse
Specializes in treating infants, children, and adolescents, offering both medical care and emotional support to young patients and their families.

Mother-Baby Unit Nurse
Cares for postpartum mothers and newborns, assisting with recovery, infant care, and early bonding experiences.

“When you're a nurse, you know that every day you will touch a life or a life will touch yours.”



Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN)

Registered nurses bring valuable real-world experience to their roles, often balancing complex care with quick thinking and empathy. But as the healthcare system grows, so do the expectations placed on RNs. The RN-BSN program is built for nurses who want to grow with the field without starting from scratch. Rather than revisiting what they already know, the program deepens their skills in areas like healthcare policy, leadership, and research, opening doors to new roles and responsibilities.

The History of RN-BSN Education

For decades, many nurses entered the profession through associate degrees or diploma programs. While these routes remain important, changes in healthcare over the years have shown the value of a bachelor's level education.

In 1965, the American Nurses Association first recommended the BSN as the standard for professional nursing, and in 2010, a national call was made for 80% of nurses to earn a BSN by 2020. These efforts were about improving care for patients, strengthening healthcare teams, and better preparing nurses for the evolving landscape of medicine. Today, RN-BSN programs offer a seamless pathway for nurses to advance their careers, improve patient care, and pursue graduate education.

RN Nursing at UT Tyler

UT Tyler's RN-BSN program is built for working nurses who want to keep moving forward without putting their careers on hold. The fully online format gives students the flexibility to balance coursework with their jobs and personal lives. Whether finishing the program in 12 months or taking a slower pace, students dive into subjects that matter.

The program coursework encourages students to apply new ideas directly to their current roles, making learning immediately useful. Throughout the program, students are supported by faculty who understand the challenges of nursing and are invested in helping them succeed.

What Sets UT Tyler's RN-BSN Apart?

UT Tyler's RN-BSN program respects where students are starting from and focuses on where they want to go. Instead of reteaching the basics, the program builds on existing experience and invites nurses to think more broadly about healthcare systems, policy, and patient advocacy. It also opens doors to leadership roles, specialized fields, and graduate programs like MSN or DNP. The program's design keeps things practical and personal, with mentorship and support that makes a difference.

The Growing Demand for RN-BSN Nurses

The demand for RN-BSN-prepared nurses continues to grow as healthcare systems look for professionals who can navigate both patient care and the bigger picture. While experience remains essential, more hospitals and clinics now seek nurses with a bachelor's degree who can take on leadership roles, adapt to shifting policies, and engage in collaborative, evidence-based care. The RN-BSN path gives practicing nurses a way to stay competitive, grow professionally, and bring even more to the teams and patients they serve.

Top Jobs for RN-BSN Graduates

Charge Nurse

Oversees nursing staff on their unit, coordinates patient assignments, and acts as a liaison between nurses, physicians, and management.

Case Management Nurse

Develops and monitors long-term care plans for patients, coordinating resources and services to support recovery and well-being.

Utilization Review Nurse

Evaluates treatment plans and healthcare services to determine medical necessity, cost-efficiency, and insurance compliance.

Home Health Nurse (Supervisory Role)

Manages in-home care services, oversees nursing staff, and ensures patients receive consistent, personalized care.

Infection Control Nurse

Develops and implements policies to prevent and contain infectious diseases within healthcare facilities.

Quality Improvement Nurse

Analyzes patient outcomes and hospital processes to identify opportunities for improving the quality and safety of care.

Clinical Nurse Leader (Entry-Level Role)

Guides patient care delivery by promoting evidence-based practices and collaborating with interdisciplinary teams.

Hospice/Palliative Care Coordinator

Leads care efforts for terminally ill patients, ensuring comfort, dignity, and emotional support at the end of life.

Nursing Supervisor

Oversees operations across multiple units, manages staff schedules, and ensures healthcare delivery meets regulatory and institutional standards.

Occupational Health Nurse

Provides health assessments, promotes wellness programs, and ensures safety compliance in workplace environments.

Dr. Julie V. Philley

UT Tyler President

“Choosing the right major is important because it lays the foundation for your academic journey, your career path and ultimately, your personal fulfillment.”

Dr. Julie V. Philley

How does UT Tyler prepare students for success across a variety of career paths, including fast-growing areas like healthcare?

