Cedar Crest Nursing students:

- **Choose their field of speciality** for their intensive clinical practicum.

- **Perform their clinical study** at the region’s top sites including the largest teaching MAGNET hospital in Pennsylvania.

- **Have 94-100% pass rate** on the nursing boards the last four years, 100% pass rate the last 3 of 4 graduating classes.

- **Study in two state-of-the-art** on-campus hospital-simulation labs.

- **Explore international nursing connections** in an exchange program with Sweden, Ghana and Kenya.

- **Gain a competitive edge** through a nationally recognized nursing research program.

The Nursing Program at Cedar Crest provides a solid foundation in hands-on nursing education anchored in a strong liberal arts education, which is essential to developing the critical thinking and communication skills needed for success. A focus of the Nursing Program is in promoting optimal health of individuals, families and groups in home, hospital and community settings. The Nursing Program is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing and fully accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, 61 Broadway, New York, NY 10006.

Hamilton Boulevard Building

In Fall 2007, the Cedar Crest College Nursing Department relocated into its new home in the 33,000 square foot Hamilton Boulevard Building. In addition to flexible classroom space for the entire College community, the new Hamilton Boulevard Building includes three state-of-the-art, multimedia labs, including a Health Assessment Room, a Maternal and Pediatric Lab, and an Adult Health Room; a fully equipped, 10-bed nursing unit that simulates a hospital environment; a SimMan center, with two, adjacent SimMan laboratories, separated by a control/observation room, with two computer stations; a Community Health Lab set up to replicate a home-care environment; six classroom/meeting spaces for use by all programs of study, four of which are separated with movable panels to allow the space to be altered to fit a variety of sizes of audiences depending on need; a computer lab and two student lounges.

Clinical Experience

Nursing courses include extensive clinical practice in a variety of top-rated clinical facilities just minutes away from the Cedar Crest campus including:

- Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network
- St. Luke’s Hospital
- Sacred Heart Hospital
- KidsPeace
Course Offerings include:
- medical-surgical
- maternal-newborn
- pediatric
- geriatric
- mental health
- community health
- research
- leadership

In addition to these clinical opportunities, each student chooses an area of practice on which to focus for her senior practicum. The wide range of hands-on clinical experience gives each student the opportunity to make an informed decision about the areas of nursing that interest her most.

Academic Experience
To meet degree requirements, students take liberal arts courses as outlined in the Central Curriculum and nursing courses required by the major. To begin junior level nursing courses students must have a minimum cumulative and nursing prerequisite GPA of 2.70 and at least a grade of C or better in all nursing prerequisite courses. Nursing students must maintain at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA and 2.50 nursing GPA to remain in the program.

Community Service
Nursing students at Cedar Crest College have the opportunity to reach out to the surrounding community, enabling them to hone their communication skills during their undergraduate studies. Each year the nursing department hosts Community Service Day. Members of the nursing department volunteer their time at local homeless shelters, soup kitchens, elder care facilities and programs for those suffering from chronic mental illness. Students and faculty perform a variety of tasks ranging from cleaning and painting rooms to cooking meals and tutoring young students. Community Service Day underscores the nursing department’s commitment to compassion and service to those in need, an important element of the nursing program’s philosophy as well as the standard for the nursing profession in general.

Nursing Faculty with Strong Clinical Backgrounds
All nursing faculty are prepared at the master’s or doctoral level in a clinical specialty. In addition, clinical practice in their field of specialization is required of all nursing faculty. Nursing faculty members serve as advisors to students in the major.

Laurie Murray, Chair - RN, MSN, DSN — Dr. Murray’s areas of expertise are chronic illness, end-stage renal disease, transplantation and patient empowerment.

Sandi Axt, RN, BSN, CCRN — Sandi Axt is a nursing advisor with over 20 years critical care nursing experience.

Nancy DalPezzo, MSN, RN — Professor DalPezzo’s areas of expertise include community health nursing, home health and hospice care, and nursing administration.

Amy Edgar, RN, MSN — Professor Edgar’s primary focus is on mental health.

Kathleen Fields, MSN, CNM — Professor Fields’ expertise is in maternal child nursing, gynecological and obstetrical care and midwifery.

Nancy Johnston, RN, CRNP, Ph.D. — Dr. Johnston specializes in high-risk pregnancy, parenting issues, perinatal loss issues and healthcare for women. She is a certified family nurse practitioner.

Lisa Lacko, RN, MSN — Professor Lacko’s area of clinical specialization is gerontology. She has worked as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Geriatrics, completed several geriatric research studies and has published and presented nationally in the area of geriatric nursing.

Sandra Leh, DNSc, RN — Dr. Leh is a clinical nurse specialist in Community Health. Her focus is on health promotion of adult and pediatric populations. Her background includes emergency nursing, home care, health care management, and community health program development. She has published several articles on community health nursing and education.

Nadine Mason, CEN, MSN, CRNP — Professor Mason’s expertise is as a critical care specialist.

Sharon Melincavage, RN, MSN, ANP-BC, DEd(c) — Dr. Melincavage’s area of focus is adult health. She is an adult certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP). Her research interest is anxiety in student nurses in the clinical setting.

Mae Ann Pasquale, RN, MSN — Professor Pasquale’s area of expertise is trauma and critical care nursing. She has published numerous articles on evidence based practice and critical care nursing.

Wendy Robb, RN, DNSc, CNE — Dr. Robb has over 20 years of experience in critical care and trauma nursing. Her areas of expertise include care of the adult client, as well as complementary and alternative modalities. She has published and presented nationally on a variety of topics, and is certified in nursing education.

Adriane Stasuras, MSN, RN, CRNP — Professor Stasuras’ areas of expertise are adult health, primary health and critical care.

Joan Timalonis, RN, MSN, CNE — Professor Timalonis’ clinical expertise is in diabetes care and orthopedic nursing.

Debra Woodruff-Capper, Vice Chair of RNC, MSN, SNC — Professor Woodruff-Capper’s primary focus is on pediatrics, maternal and newborn care, especially neonatal intensive care.

Nursing Associations
Sigma Theta Tau International, the honor society of nursing, recognizes superior achievement and fosters high professional standards. The Theta Rho Chapter at Cedar Crest College meets regularly during the school year to facilitate the development of leadership qualities, to encourage creative work and to strengthen commitment to the ideals of the nursing profession.

There is a very active Student Nurses Association (SNA) on campus whose members attend state and national conventions. Members plan activities that benefit the health of the campus community, socialize with other nursing students and develop leadership skills and political awareness.

Cedar Crest College complies with all applicable federal and state legislation and does not discriminate in educational programs or in employment on the basis of race, religion, national origin, age, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

For additional information about the nursing major at Cedar Crest College, call or write:

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