



Nursing News

A Note from the Associate Dean of Nursing

Dr. Barbara Durham, DNP, RN, CHSE, CNE, CNE-cl

Welcome nursing students to the FALL 2024 semester. Currently, there are approximately 230 students enrolled in the nursing program at the Prescott and Verde Valley locations, including a new cohort of 62 first-semester students! This is a 24% increase from previous semesters, thanks to a Nursing Education Investment grant (HB2691).

Our RN-BSN program is well underway with 96 students enrolled in the program. From the Spring 24 cohort, we are expecting 13 graduates in December from this program. We were approved as candidates for initial accreditation in November 2023. We have a self-study report due January 2025 and a site visit is scheduled for March 2025 to become fully accredited. Official approval will be determined by Fall 2025. Once approved, our accreditation status is backdated to the time of our eligibility/candidacy was accepted which was November 16, 2023. As a result, any graduate from the RN-BSN program will have graduated from an accredited program.

This RN-BSN is post-licensure, meaning applicants must possess an unencumbered RN license to apply. YC graduates will be credited with 68.5 credits for their AAS degree. The nursing major courses consist of 30.5 credits plus 3 credits of statistics, leaving an additional 18 credits of electives to be completed for a total of 120 credits for a BSN degree. All YC nursing graduates will be automatically accepted into the program pending licensure verification.

We have opened LPN-RN advance placement applications for admission to the third semester. We had two students enrolled in the Spring and one student enrolled in the Fall.

The nursing program collaborated with Allied Health to offer an LPN step-out option for nursing students completing year one of the program. The step-out option will begin Spring 2025. This course allows students to seek their LPN license and enter the workforce to earn a more livable wage.

Upcoming Events

Next SNA Meeting

08/13/24 @ 12:00 pm – Bootcamp

08/28/24 @ 4:00 pm

09/18/24 @ 4:00 pm

10/09/24 @ 4:00 pm

11/13/24 @ 4:00 pm

12/04/24 @ 4:00 pm – Pin. Prep

12/05/24 @ 4:00 pm – Pin. Prep

October 18

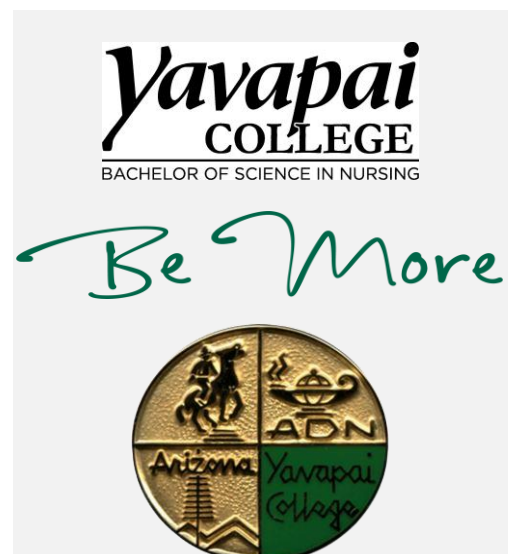
Student Representation at Department Meeting (Prescott Campus Rm 2-216/Zoom)

@ 9:00 am

December 13

Pinning Ceremony, YCPAC

@ 1:00 pm



Yavapai College (YC) Nursing graduates continue to be successful on the NCLEX-RN Licensure with a first-time pass rate of 94% year-to-date for 2024*. These rates remain comparable to the 95% pass rate for the state of Arizona and the 92% pass rate nationally.

Our program completion rate for 2023-2024 was 77.6%.

As of January 2024, Yavapai College is ranked 11th out of 33 nursing schools across Arizona**, according to [Registered Nursing.org](https://www.registerednursing.org). This ranking is up from 12th in 2023 and based on current and historical NCLEX pass rates.

Currently, according to the Arizona Board of Nursing, there are 112,341 RN's practicing in Arizona (www.azbn.gov). An increased demand for RNs in Arizona's future estimates 28,000 more needed by 2025* (AZBN Newsletter, Nov 2022). Job Placement Rates for YC nursing graduates in 2024* year-to-date is 63.8% with a 72% response rate.

Student assistance is always required to ensure we have the most accurate data. Be sure to look for post-graduate surveys and respond promptly.