Student success is our number one priority, and we work diligently to ensure that every student has an opportunity to discover their success.

- Our comprehensive curricula cover foundational knowledge, specialized skills and interdisciplinary studies so that students are well-rounded.
- Research opportunities begin as early as undergraduate studies so that students gain hands-on experience and critical thinking skills.
- Career Success is dedicated to providing workshops, coaching, internships, and career fairs and networking opportunities to help students prepare to successfully engage with future employers.
- Student Engagement provides leadership opportunities, community engagement and opportunities to explore interests outside of academics.

What’s the most meaningful part of watching UT Tyler students graduate and make a difference in their fields?

To see our students earn their degrees and take their place in this world gives me a great sense of pride and inspiration. I’m not worried about the future. It’s in great hands.

What advice would you give to students who want to make an impact in their future careers, whether in medicine or any other area?

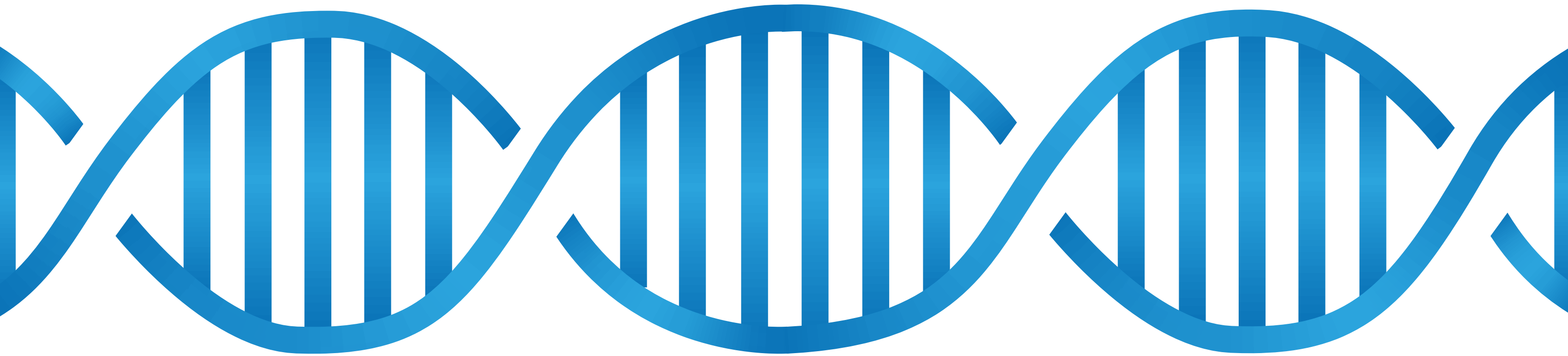
Making an impact doesn’t have to be grand to be meaningful. I would encourage students to lead by example and demonstrate integrity, empathy and a strong work ethic to create a positive work culture; and be open to and willing to embrace change, which often opens doors for growth.

How has UT Tyler evolved to keep up with the changing needs of students and the workforce, especially in fields like healthcare?

We listen to our students and our partners in the workforce when they tell us what they need, and we add degree programs — chemical engineering, social work, pharmacy and medicine — to address those needs. We continue to expand our online education program to make a UT Tyler education more accessible and flexible for remote and working students.

What opportunities or experiences at UT Tyler help students stand out, no matter what field they go into?

Getting involved is a great start. Leadership roles, internships, research, study abroad, community engagement — these are excellent opportunities to learn about yourself and others. This will help you develop valuable confidence and experience.



Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Health Sciences is an interdisciplinary field that combines knowledge from biology, medicine, and public health to address the complexities of human health and wellness. This major focuses on understanding the factors that influence health, including biological, social, and environmental determinants, while preparing students to contribute to improving healthcare delivery, disease prevention, and health education.

Health Sciences professionals are equipped with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, allowing them to work across a wide range of healthcare settings. Whether in clinical research, healthcare management, or public health initiatives, this field offers the flexibility to pursue diverse career paths or continue into specialized programs. The curriculum emphasizes a balance of scientific principles and real world applications, preparing students to make contributions to the ever growing healthcare landscape.

