



# Nursing News

## A Note from the Director of Nursing

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

Welcome nursing students to the SPRING 2024 semester. Currently, there are approximately 200 students enrolled in the nursing program at the Prescott and Verde Valley locations, including a new cohort of 60 first-semester students! This is a 24% increase from previous semesters, thanks to a Nursing Education Investment grant (HB2691). In addition to the new grant, the nursing program has several new updates.

We received full approval from the Higher Learning Commission in October to start a baccalaureate degree in nursing in the spring. This BSN will be 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.

We have opened LPN-RN advance placement applications for admission to the third semester. The nursing program is collaborating with Allied Health to offer an LPN step-out option for nursing students completing year 1 of the program or those students who may be unsuccessful in the third or fourth semester. The step-out option will become more seamless as we transition Peds/OB theory into 2<sup>nd</sup> semester (rather than in the third semester).

Yavapai College (YC) Nursing graduates continue to be successful on the NCLEX-RN Licensure with a first-time pass rate of 87.64% for 2023\*. These rates remain comparable to the 90.39% pass rate for the state of Arizona and the 88.56% pass rate nationally.

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

## Upcoming Events

### Next SNA Meeting

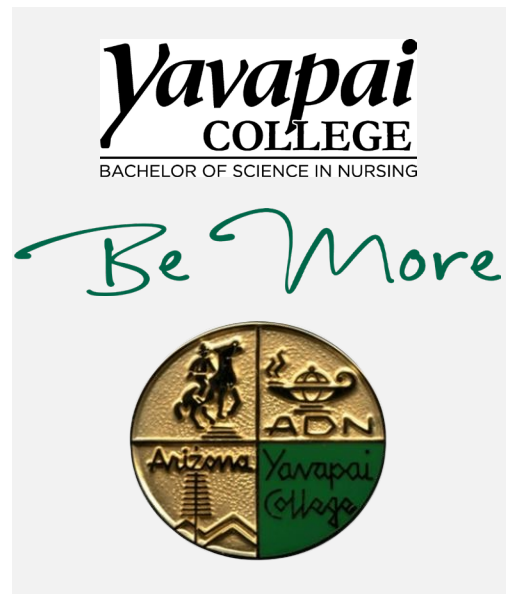
- 01/25/24 @ 4:45 pm
- 02/15/24 @ 4:45 pm
- 03/07/24 @ 4:45 pm
- 04/11/24 @ 4:45 pm
- 05/02/24 @ 4:45 pm

### March 22

Student Representation at Department Meeting (Verde Campus Rm M-202/Zoom)  
@ 9:00 am

### May 2

Pinning Ceremony, YCPAC  
@ 5:00 pm



Currently, according to the Arizona Board of Nursing, there are 112,511 RN's practicing in Arizona ([www.azbn.gov](http://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 2022\* were 89%.

\*Data extracted from YC IER

\*Data extracted from the AZBN NCLEX Reports

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



The [Nursing Program Student Handbook](#) for 2023-2024 is available for students to review on the [yc.edu/nursing](http://yc.edu/nursing). 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](mailto:nursing@yc.edu) for important program announcements and policy updates.

As you know, the program transitioned from ATI resources and standardized exams to NurseThink. The NurseThink product will offer NCLEX Preview (1-day course to learn how to use the NurseThink product) and Review (2-day course for NCLEX review) and CJSim (2700 NGN questions, hundreds of cases 900 interactive EHRs). The book bundle includes The Notebook (hard copy – note-taking system), Conceptual Clinical Cases eBook (hundreds of clinical judgment questions, 32 case studies with debriefing, reflection, and conceptual quizzes), and NCLEX-RN Conceptual Review eBook (1000 NGN questions, 35 patient assignments, audio/video resources). In addition, ExamSoft houses the platform to deliver the CJExams from NurseThink. CJExams offers standardized assessments for Fundamentals, Pharmacology, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Mental Health, Medical-Surgical I and a Readiness Exam. These exams will be integrated throughout the curriculum.

Please accept our apologies for the transition that was, well, not very smooth. It was apparent that many difficulties stemmed from incorrect emails. Note: all students will have a scholar email address ([student.name@scholar.yc.edu](mailto:student.name@scholar.yc.edu)). This can be confirmed in the student's YC Portal. Where the confusion lies is with Microsoft products. Oftentimes, your username for Microsoft apps will be [student.name@yc.edu](mailto:student.name@yc.edu). It is your responsibility to make sure that your scholar email account and mailing address are always current and up to date with the department. You can do this by changing your contact information in your myYC portal account so that it may be verified.