*Data extracted from YC IER

*Data extracted from the AZBN NCLEX Reports

** <https://www.registerednursing.org/state/arizona/>



The [Nursing Program Student Handbook](#) for 2024-2025 is available for students to review on the yc.edu/nursing. The handbook has extensive updates including new policies. Please be sure to read the handbook. Students are responsible each semester for knowing and following the contents of the most current Nursing Program Student Handbook and reviewing all YC e-NEWSFLASH communications or emails from nursing@yc.edu for important program announcements and policy updates.

Students can now register for nursing classes as soon as registration opens. This will enable students to self-schedule their courses and select their clinical placements. There are several disclaimers to this process:

1. Students who start in the evening cohort will always have first priority to register for the evening courses/clinical. Students who want to move from evening to day or days to evening must schedule an appointment with the Nursing Director to ensure availability.
2. Students must attend class/clinical on the campus they were accepted to. For example, a student living in Prescott Valley, who accepted program placement on the Verde campus, must attend clinicals in Verde.
3. Please pay attention to which course/campus you are registering for. Several students registered for classes on the incorrect campus.

Lastly, the nursing pinning ceremony will be on Friday December 13, 2024 @ 1pm. For Spring 2025, due to room/scheduling conflicts, the Nursing Pinning Ceremony will be on Thursday, May 1st at 5 pm.

From the Desk of Summer Hawk, Prescott Instructional Support Specialist
928-776-2017

Hello everyone! My name is Summer Hawk, I am excited to announce that I am transitioning to a new role as a Student Recruitment Specialist at the Prescott campus as of August 19, 2024. It has been an honor to support you and watch you follow your dreams of becoming a Registered Nurses. I wish you all the best as you continue your journey. This is not goodbye—I will see you around campus!

From the Desk of Alaina Graciano, Verde Instructional Support Specialist
928-634-6512 alaina.graciano@yc.edu

Hello, my name is Alaina Graciano, and I am the Instructional Support Specialist at the Verde Valley Campus. It has been a blessing to learn and grow alongside our students as an alumnus, a student worker, a library technician, and now an ISS. I am greatly looking forward to the upcoming semester and being able to help you achieve your academic goals.



Please make sure to **check your YC scholar email regularly**. You'll find notifications of important clinical and program updates, and other time sensitive correspondence on your YC email account. Also, please keep your voicemail box open to receive important messages as needed.



From the Desk of Pam Linkner, Clinical Coordinator
928-717-7106 pam.linkner@yc.edu

Welcome back! I am excited to be seeing you all soon. Many things have changed this semester for clinical rotations. Both NAH and Dignity Health want ALL Clinical Requirements completed 1-month before the start date of your clinical rotation. This means having BOTH your Castle Branch AND your My Clinical Exchange updated through the end of the rotation. If you do not meet this deadline, you will not be able to get your badge and computer sign-on. Also, for students in Prescott, you will receive some email requests from Common Spirit. Common Spirit is the parent company of Dignity Health (YRMC). It is

important for you to respond and follow through with these emails. I will be stopping into one of your theory classes in September to give you additional information about these changes. Let's make it a great Fall Semester!

Clinical Updates:

Health requirements are to be current throughout the entire semester. Students must meet all clinical compliance requirements by established due dates to be eligible to proceed into the clinical setting. Students who do not comply risk being administratively withdrawn from the clinical setting by the Nursing Director.

1 st semester	At time of admission to the nursing program	
2 nd semester	Fall: September 8 th	Spring: February 8 th
3 rd semester	Fall: July 8 th	Spring: December 8 th
4 th semester	Fall: September 8 th	Spring: February 8 th

There are **two clinical tracking systems** used in the nursing program. CastleBranch is a clinical tracking system that is used by the YC Nursing Program to ensure students are up to date on their clinical requirements. CastleBranch is first implemented upon admission to the program for students to purchase their background checks, drug screens, and the clinical health requirement checklist and must be maintained throughout the course of the nursing program.

My Clinical Exchange is used by the clinical agencies for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th-semester clinical requirements. Students must complete the required hospital onboarding modules in MyCE before orientation at the clinical site. Both sites must be maintained while in the nursing program.

Mrs. Jennifer Pimenidis, Simulation Coordinator

Hello, I'm Jennifer Pimenidis, BSN RN. I am the Simulation Coordinator for the Nursing Department. We are so fortunate to have a state-of-the-art simulation center on the Verde Campus. During the simulation, you will gain experience with conditions you may not encounter during clinicals and become more confident in handling those situations.