The History of Health Sciences

The history of health sciences traces its roots back to ancient civilizations like Egypt, Greece, and Rome, where early medical practices focused on patient care and understanding the human body. As medicine advanced, especially during the 19th and 20th centuries, the field expanded to include research, disease prevention, and public health.

Key milestones like the discovery of antibiotics and vaccines revolutionized healthcare, leading to a broader understanding of how to improve community health. In the mid-20th century, public health gained more attention, focusing on issues like sanitation and nutrition. Today, health sciences continue to evolve with emerging technologies such as telemedicine and genomics, addressing new challenges and improving healthcare delivery for individuals and society.

Health Sciences at UT Tyler

The Health Sciences program at UT Tyler takes a hands-on approach, preparing students for real world healthcare careers. Through a blend of classroom learning and practical experiences, students gain insight into how healthcare systems function at every level, from community programs to policy making.

With the option to study on campus, online, or a mix of both, the program offers flexibility to fit into diverse schedules. Faculty members, who bring years of experience in public health and healthcare, provide mentorship that helps students apply their academic knowledge to future careers in education, administration, and other healthcare fields.

What Sets UT Tyler’s Health Sciences Apart?

What makes UT Tyler’s Health Sciences BS program unique is its emphasis on practical application and student support. The curriculum is designed to help students immediately apply what they learn through internships, projects, and clinical experiences in real healthcare settings.

The program also stands out for its affordability, offering

high quality education at a reasonable cost, with access to scholarships and financial aid options. The guidance of experienced faculty members, with backgrounds in public health, research, and leadership, gives students a competitive edge as they graduate ready to enter careers in public health, healthcare management, health education, and more.

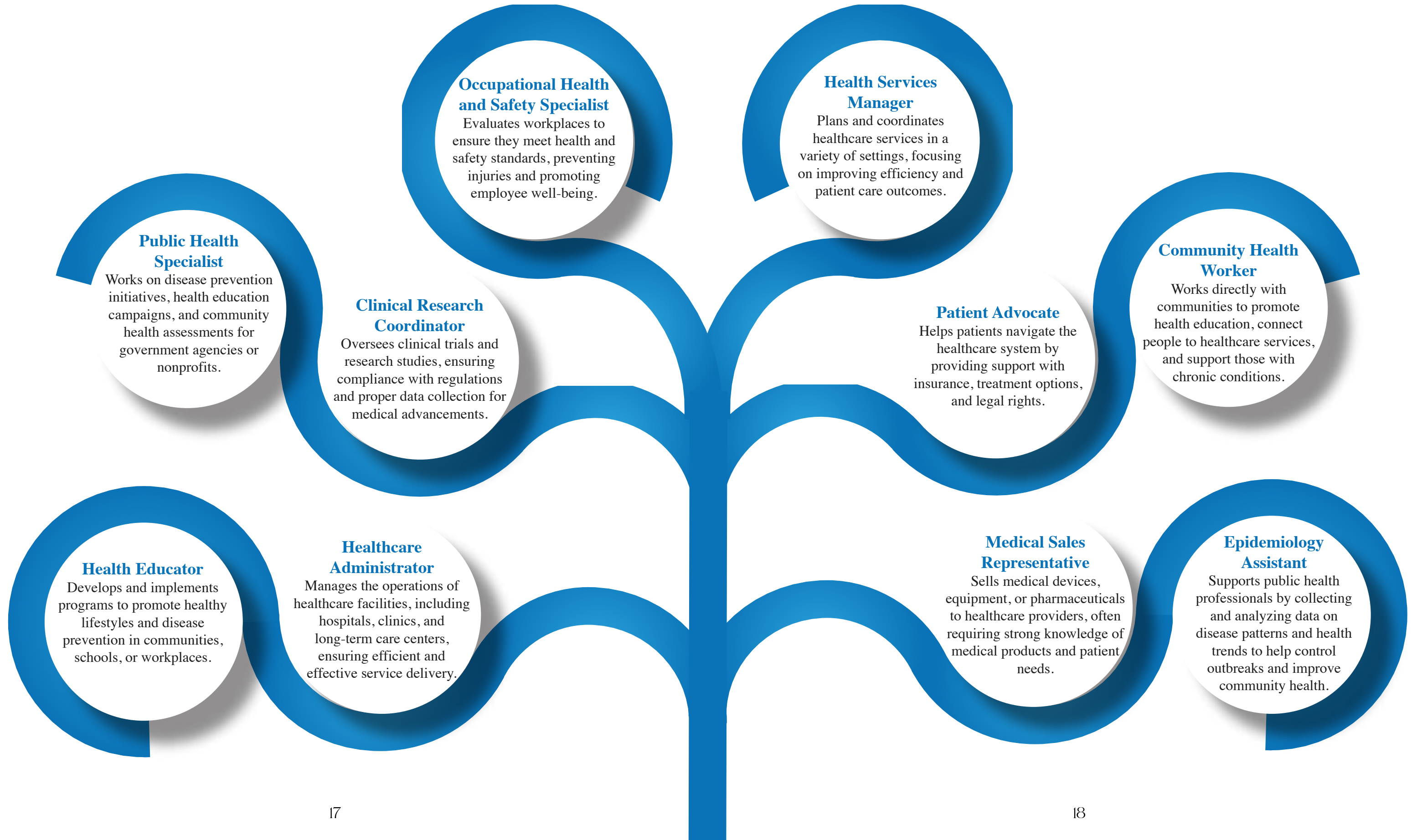
The Growing Demand for Health Sciences Graduates