Beginning in the Fall for the 2024-2025 academic year, the NurseThink resources will be integrated into tuition fees.

Another change that you will notice in the program is that students can now register for nursing classes when registration opens. Students no longer need to wait for the program to email their CRNs to register. This will enable students to self-schedule their courses and select their clinical placements. There is one caveat/disclaimer: 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.

Lastly, due to room conflicts/scheduling, the Nursing Pinning Ceremony will be on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 pm. Upcoming pinning dates are December 13, 2024, and May 16, 2025.



**From the Desk of Summer Hawk, Prescott Instructional Support Specialist**  
**928-776-2017** [summer.hawk@yc.edu](mailto:summer.hawk@yc.edu)

My name is Summer Hawk, I am the Instructional Support Specialist for Nursing at the Prescott campus. I graduated from Yavapai College in 2019 with an AA in Viticulture & Enology so coming back to YC is like coming home. I have over 14 years of office administration experience and enjoy using my knowledge and skills in a team environment. The healthcare field is of great interest to me. I'm looking forward to working together with you and the Nursing program team to assist you on your educational goals.

**From the Desk of Becky Jones-Pierce, Verde Instructional Support Specialist**  
**928-634-6512** [becky.jones-pierce@yc.edu](mailto:becky.jones-pierce@yc.edu)

I am Becky Jones-Pierce, Instructional Support Specialist for Yavapai College's Nursing Department on the Verde Campus. I have almost 20 years of higher education experience helping students and faculty succeed in their areas of study. I am looking forward to learning more about our students and faculty this semester!



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 Linker, Clinical Coordinator**  
**928-717-7106** [pam.linker@yc.edu](mailto:pam.linker@yc.edu)

I'm an Arizona native, born in a small hospital in Mesa that turned into a Planned Parenthood shortly thereafter (I took that personally). I graduated from ASU School of Nursing in 1982. I have worked in many areas, but most recently spent over 20 years in Organ Transplant. I have seen many, many changes in Nursing, the vast majority of them positive. My husband and I moved to Prescott in 2023 to be near our new grandchild, and we love it here. I enjoy hiking, gardening, reading, art and metalsmithing. And always, humor.

**Clinical Updates:**

Health requirements are to be current throughout the entire semester. This new requirement from our clinical agencies will be in effect immediately. 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 <sup>st</sup> semester	At time of admission to the nursing program	
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester	Fall: September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Spring: February 8 <sup>th</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup> semester	Fall: July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Spring: December 8 <sup>th</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup> semester	Fall: September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Spring: February 8 <sup>th</sup>

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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>-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.

### [N95 Mask Fit Testing Update](#)

N95 Masks Fit testing requirements for clinical rotations have been lifted at all clinical locations. This requirement is subject to change; please make sure to check your YC scholar email regularly for any updates or time-sensitive notices.

### [CDC COVID Guideline Update](#)

If you test positive for COVID-19, we ask that you follow [CDC Isolation Guidelines](#). Please see YC's [Covid 19](#) webpage for the latest information on vaccinations, exposure, and illness.

### [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 Mondays 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: Tanya Ghanni, Dr. Randy Derr, Dr. Stephenie Snodgrass, Shelly Damschroder, Catherine Kefer, and Trevor Nordin.

### **Tanya Ghanni (Prescott Campus)**

I have been a nurse for over 20 years, mainly caring for sick babies and their mothers. I have only been teaching for 2 years but I found it was a great fit for me. I am honored to raise the next generation of nurses.

My husband and I relocated to Prescott last fall and just love living here! As a nursing faculty, I was blessed to join this wonderful team in October at Yavapai College. In my free time, my husband and I love to travel and explore, walk our doodle (Kiwi), dance, and hike. I find additional joy in nature, swimming, cooking, good wine, and family gatherings. I choose happiness.





