



Cuyahoga Community College

Nursing

Cleveland is widely considered one of the best U.S. cities for hospital care—and Cuyahoga Community College’s nursing program contributes measurably to that excellence, for students of all backgrounds.

At many community colleges, students of color aren’t represented proportionally in nursing programs, which lead to especially well-paying jobs. That’s not the case at Tri-C, as the college is called, where the percentage of students of color in nursing matches that of the student body overall—and males are relatively well represented too, in a profession that skews heavily female. Partnerships are key; for instance, the program engages with the Cleveland Council of Black Nurses and the National Association of Hispanic

Nurses to draw prospective students and connect them to mentors.

Tri-C also continually strengthens supports to help students overcome socioeconomic barriers. In one recent project, the nursing program provided 30 students facing challenges with tuition assistance, monthly stipends that allowed them to work fewer hours off campus, mandatory tutoring, stress-reduction activities, and events to familiarize their families with their academic demands.

All nursing students are connected with faculty who regularly appraise their progress and connect them with test preparation and other academic services. As well, Tri-C has established robust “near peer” mentoring: Recent

nursing graduates help current students understand everything from course content to culture fit, like what shoes to wear during their clinical training. All of this work led to an increase in the graduation rate for underrepresented groups from 41 percent to 67 percent in just one year.

“Success often begins with the belief in what’s possible, particularly for those feeling the weight of socioeconomic determinants,” says Wendy Batch-Wilson, dean of nursing. “Support programs within our nursing program—including peer mentoring by those who have already completed the journey—help build confidence for underrepresented students to achieve and advance in the profession.” ■

91%
of students
employed one year
after graduation

Average salary
one year after
graduation:
\$68,344



**YEAR-TO-YEAR
RETENTION RATE:**

**OVERALL:
73%**

**BLACK,
HISPANIC,
AND
NATIVE AMERICAN
STUDENTS:
70%**