Healthcare is one of the fastest growing industries in the country, and with that growth comes a need for professionals who understand how the system works beyond just clinical care. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 2 million new healthcare jobs are projected between 2022 and 2032. Many of these roles will require skills in public health, healthcare management, and health education.

Health Sciences is a field built for that kind of work. It brings together science, communication, and systems thinking to help improve health outcomes at both the individual and community level. Whether they’re organizing community health initiatives, supporting patient services, or working behind the scenes to improve how care is delivered. It’s a good fit for students who want to be part of healthcare’s future.

Top Jobs for Health

Science BS Graduates



Myth

Reality

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) & RN to BSN

A BSN is only useful for hospital jobs.

A BSN opens doors to public health, research, case management, and leadership roles in healthcare.

Online RN-BSN programs are easier than in-person programs.

Online programs require strong time management and self-discipline, offering the same rigorous coursework as traditional programs.

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

A Health Sciences degree only leads to clinical jobs.

This degree also prepares students for careers in healthcare administration, education, and public health.

Health Sciences is the same as pre-med.

While a great foundation for medical school, Health Sciences covers policy, leadership, and interdisciplinary studies.

Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD)

CSD only leads to speech therapy careers.

Graduates can also work in audiology, rehabilitation counseling, special education, and healthcare advocacy.

Speech-language pathologists only work with children.

SLPs help people of all ages, treating speech, swallowing, and cognitive-communication disorders.

Bachelor of Arts in Wellness

A Wellness degree is just about fitness and exercise.

This major covers mental health, nutrition, stress management, and workplace wellness.

Wellness careers don't require much education.

Wellness professionals need knowledge in public health, behavior change, and program development.

What is your major?

Nursing

Why did you choose your major?

I chose nursing because I sought a career that would not only fulfill me but also allow me to look back with pride, knowing I provided stability and care for my family. Every day, I strive to make a difference, knowing that my dedication and compassion can touch lives and create a lasting impact. This journey is about more than just a job; it's about building a legacy of love and support for those I hold dear.

What are you going to do after graduating?

The absolute first thing I'll be doing after graduating is jetting off to Cancun, Mexico! I'll be soaking up all the sun and good times at an all-inclusive resort—think endless margaritas and beach vibes! As for my nursing career, I'm still deciding between med-surge and labor and delivery. Who knows, maybe I'll get some inspiration while lounging by the pool.

Alexus Miller

What is your major?

Nursing

Why did you choose your major?

I chose nursing as my major because of my deep desire to help others. My passion for this field was inspired by my mother's stories of the nurses who compassionately cared for us during my time as a NICU baby, taking the time to explain everything to her during such a critical period. It was through their dedication and kindness that I discovered my calling to become a nurse. I am driven by the opportunity to return the love and care that was once given to me.

What are you going to do after graduating?

After graduation, I plan to celebrate my hard work with an all-inclusive vacation to the Virgin Islands, enjoying the beach and the chance to unwind. I am also exploring two career paths: the NICU, where I can support newborns during critical moments, and Mother-Baby care, helping mothers navigate the joys and challenges of welcoming a child. Both specialties align with my passion for making a meaningful impact in people's lives.