**Dr. Randy Derr (Prescott Campus):**

Dr. Derr has been a Registered Nurse for 23 years. He graduated from Arizona State University in 2000 with a BSN and went to work in a Cardiovascular ICU. Since that time, Dr. Derr has worked in multiple ICUs, the Emergency and Trauma Departments, education at the system and service line level, and Flight Nursing. Dr. Derr spent 37 years in the U.S. Army as a Medic, Paramedic, and Critical Care RN with 5 deployments. Along the way, Dr. Derr received an MSN and a DNP from Grand Canyon University. The thing that Dr. Derr loves most about Nursing is the opportunity to change roles without changing careers. Nursing allows for flexibility, advancement, advanced learning, and opportunities to practice in multiple and varied environments. Dr. Derr is married to Dr. Bambi Pish-Derr (also faculty at Yavapai College). They have 5 children and 4 grandchildren spread all over the world which creates lots of chances to travel. Additionally, they have 3 dogs and 2 cats.



**Catherine Kefer (Prescott Campus):**

Being a nurse makes you a lifelong learner. Which is why it can be so rewarding. Catherine has worked in many areas in nursing but found her calling in oncology, where she has worked for the past 17 years as a nurse practitioner. She and her husband have 2 children. They moved recently from Oregon to be closer to their children and to enjoy seeing their grandchildren more often. Catherine enjoys playing pickleball, gardening and cooking. She and husband enjoy traveling and hope to do more of that when she truly retires.

**Dr. Stephenie Snodgrass (Verde Campus):**

Dr. Snodgrass started her nursing education in community college and loved teaching in this environment. She understood the need to attend community college and the effect that it can have on the lives of those attending as well as their families. Dr. Snodgrass has been teaching online and in traditional nursing education for the last decade and worked in the hospital on many of the different units prior to that. She is recently finished her Doctorate in Visionary Leadership with a focus on simulation in nursing education. Dr. Snodgrass has just moved to Arizona and looks forward to exploring more of this beautiful state with her husband and her cat, Mrs. Bigglesworth.



**Shelly Damschroder (Prescott Campus):**

Shelly Damschroder has been a nurse for 37 years. She has worked in the ER, OB, Pediatrics, clinical coordinator, critical care educator, and finally in ICU. She left bedside nursing 9 years ago after obtaining her Master of Nursing in Family Nurse Practitioner. She has operated her own medical practice in Prescott and is now returning to nursing education to share her wonderful experiences with the new generation of nurses. When she is not working or teaching, she loves to spend time with her husband, 3 children, 2 grandchildren, 2 dogs, and a pig named Mabel.

**Trevor Nordin (Prescott Campus):**

Professor Trevor Nordin pursued a career in nursing following 10 years of teaching in higher education as a means of bringing his teaching experience to the bedside. He believes that the information obtained throughout his academic journey is best utilized through sharing with others, especially those with limited access to educational resources. Professor Nordin's nursing experience resides in procedural nursing, where he worked in the cardiac catheterization lab. It was here he was able to put his expertise in exercise physiology and pathophysiology of cardiac-related diagnoses to use. He is fortunate to share this life journey with his wife and 2 kids. We love to experience all things outdoors, especially if it gets us into the dirt on our bikes, motorcycles, or side-by-side.



New Staff: We are pleased to introduce our new Instructional Lab Aides who will be helping in the skills lab during class time and to competency check offs. In addition, will be available to staff open skills lab hours on Prescott every Friday from 1000-1400.

**Prescott Campus: Karen Amoscato and Carly Packer**

**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:**

<b><u>Prescott SNA President</u></b> Ronnie Kohlhauser rkohlhau@scholar.yc.edu	<b><u>Verde SNA President</u></b> Taidyme Mae trouth1@scholar.yc.edu	<u>Vice President</u> Jennifer Leibin jleibin@scholar.yc.edu
<u>Treasurer</u> Eric Ross eros3@scholar.yc.edu	<u>Secretary</u> Elvira Acosta eacost02@scholar.yc.edu	
<u>Prescott Ambassador</u> Jessica Murphree jburk001@scholar.yc.edu	<u>Verde Ambassador</u> Hailey Mayhan hmayhan@scholar.yc.edu	

## YCSNA Leadership Introduction:

### **Ronnie Kohlauer – President from Prescott Campus:**



Hello. My name is Ronnie, and I am in my 3rd semester at Prescott Campus. This will be my third semester in SNA and I am excited to be the co-president with Taidyme. 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 am a Lab Assistant at YRMC-EC and the administrator at our church. During my free time, I enjoy long weekend road trips with my husband and finding new places to explore. We have 2 cats, Lily who is 18 ½ years old and Luna who is less than 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 working with patients with Autoimmune conditions.