I also provide clinical lab support for student clinical learning and growth. Open lab hours on the Verde Campus are Tuesdays from 12:00-4:00 pm. I look forward to working with all of you!



New Faculty:

We are pleased to introduce our new Full-Time Nursing Faculty: Amy Cutler, Cherelle Hawkins, and Cheryl Williamson.

Amy Cutler (Verde Campus):

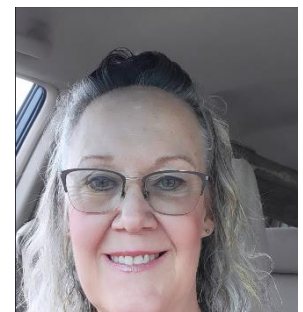
Hello, my name is Amy Cutler, I hold a master's degree in nursing education from St. Joseph's College of Maine. I am fortunate to have worked in many areas of nursing throughout my long career. Most recently I was a professor at Dominican University and taught in the advanced bachelors nursing program and also held a position as a clinical educator at Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in New York State. I recently moved to Arizona and reside in Camp Verde. I am excited to be a part of Yavapai College and look forward to working with faculty and students.



Cheryl Williamson (Prescott Campus):

Hi, My Name is Cheryl Williamson, and I have been a Nurse for 28 years. I have many areas of nursing experience. I received my BSN, 2014, and 2016 MSN from Grand Canyon University. I moved to Prescott over 2 years ago. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Credentials: RN, ASN, BSN, MSN



Cherelle Hawkins (Verde Campus):

I was born in Northern Virginia, but traveled since my parents were military. My husband and I have five children ranging in age from 6-17, but only the youngest two relocated with us to Cottonwood, while the other three stayed in North Carolina to finish school. I have been in healthcare for over 17 years, starting with pets then transitioned to humans. I have five degrees that supported my healthcare career:

Vocational - Pharmacy Technician

Associate - Medical Assistant

Bachelor - Community Health Education

Bachelor - Nursing

Master - Nursing Education



My teaching philosophy is to connect with each student individually, so that I can understand where you are, and get you to where you want/need to be.

I look forward to enlightening you this semester in pharmacology, mental health, and skills lab/clinical!

New Staff: We are pleased to introduce our new Instructional Lab Aides and Clinical Adjuncts, who will be helping in the skills lab during class time and with competency check-offs as well as in the clinical setting. Maria Barbosa will be available to staff open skills lab hours on Prescott every Friday from 1000-1400.

Prescott Campus: Maria Barbosa, Jennifer Brandt, Denise Berish-Cleaves, and Rhodora Ebersole
Verde Campus: Jack Stapleton and Kelley Maynard

Jennifer Brandt (Prescott Campus):

Hello my name is Jennifer Brandt. I will be both a nursing clinical instructor and a nursing instructional lab aide starting Fall 2024 semester. I have been a nurse since 2011 and I love teaching. I have a AAS from Boswell School of Nursing, a BSN from Arizona State University, and an MSN from Arizona State University. My clinical background as a nurse includes progressive care, critical care, dialysis, nurse supported group homes, pediatric home health, and psych. In my free time I enjoy traveling, hiking, and spending time with my grandchildren.



Denise Berish-Cleaves (Prescott Campus):

Hi, my name is Denise Berish-Cleaves I am a Registered Nurse, retired after 31 years in both private and government entities. I graduated from the University of Phoenix in 2011 with a master's in nursing and a master's in health administration. In 2001 I graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with a bachelor's in nursing. I have diverse experience in leadership, educator and clinical roles within the healthcare industry.



Rhodora Ebersole (Prescott Campus):

Hello! My name is Rhodora Ebersole most people know me by my nickname "Rho" I will be working as a clinical adjunct at Yavapai College of Nursing, I have been a nurse for 13 years, graduated from YC 2011 and received my BSN from Grand Canyon University 2014. I have been married to my best friend for 26 years, my son just graduated from High School whom I totally adore. I love nursing and believe it was my calling to be Jesus's hands and feet in this world. I am excited to teach, guide, encourage and assist new nurses in their own adventure.