Jazzmon Lane

What's Your *Major* Decision?

Everyone has a reason for choosing their major and we want to hear yours.

Maybe you've always known what you wanted to do. Maybe you changed your mind a few times. Maybe you're still figuring it out. Whatever your path looks like, your story matters and it could inspire someone else who's still deciding.

Tell us:

- *What is your major?*
- *Why did you choose your major?*
- *What are you going to do after graduating?*

Tag us on Instagram @ThePatriotTalon and use #MyMajorDecision. You might see your story shared on our page.

Scan the QR code to download a story template to use for your post.



Bachelor of Science in Disorders (CSD)

Communication Sciences and Disorders is a field dedicated to helping people overcome speech, language, and hearing challenges. This major prepares students to assess, diagnose, and treat communication disorders, laying the foundation for careers in speech language pathology, audiology, and related fields. It combines theoretical knowledge with hands on experience, equipping students with the skills needed to improve lives and make a lasting impact in healthcare and education. Through classroom learning, research opportunities, and real world applications, students develop the expertise necessary to address communication difficulties across diverse populations and age groups.

The History of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

The history of Communication Sciences and Disorders shows a long-standing commitment to helping people connect through speech, language, and hearing. While early forms of speech therapy date back to ancient civilizations, the field as we know it began taking shape in the early 20th century. As disciplines like psychology, linguistics, and medicine advanced, they laid the groundwork for more structured training, professional

standards, and evidence based treatment.

Today, speech language pathologists and audiologists work at the intersection of science and human connection. With access to innovative tools like real time speech analysis software, digital hearing aids, and neuroimaging, professionals can deliver more precise and personalized care. The evolution of the field from its roots to its role in modern healthcare shows just how crucial communication is to quality of life.

Communication Sciences and Disorders at UT Tyler

UT Tyler's Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) program combines classroom learning with real world experience, offering students a well rounded education. The curriculum covers essential topics like speech and language development, hearing disorders, and cognitive linguistic processes, giving students a thorough understanding of how we communicate. Clinical observations, research opportunities, and service learning activities allow students to apply what they've learned in practical settings, preparing them for careers in speech language pathology or audiology.

Comm. Sciences and

What Sets UT Tyler's CSD Program Apart?

What makes UT Tyler's CSD program stand out is its balanced approach to education. Students engage in courses on phonetics, neuroanatomy, and audiology, while also gaining valuable hands-on experience through clinical placements and research projects. With the guidance of experienced faculty mentors, students build the professional skills needed to succeed. This combination of coursework and practical experience ensures graduates are well prepared for advanced studies and a range of career paths in healthcare, education, and research.

The Growing Demand for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

As the awareness of communication disorders rises, the need for skilled professionals in speech language pathology and audiology continues to increase. According

to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in these fields is projected to grow

by 21% from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. The American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA) also notes that these professions are among the fastest growing in healthcare. The shortage of qualified professionals in these areas has created a high demand for graduates, particularly in hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers, and private practices.

For many professionals in the field, job satisfaction is high, mainly due to the meaningful nature of their work. They help individuals regain communication abilities, improve cognitive skills, and enhance their overall quality of life. As the field expands, these professionals will continue to play a vital role in shaping the future of communication sciences, support for accessibility, and developing innovative treatment methods to meet the needs.



Top Jobs for CSD Graduates

Case Manager for Disability Services

Case managers help people with communication disorders access resources and support services.

Hearing Aid Specialist

Hearing aid specialists work with clients to select, fit, and maintain hearing aids and other assistive listening devices.

Audiology Assistant

These professionals support audiologists by conducting hearing screenings, assisting with hearing aid fittings, and managing patient records.

Medical or Health Services Coordinator

These professionals assist healthcare teams by managing patient intake, scheduling appointments, and maintaining medical records.

Patient Care Coordinator

Helps manage appointments, treatment plans, and follow-ups in clinics, often supporting audiology and rehab teams.

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)

SLPAs work under the supervision of licensed speech-language pathologists to help assess and treat individuals with speech and language disorders.

Behavioral Health Technician

Behavioral health technicians provide support to people with developmental disabilities, autism, or behavioral challenges.