### **Taidyme Mae - President from Verde Campus:**



Hi, I am Taidyme (Tatum), I am a 3rd semester student on the Verde Campus. I joined SNA my 1st semester and was President my 2nd semester. I have a Siberian Husky / German Sheppard mix named Koda and a Sulcata Tortoise named Tiny (haha, some will get the joke...)! I enjoy being outdoors, hiking, camping, and playing softball. I have played softball since I was 10 and now, I currently coach an 18u fastpitch softball team. I love watching the young players play the game they love and learn throughout their journey in the amazing sport. I look forward to becoming a Nurse and working in Critical Care and eventually going back to school to become a CRNA. I have years of experience in Office Management and Retail Sales, as well as a Psychiatric CNA. I am excited to return as President for another semester and help Tiffany make YCSNA as successful as possible!

### **Jennifer Leibin – Vice President:**



Hello future Nurses! I am so excited to be able to serve you as your Vice President of the Yavapai College SNA. I am going into the third semester in January of 2024. I have been in the medical field as a Paramedic for almost 25 years. I have extensive experience in the field and am ready to transition to a more controlled environment. I am ready to get to know each of you and understand how we can better serve each other and the public. I live in Prescott Valley with my husband, Jason, and our two children JD and Jameson. As a returning "older" student I feel that our learning never stops. I hope to be able to help any of you with navigating this exciting and terrifying time of school and life. Please reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns you have for yourself or another student. I have an open phone policy.... It's on and waiting for a call to help 24 hours a day.



**Elvira Acosta – Secretary:**



Meet Elvira, a second-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.

**Eric Ross – Treasurer:**



Hey all! I'm Eric Ross, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as your SNA Treasurer. After taking a rather roundabout way to nursing school, I'm in my third semester. 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 much 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 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 have been selected as the ambassador of SNA this upcoming semester! I am currently starting my third 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 as a nursing assistant for the past 4 years at a surgery center during COVID times. I started at YRMC in 2022. 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, such as going to the gym, hiking, snowboarding, art, etc. I am excited to become a nurse with you all

by my side and hope to fill the role as your ambassador successfully. I cannot wait to get to know you better.



## **Jessica Murphree – Ambassador – Prescott Campus:**



Hi all, I'm Jess. I'm in 4th semester at the Prescott campus. Nursing has been a calling for me since high school, but I never had the time to pursue that dream. Finally, after my son turned 1, I decided it was time to go back and get some classes out of the way so that I could eventually apply. I am so glad I did, as it has been an incredible journey, and I've gained wonderful friends along the way. My hubby and I have two kiddos together. I have an 8-year-old daughter and a 5-year-old boy, and they are my worlds! They keep me busy in general, but adding in my daughter's Girl Scouts and cheerleading, and she keeps me running. In what little free time I have between working at the VA, nursing school, mother and wife, I enjoy playing softball for a co-ed team in both Prescott and Prescott Valley. I consider that my "me-time" and highly suggest everyone carve some time out for some. My family and I enjoy the outdoors and love to take hikes and go camping when we can. My dream is to work in the labor & delivery department at YRMC. The nurses made all the difference in the world when I had my kids and I'd love to provide that to someone else. Plus my clinical rotation there in 3rd was incredible and solidified that desire for me! I look forward to getting to know more of you this semester through SNA!

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 Advisor**

Welcome to the Spring 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 transfer planning, whether it's for a Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) with a university or an RN to BSN program. Make an appointment with your Academic Advisor to review your options and come up with a transfer plan.

We will be in contact with you throughout each semester so check your 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 G, Room 108)**

Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Friday: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

(928) 634-6562

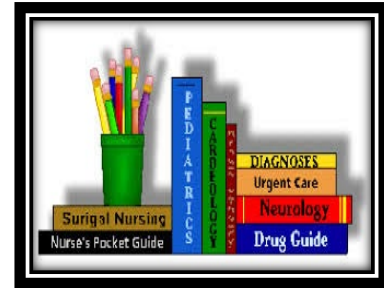
verdelearningcenter@yc.edu

## 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!



## 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 and accessing NurseThink resources. 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.

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: 928-634-6546 or [nursing@yc.edu](mailto:nursing@yc.edu).