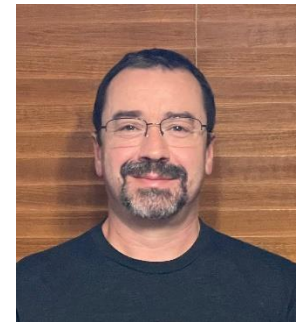
Kelley Maynard (Verde Campus):

My name is Kelley Maynard. I am originally from Indiana. I relocated to Cottonwood 7 years ago. I am a wife, a mom of 3, and a grandma of 1. I have been a nurse for 12 years. Starting out as a CNA, I achieved my ASN in 2012 and my BSN in 2021. I have worked in a wide variety of healthcare settings. I currently work in the flex pool at Verde Valley Medical Center. I am very excited to be a nursing clinical instructor at Yavapai College.



Jack Stapleton (Verde Campus):

I am a Cottonwood native and a 2010 graduate of Yavapai College of Nursing, ultimately earning a BSN from Western Governor's University. I began my nursing career in the ICU before transitioning into my current role as House Supervisor. Along the way, I have also worked in Case Management and Hospice. I have always enjoyed exploring different aspects of nursing and am truly excited to begin my journey into nursing education.



Keryn Lafferty (Verde Campus):

Please welcome Keryn Lafferty back to the Nursing Department as an Instructional Support Specialist for our BSN program. She looks forward to assisting those interested in the RN-BSN program.

New RN-BSN faculty and adjunct: We are pleased to introduce our new adjunct faculty, who will be teaching in the RN-BSN program.

Full Time: Danyel Giacomini and Casey Truse.

Adjunct Faculty: Maria Barbosa, Erin Bloomfield, April Herrera, Joan Hodge, Dr. Gabrielle Lawrence, and Alexandra Richerd. Joining us in September/October will be Amy Hanson.

Student Nurses Association:

Being a part of SNA is a wonderful opportunity to learn and experience new opportunities within the community. Through the efforts of past and current SNA officers, we have created a new, creative logo. In addition, we have combined both Verde and Prescott Campuses to serve the needs of our SNA members better. SNA is a wonderful way to meet other students, gain resources and insight, and help them succeed in nursing school while giving back to the community.

The [SNA Store](#) is a great resource for member dues, donations, and SNA merchandise. QR codes are also available on all SNA bulletin boards at both campuses.



If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of the officers via text or email, or our faculty advisor, Associate Professor Troxel.

SNA Officers and Contact Details:

<p><u>Prescott SNA President</u> Ronnie Kohlhauser rkohlhau@scholar.yc.edu</p>	<p><u>Verde SNA President</u> Ellen Blair esanders@scholar.yc.edu</p>	<p><u>Vice President</u> Tyler Brimer Tyler.Brimer@yc.edu</p>
<p><u>Treasurer</u> Eric Ross eross3@scholar.yc.edu</p>	<p><u>Secretary</u> Elvira Acosta eacost02@scholar.yc.edu</p>	
<p><u>Prescott Ambassador</u> Johnathon Damschroder jdamsco1@scholar.yc.edu</p>	<p><u>Verde Ambassador</u> Hailey Mayhan hmayhan@scholar.yc.edu</p>	

YCSNA Leadership Introduction:

Ronnie Kohlhauser – President from Prescott Campus:



Hello. My name is Ronnie, and I am in my fourth semester of nursing school at the Prescott Campus, and this will also be my fourth semester in SNA. This semester will also be my second semester as co-president. I am a proud Army Mom. My son is stationed at Ft. Myer where he is part of the Old Guard performing ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. Currently, I work at YRMC-EC as a Lab Assistant, and I am the administrator at our church. During my free time, I enjoy long weekend road trips with my husband Daniel and exploring new places. We have 2 cats, Lily who is 19 years old and Luna who is a year old. We also have 2 dogs, Diesel and Dakota. My long-term goal after nursing school is to get my master's in health education. I am excited to get to know all of the future nurses and make YCSNA successful!

Ellen Blair - President from Verde Campus:



Hello there. My name is Ellen Blair, and I am a 3rd semester student on the Verde Valley Campus. I joined SNA my 2nd semester and here I am, Co-President on the Verde Valley Campus. I am a mother of 9 beautiful children and have 19 even more beautiful grandchildren. Nursing will be my third career in life – remember to NEVER EVER GIVE UP!! I am currently a Certified Dietary Manager at a skilled nursing facility where I maintain nutritional guidelines, clinical coordination and make some amazing food in the kitchen. I am married and enjoy family time. During my down time I am a water person, I love to play and splash, and take walks in the sand. My desire to become a nurse is strong enough to push me as an older student to MAKE EACH DAY BETTER THAN THE LAST! Looking forward to making YCSNA even better than it already is.