Corporate or Healthcare Patient Advocate

Patient advocates assist individuals with communication challenges in navigating medical or insurance systems.

Special Education Paraprofessional

Paraprofessionals work in school settings, supporting special education teachers and students with speech, language, and learning difficulties.

Research Assistant in Speech & Hearing Sciences

Research assistants support studies related to speech, language, and hearing disorders by collecting and analyzing data.

Bachelor of Arts in Wellness

Wellness is a field that examines the many factors contributing to a healthy and balanced life such as physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. A Bachelor of Arts in Wellness provides a broad foundation in health education, behavior change, and lifestyle management, equipping students with the skills to assess needs, design programs, and support long term well-being.

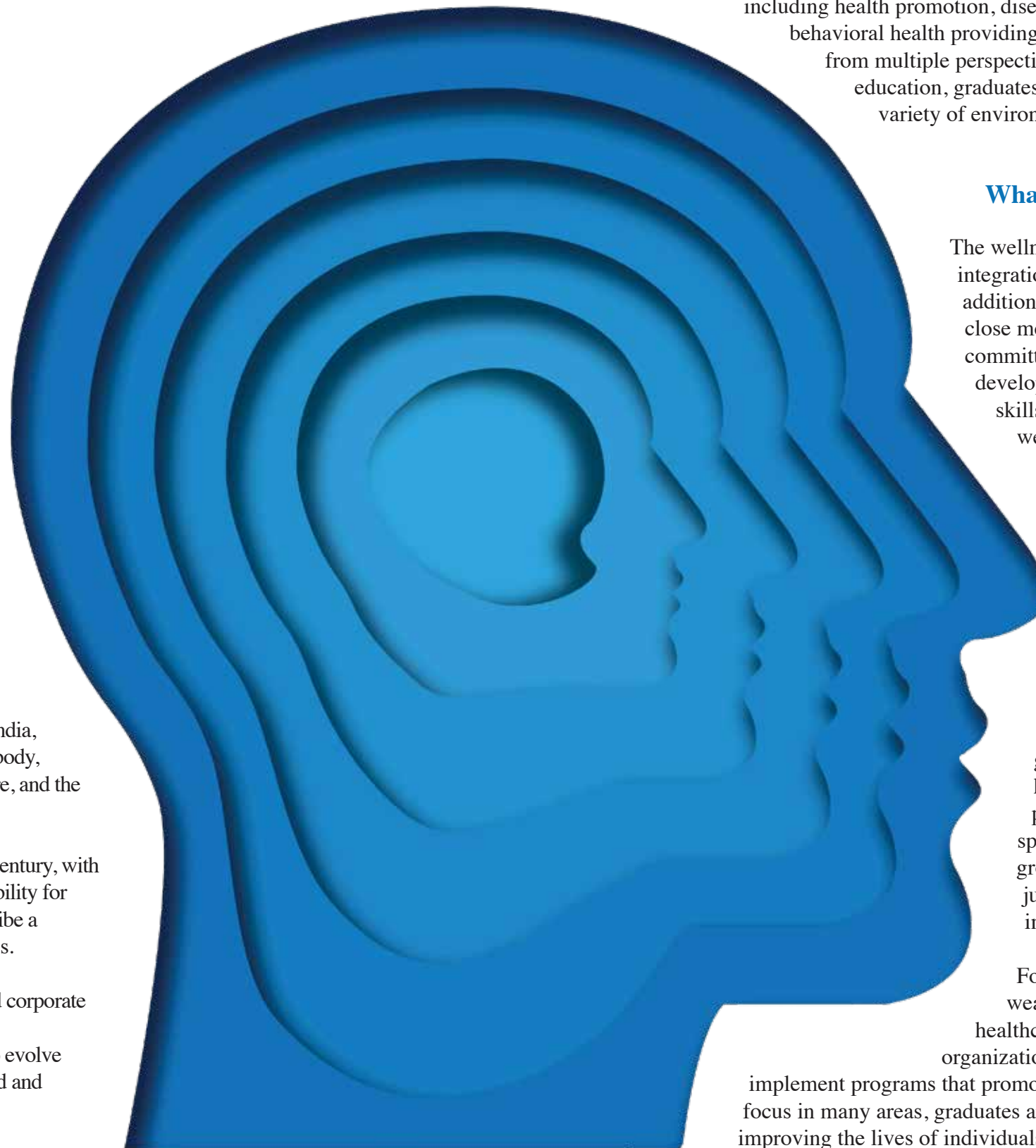
The course combines approaches to health promotion and disease prevention, preparing students for roles in corporate wellness, health coaching, program coordination, and wellness communication. This major is well suited for those interested in practical, people centered work that contributes to healthier communities.

