

History of Nursing Education: In Our Past, Lies Our Future

Major Events in the History of Nursing Education in the United States

17th Century (1600's) thru 18th Century (1700's) and early nineteenth century (1800 – 1860)

In the eighteenth century and the early nineteenth century women without formal training, unpaid and relying on 'family' and /or folk remedies, women were expected to care for family members and neighbors who were ill or unable to care for themselves.

One notable exception were women members of religions orders who provided the only trained nursing care of the sick



Dr. Valentine Seaman – 1798 - has the distinction of having made the first attempt to teach nurse attendants belongs to the New York Hospital and to Dr. Valentine Seaman, one of its medical chiefs, a remarkably broad minded man ,is due the honor of having conceived and initiated the first system of instruction to nurses on the American continent.”¹

. Dr. Joseph Warrington described as " a man of liberal opinions and high ideals" . On March 5, 1839 the Nurse Society was formed in Philadelphia which sought females with" good habits, a sense of responsibility, and patient dispositions" to go into the homes of patients. The nurses were taught by the physicians in the lying in department of the Philadelphia dispensary.

Emergence of Nursing Schools: 1872²

Just as in England at the end of the Crimean war, the Civil War became the impetus for the establishment of training schools in America. In 1872 Linda Richards graduated after one year of training from the New England Hospital for Women.; Linda Richards is considered America's first trained nurse.



In 1849, Pastor Theodore Fliedner of Germany traveled to America with four trained nurse-deaconesses and established the Pittsburgh Infirmary.

¹ Nutting , Mary Adelaide ,1907, *A History of Nursing*. p 339)

²: <https://www.nursingeducationhistory.org/early-days.html>

'Nightingale Model' Training schools 1873

In 1873 three hospitals established the first 'Nightingale' nurse training schools in America. These were

- New York Training School at Bellevue Hospital
- Connecticut Training School at New Haven State Hospital
- Training School at Massachusetts General Hospital

Hospital based training - Differences : between English Nightingale Model and United States model.

- After the Crimean war, Florence Nightingale received funding to start a school of nursing at St. Thomas Hospital
 - In the Nightingale English Model, school administration is separate from hospital administration. In the United States the administration of the nursing school is under hospital administration - apprenticeship program - Pupil nurses staffed the hospitals.
- Program length initially 2 years, increased to 3 years. Nursing seen as women's work. Hospital philosophy: Service first, Education second.

Professional Organizations:

American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses (1893)

- Purpose "the establishment and maintenance of a universal standard of training" for nursing. Name changed to National League for Nursing Education (NLNE) in 1912
- Setting Education Standards
 - Committee on Education: (1915 - 1918)
 - Published Standard Curriculum for Nursing Schools, Purpose: To serve as a guide to training schools regarding standards of nursing education.. Book titles: Standard Curriculum for Schools of Nursing © 1919 Revised 1926
 - 1952 - NLNE, the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, and Association for Collegiate Schools of Nursing combine to establish the National League for Nursing (NLN)

Nurses Associated Alumnae of United States and Canada (1896)
Sponsored by Society of Superintendents of Training Schools

- Purpose: "To establish and maintain a code of ethics; to elevate the standards of nursing education; to promote the usefulness and honor, the financial and other interests of nursing." Minutes of the Association, February, 1897

- Name changed to American Nurses Association - 1912
See "One Strong Voice" (1976) for history of the American Nurses Association

Licensure and Registration for Nurses:

- North Carolina (1903); New York State (1904)
 - Aim to protect the public: Differentiate nurses with education, who have met the standards of the profession from those who with little or no education and therefore have not met the standards of the profession.
- Standards set by States in order to become a registered nurse:
 - Need a diploma from an approved (accredited) school
 - Must pass a standard examination "State Boards" (1913)
 - At one time, needed reference from the superintendent of your school attesting to your moral character (Note: Check state standards, many have included a reference to 'good, moral' character.

Use of R.N. Registered Nurse - first used New York State

Other states followed at later dates. -- Licensure of professions considered under constitution as "States Right"

From Apprenticeship Training to Collegiate Education

Early Collegiate Program: University of Minnesota- part Department of Medicine (1910 - first degree offered 1919) BS degree with diploma in nursing { 3 year University program + 2 years 4 months in school of nursing.)

Goldmark Report (1923)

In 1919 the Rockefeller Foundation funded the Committee for the Study of Nursing Education, to study nursing education in the United States. Josephine Goldmark, a social worker, was lead investigator and the the report, published in 1923, is known as the Goldmark Report .Committee included Annie W. Goodrich, M. Adelaide Nutting, and Lillian Wald,

The report concluded that the quality of existing nursing programs was inadequate.