Tyler Brimer – Vice President:

Hello everyone! My name is Tyler and this is my second semester in SNA and second semester in nursing school. I was born in Arizona but I actually grew up in Portland Oregon. I currently work on campus for both Res Life and the learning center where I get to engage with students and faculty as one! When my head isn't crammed into books, I enjoy spending my time on the beach and on the water, I've been on 3 cruises so far and I intend to do many more after I graduate. Speaking of graduating, I would love to do something in Cardiology when I graduate as a nurse. I'm very thankful and excited to serve you as your VP this semester and I look forward to a great rest of this year!



Elvira Acosta – Secretary:



Meet Elvira, a third-semester nursing student who grew up in the small town of Ash Fork, Arizona, before moving to Prescott Valley in 2008. As a caring mother and partner, she cherishes spending quality time outdoors, savoring Arizona's natural beauty with her high school sweetheart and three children.

Elvira has served in the medical field for over 15 years and has dedicated her life to honing her skills and expertise. For the last five years, she was the Executive Secretary to the Medical Center Director at the VA, where she displayed exceptional organizational and administrative abilities. Driven by her passion for healthcare, Elvira enrolled at Yavapai College to obtain her nursing degree. She is eager to further her knowledge and skills to be a valuable asset to her community. This will be her 2nd semester as SNA secretary.

Eric Ross – Treasurer:

Hey all! I'm Eric Ross and I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as your SNA Treasurer. I'm in my fourth semester after taking a rather roundabout way to nursing school. I started in healthcare in 2012 as an EMT in Napa County, CA before transferring to San Bernardino County, CA where I worked as a Paramedic until 2019. After a short stint working with Developmentally Disabled Adults, I moved to Arizona and began the process of getting into nursing school while working full-time as an Occupational Health Medical Assistant at Ruger Firearms. I currently live in Prescott Valley with my dog Dr. Hazelnut, PhD. I spend a lot of my free time relaxing and going on hikes with Hazel, helping out as the Safety Officer at my church, playing video games, building furniture, and doing whatever I can to be healthier overall. After I finish with this program I intend to move into a BSN program, work in an ER, obtain a commission in the Air Force Reserve, and then progress into a Flight or CCT position, or even go back to school to become a CRNA. Feel free to reach out as needed about SNA or the program overall and I'll do my best to help you out!



Hailey Mayhan – Ambassador – Verde Campus:

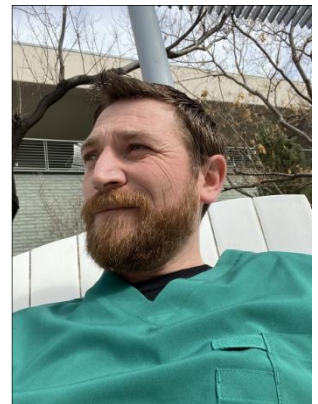


Hello all, my name is Hailey, and I am so excited to continue as the Verde ambassador of SNA this upcoming semester! I am going into my last semester of nursing school and I'm beyond excited to see what new challenges and adventures the semester will bring. I am currently completing my BSN degree through a concurrent program with Arizona State University, and plan on continuing my education to become either a Nurse Practitioner or Flight Nurse. I grew up in Prescott (yes, I am a local!) and have been working in healthcare for the past 4 years at a surgery center during covid times and started at YRMC in 2022, where I have worked on a MedSurg telemetry unit and now the emergency room. Throughout this time, I was also given the opportunity to play on the first ever women's soccer team at Yavapai College. Along with soccer, I keep myself busy with new hobbies, going to the gym, hiking, golfing, snowboarding, art, etc. I am excited

to share our journey of becoming new nurses, and I hope to successfully fill the role as your ambassador, and I cannot wait to see where this semester takes us!