The History of Wellness

Wellness practices date back to ancient civilizations such as Greece, India, and China, where health was viewed as a balance between the mind, body, and spirit. These early approaches emphasized prevention, holistic care, and the connection between physical and mental well-being.

The modern wellness movement gained momentum in the mid 20th century, with increased attention to lifestyle, preventive care, and personal responsibility for health. The term “wellness” was popularized during this time to describe a proactive, complex approach to health that goes beyond treating illness.

Today, wellness has become an vital part of healthcare, education, and corporate culture, with a growing emphasis on mental health, nutrition, stress management, and community health initiatives. The field continues to evolve alongside research and societal needs, shaping how health is supported and sustained across populations.



Wellness at UT Tyler

UT Tyler’s Bachelor of Arts in Wellness offers students a comprehensive education that blends academic study with meaningful, hands-on experience. The program explores a wide range of topics including health promotion, disease prevention, nutrition, stress management, and behavioral health providing students with a comprehensive understanding of wellness from multiple perspectives. Whether entering the workforce or pursuing advanced education, graduates are equipped to promote health and well-being across a variety of environments.

What Sets UT Tyler’s Wellness Program Apart?

The wellness program at UT Tyler stands out for its strong integration of theory, practice, and professional development. In addition to a diverse and relevant curriculum, students benefit from close mentorship by faculty who are active in the field and committed to student success. The program encourages the development of leadership, communication, and critical thinking skills as well as qualities that are essential in today’s health and wellness careers. Students are also encouraged to explore varied connections, allowing them to tailor their experience to fit their interests and goals. Through internships, research projects, and community outreach, students have the opportunity to engage directly with the field, gaining experience that prepares them for both professional roles and graduate study.

The Growing Demand for Wellness Graduates

As the demand for wellness professionals continues to rise, graduates in this field are to play a pivotal role in shaping healthier communities. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 12% increase in the need for health education specialists and community health workers by 2031. This growth shows a shift in how society is viewing health. Not just in physical health, but as well as an approach that includes mental well being and overall life satisfaction.

For wellness graduates, this expanding job market presents a wealth of opportunities. Whether pursuing careers in healthcare, corporate wellness programs, or community organizations, these professionals are in high demand to design and implement programs that promote health and well being. As wellness becomes a central focus in many areas, graduates are increasingly positioned to make a lasting impact, improving the lives of individuals and communities alike.

Top Jobs for Wellness BA Graduates

Wellness Journalist
Wellness journalists write articles, blogs, and reports on health-related topics, providing valuable information to the public through various media outlets.

Personal Trainer
Personal trainers guide clients in developing fitness routines, improving physical health, and achieving wellness goals through exercise and proper nutrition.

Recreational Therapist
Recreational therapists use activity-based interventions, such as sports, arts, and outdoor recreation, to improve mental and physical well-being.

Holistic Health Practitioner
Holistic health practitioners incorporate alternative wellness approaches, such as mindfulness, yoga, and nutrition counseling, to support overall health.

Corporate Wellness Coordinator
These professionals design and implement workplace wellness programs, promoting healthy habits, stress management, and disease prevention among employees.

Health Coach
Health coaches work with individuals to develop personalized wellness plans, focusing on nutrition, exercise, and lifestyle changes to improve overall well-being.

Community Health Educator
Community health educators develop and deliver programs that educate the public on topics such as nutrition, physical activity, and chronic disease prevention.

Public Health Coordinator
Public health coordinators develop initiatives aimed at improving population health through research, education, and community outreach.

Health and Wellness Advocate
These professionals work with healthcare organizations, government agencies, and nonprofits to promote policies and programs that support community well-being.

Wellness Program Manager
Wellness program managers oversee health and wellness initiatives in various settings, such as corporations, healthcare facilities, and nonprofit organizations.