Recommendations of Goldmark Report:

- Nursing schools should have separate governing boards
- Student work week - no more than 48 hours per week
- Objective of training programs should be education not service
- Lower time to 28 month
- University education recommended for future educators

As a result of the report, the Rockefeller Foundation funded an experiment in nursing education which became the Yale School of Nursing. The Yale School of Nursing was the first autonomous

school of nursing with its own dean, faculty, budget, and degree meeting the standards of the University. Education took precedence over service to a hospital, with training based on an educational plan rather than on service needs

Accreditation : Setting standards for nursing education:

Education standards for schools of nursing.

- States: Board of Education or Board of Registration Nursing
- National: NLNE (1938) NLN 1950's. The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC, 1997) responsible for all accrediting activities is transferred to this independent new subsidiary..
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) - accrediting body focused exclusively on baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs.(1969)

WWI

Vassar Training Camp for Nurses

Although the Army Nurse Corps had been founded in 1901, when the war had started the Corps comprised only 4,093 nurses—far below the number authorized. Other components of the military nursing force were similarly undersubscribed. The plan proposed at Vassar addressed the growing need of trained nurses and medical professionals, at home and overseas, calling specifically on women who were recent college graduates.

The prospect of becoming a trained nurse in such times of need drew a large number of applications, and on June 24, 1918, 430 recent college graduates gathered on the Vassar campus to start their three-month summer intensive training. Clinical experience was provided by regional hospitals which had established agreements with the program

WWII

Cadet Nurse Corps: Need for nurses increased; Bolton Nurse Training Act (1943) federal funds authorized for nurses training.

Accelerated curriculum; from 36 months to 30 months. To meet the requirements of state boards, students had a 6 month practical assignment either in their home school or military.

Post WWII

Associate Degree Program

- Committee of the Functions of Nursing: A program for the Nursing Profession (1948) Columbia University, Teacher's College.
- Range of activities involved in performing nursing functions differentiated: from simple to complex; repetitive, uncomplicated routines to those requiring critical judgments and independent decision making ability.

Mildred Montag: Doctoral Dissertation (1948) The Education of Nursing Technicians

- New type of technical education proposed; 2 year program
- Community College; college credits
- Step toward BS and graduate degrees
- Programs started in 1951; have grown in number; Est. 60% RN's are ADN graduates.

Nurse Training Act of 1964 (“Great Society” - President Johnson)

- W.K. Kellogg Foundation: Nursing Advisory Committee: Panel report Toward Quality in Nursing:
- Phase out hospital schools:
- Increase number nurses graduating each year
- Increase number of baccalaureate nurses
- Increase number of master's prepared nurses
- Funding for nursing research
- Build new schools
- Fund programs for nurses seeking advanced degrees

ANA Report 1965

- Baccalaureate degrees minimum preparation for all nurse leaders (ex. head nurse) , administrators or supervisors.
- Associate degree (community college) minimum education for technical nurse

Nursing Education: Graduate /Studies and Advance Practice

- [Clinical Nurse Specialist](#)
- Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Master's
- Doctor Nursing practice (DNP)
- Nurse Practitioner
- Public Health
- Doctor Philosophy Nursing (PhD) Research

Institute of Medicine (IOM) Reports

Mission to improve health by providing "unbiased, evidence-based and authoritative information and advice concerning health and science policy to policy makers, professionals, leaders in every aspect of society, and the public at large Not part of federal government.

[See Finkelman, Anita and Carole Kenner 2010 ,Teaching IOM 2nd Edition ANA Publications] .

Implications for Nursing Education

- Interdisciplinary assessment of care needs
- Examination of evidence to support care needs

- Interdisciplinary plan of care
- Evaluation of care using a quality model
- Application of quality improvement techniques and informatics to adjust the plan based on patient outcomes.

Evidence Based Practice (EBP)

- Medications
- Procedures
- Communication

"EBP as a problem solving approach to the delivery of health care that integrates the best evidence from well-designed studies and patient care data, and combines it with patient preferences and values and nurse expertise." AJN, January, 2010 Vol 110, 1. See American Journal of Nursing series(2009) on Seven Steps of Evidence Based Practice.

Project: Transforming Care at the Bedside (TCAB)

2003 - Robert Wood Johnson and Institute for Health Improvement funded. Redesign work environment; QI approach involving frontline managers and staff. . IOM report Keeping Patients Safe (2004)

For TCAB reports on individual projects see series of American Journal of Nursing articles (2008)

Education Resources: Technology

[Clinical Laboratory: Simulation](#)

Skills: Mrs. Chase to Sim-Man: Problem solving/ Critical Thinking

Point of Care : Tech-Tools:Reference:→ PDA's (Blackberries; Smart Phones)

Future of Nursing (<https://campaignforaction.org>)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation :
Initiative on the Future of Nursing website /

Progress Report: Dec 10, 2015 - The *Institute of Medicine* released a report on the progress achieved to date on the recommendations set forth by the *IOM's* 2010 report *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*.

<https://www.nurse.com/blog/2015/12/10/iom-releases-progress-report-on-future-of-nursing-2020-goals/>