Johnathon Damschroder – Ambassador – Prescott Campus:

My name is Johnathon Damschroder, and I am a second semester student in the nursing program. During my extended stay at Yavapai College, I have obtained degrees and certificates in a wide array of programs. Currently I am a licensed paramedic and work at Priority Ambulance and YRMC. I want to become a Flight Paramedic/Nurse and eventually an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner focusing in neuro-trauma. More than anything else, I genuinely enjoy teaching and helping other students grasp concepts they are finding difficult. Feel free to reach out to me anytime if you need anything at all.



Please feel free to reach out to the SNA Officers on how you can be a part of SNA and take advantage of the many wonderful opportunities to advance current skills, develop leadership skills, volunteer in community events, network and be a part of unique experiences outside of the Nursing Program.

From the Desk of Andrea Riffel, Academic Advising

Welcome to the Fall 2024 semester! I am one of the Nursing Program Academic Advisors at Yavapai College. Academic Advisors are just one of your many resources here and we can help with your program planning, transfer planning, as well as resources for academic and non-academic support. You can see who your assigned advisor is in your myYC portal. Click on Your Advisor underneath your name in the portal and your Academic Advisor and Financial Aid Advisor will come up with their email address and link to schedule an appointment using our online calendaring system.

Your Academic Advisor is here to help you with planning for your continuing education, whether it's for a Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) with a university or an RN to BSN program at YC or at a University. Make an appointment with your Academic Advisor to review your options and come up with an education plan.

We will be in contact with you throughout each semester so check your YC scholar email regularly. All email communication needs to be done through your Yavapai College email account; this is different from your Canvas course email. This is for your safety due to confidentiality of information. Please contact your assigned Academic Advisor anytime with questions or concerns. We are here to help!

YC Tutoring Hours of Service

Prescott (Building 1, Room 207)

Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Friday: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

928-776-2085

prescottlearningcenter@yc.edu

Verde (Building M, Room 111)

Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Friday: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

(928) 634-6562

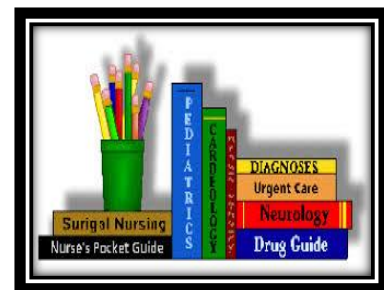
verdelearningcenter@yc.edu

Bookstore Return/Book Buy-Back Information

Check with the bookstore for the best price on your textbooks! The bookstore has various items including stethoscopes and uniforms for purchase.

[YC Bookstore](#)

Price Match - Find A Lower Price? We'll Match It!



YC Learning Center Resources & Items

Both the Prescott and Verde Learning Centers have two group study rooms, laptops, headphones, a full body skeleton, boxes of bones, true-to-life human x-rays with a head with removable parts, anatomy & nursing flash cards, a neuromuscular junctions kit, and a muscle module for students to use while studying there. Check with them for Nursing tutor hours – they will be available on Zoom!

Important YC Contact Information:

Prescott	Verde
YC Campus Safety (928)776-2185 - non-emergency (928)237-0420 - emergency	YC Campus Safety (928) 634-6599 - non-emergency (928)239-0172 - emergency
Disability Resource Specialist – Prescott Petra Bennett 928-776-2057	Disability Resource Specialist – Verde Kay Rollis 928-634-6567

Nursing Store

We are pleased to inform you that our nursing store is now open for purchasing additional patches. The nursing store will serve various purposes, and we will keep you updated via email whenever new items are added. To access the nursing store, you can follow this link: [nursing store](#), or alternatively, you may use any of the nursing store QR codes available on bulletin boards, within your ISS's office.



Nursing Store

A Little Reminder:

"Progress not perfection". If something does not work out, never be discouraged. Focus on smaller achievements and enjoy the process even if it isn't perfect, because we can recognize evidence of our progress. Every step is adding a layer of improvement for the next progression and eventually you will see tangible achievements you can be proud of.

Food for Thought:

KNOWING HOW TO THINK EMPOWERS YOU FAR BEYOND THOSE WHO ONLY KNOW WHAT TO THINK – N.D. Tyson

GREAT QUESTIONS ARE A MUCH BETTER INDICATOR OF FUTURE SUCCESS THAN GREAT ANSWERS – R. Dalio

Thank you for choosing YC Nursing Program. Please feel free to reach out to the YC Nursing Office with any questions or concerns: Prescott: 928-776-2017 or Verde: 928-634-6512 or nursing@yc.edu.



NURSING PROGRAM