Student Organizations and Resources

Getting involved in student organizations at UT Tyler is a great way for students in health-related majors to gain experience, build connections, and explore their career interests. These groups offer networking opportunities, hands-on learning, and ways to give back to the community. Here are some organizations that could be especially beneficial:



Student Nurses Association (SNA)

Open to all nursing students, SNA provides opportunities to learn about different nursing specialties, connect with professionals, and participate in community service projects. It's a great way to get involved and stay up to date on the latest in the field.



AMSA Pre-Medical Chapter at UT Tyler

Established in 2020, this nonprofit association serves the Tyler area by enhancing access to opportunities for pre-medical students. It focuses on providing resources, networking, and support for those pursuing a career in medicine.



Pre-Health Student Association

This organization aims to inform pre-professional students about various opportunities in the healthcare field. It serves as a platform for students to gain insights, resources, and guidance as they prepare for careers in health professions.



Academy of Future Health Professionals (AFHP)

The AFHP is dedicated to increasing the number of students accepted into medical school and improving their readiness. It offers programs such as workshops, job shadowing with medical professionals, research opportunities, and dedicated advising from the start of the MCAT to medical school acceptance.



Student Government Association (SGA)

For students who want to make an impact on campus, SGA provides opportunities to advocate for student needs, including health and wellness initiatives. It's a great way to develop leadership skills while helping shape campus policies.

UT Tyler also hosts over 80 student organizations, including academic honor societies and specific interest groups. Getting involved in these organizations is a great way to gain experience outside the classroom, meet like-minded peers, and explore different career paths. Whether you're interested in hands-on clinical work, healthcare administration, or policy-making, there's a group at UT Tyler that can help you grow and prepare for your future.



More Organizations

www.uttyler.campuslabs.com/engage/organizations

Celebrating 50 Years of Nursing at UT Tyler

By Elizabeth Wingfield

The University of Texas at Tyler held a kickoff event to celebrate the School of Nursing's 50th anniversary. The event paid tribute to the school's beginning in 1975 as the Division of Nursing under Texas Eastern University, which became UT Tyler.



School of Nursing 50th Anniversary Kickoff (L to R): Dr. Barbara K. Hass, School of Nursing dean, with founding mothers Dr. Marian Rowe and Dr. Doris Riemen. The School of Nursing hosted a kickoff event for its 50th anniversary, paying tribute to its inception in 1975.

Some highlights of the last five decades include the first class of traditional BSN students beginning in 1982 and the Palestine Distance Initiative being approved as UT Tyler's first off-campus instructional site in 1995, followed by the Longview expansion in 1997. In 2008, the school introduced the PhD in nursing, the first doctoral program at UT Tyler.

"The School of Nursing has been a cornerstone of UT Tyler since its inception," said UT Tyler President Julie V. Philley, MD. "It's truly an honor to celebrate its 50th anniversary, and we couldn't have gotten here without support from the UT System and the East Texas community."

Since its establishment, the nursing program has since grown into one of the best programs in the state. Its enrollment comprises more than 25% of UT Tyler's overall enrollment. The school currently offers three bachelor's degree options, five master's degrees, three doctoral programs and six certificates.

"We've accomplished so much, from pioneering preceptorship in Texas to offering the third online PhD in Nursing in the nation," says School of Nursing Dean Barbara K. Haas. "This was a celebration of 50 years of educating nurses, conducting research and, most importantly, inspiring care for the community."

The event featured a special recognition for two of the school's founding mothers, Marian Rowe and Doris Riemen. Riemen served as the chair of the Division of Nursing. The third founding mother, Barbara Cushing, passed in 1998.

"Fifty years ago, we were established as a BSN completion program," said Riemen. "We enrolled 24 students a year and thought our Selectric typewriters were just super. So much has changed, but what hasn't changed is the School of Nursing's culture of caring—for each other, our students and East Texas."

With a mission to improve educational and health care outcomes for East Texas and beyond, UT Tyler offers more than 90 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 10,000 students. Through its alignment with UT Tyler Health Science Center and UT Health East Texas, UT Tyler has unified these entities to serve Texas with quality education, cutting-edge research and excellent patient care. Classified by Carnegie as a doctoral research institution and by U.S. News & World Report as a national university, UT Tyler has campuses in Tyler, Longview, Palestine and Houston.



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