



TEXAS A&M HEALTH

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN FORENSIC NURSING

ABOUT

The Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing offers unsurpassed research and training opportunities by providing forensic nursing education and outreach for nurses, other medical professionals, law enforcement, attorneys, social workers and advocates.

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents formally approved the Texas A&M College of Nursing to create Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing in 2019, establishing the state's first state- and federally funded center. This designation significantly expanded the capabilities and funding for the College of Nursing's initiative to advance forensic nursing education, outreach and research.



QUICK FACTS

Founded: 2019

Director: Stacey A. Mitchell, DNP, MBA, MEd, RN, AFN-C, SANE-A, SANE-P, IVSE-C, DF-AFN, FAAN

Faculty and Staff: 16

Academy of Forensic Nursing Fellows: 3

International Association of Forensic Nursing Fellows: 1

Annual sponsored activities expenditures: \$3.1 million

Annual project awards: \$3.2 million

Cumulative funding: \$27 million

Research and scholarship: 140+ presentations and 50+ scholarly publications



MISSION

The mission of the center is to improve the health outcomes of those affected by violence and disaster. The center leads the nation in developing and implementing interdisciplinary, trauma-informed strategies to prevent and address violence across the lifespan through research, academic programs, continuing education and outreach.

VISION

The vision of the center is to be a nationally recognized, well-funded and endowed research, education and outreach Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing.



WHAT IS FORENSIC NURSING?

Victims of violence — those who endure sexual assault, intimate partner violence, neglect or any other form of intentional injury — deserve and require patient-centered, trauma-informed care. Forensic nurses are professionally trained to treat these victims as patients, keeping them and all they have endured at the center of that treatment.



PROGRAMS

Continuing Education and Professional Development

🔗 tx.ag/forensicscontinuinged

The center's continuing education program is renowned for guiding nurses to SANE certification and delivering unique learning opportunities in forensic health care. Courses are delivered online and in the center's local or mobile simulation space.

- 50+ annual webinars, courses and simulations
- 1,500+ annual learners
- Specialized simulation courses in telehealth, mock testimony and more

Texas Evidence Collection Protocol

🔗 tx.ag/tecpc

A joint project between the center and the Texas Office of the Attorney General, the Texas Evidence Collection Protocol is a standardized digital guide for the state's health care and law enforcement professionals to respond to sexual assault.

Tex-TRAC

🔗 tx.ag/texttrac

The Texas Teleforensic Remote Assistance Center (Tex-TRAC) is a statewide sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) telehealth program that connects hospitals in rural and underserved communities with on-call forensic nurses.

PROJECTS

- Mobile Simulation: Hands-on training delivered to rural areas
- ECHO-SAFE: Webinars and case-based discussions for continuing education
- SAFE Mothers in Texas: Addressing substance use disorders in pregnancy
- Coaching for Quality: Mentorship for SAFE-Ready teams to improve management, sustainability and patient care
- Brazos Valley Forensic Interviewing Program: Specialized services for adult survivors

TEXAS A&M COLLEGE OF NURSING FORENSIC NURSING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Master of Science in Nursing-Forensic Nursing
- Doctor of Nursing Practice-Forensic Nursing *(coming soon)*
- Graduate Certificate in Forensic Health Care

HISTORY

Spring 2015: College of Nursing receives \$2 million from the Texas Legislature to develop forensic nursing graduate education and outreach programs

Spring 2017: Graduate Certificate in Forensic Health Care begins

Spring 2017: Texas Attorney General's Office selects College of Nursing to deliver statewide SANE training, consult on practice issues, facilitate state SANE coordinators meeting and maintain the Texas Evidence Collection Protocol

Spring 2018: MSN-Forensic Nursing Program begins

Fall 2018: Health Resources and Services Administration awards College of Nursing \$1.47 million to support SANE training program

Fall 2019: The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approves creation of Texas A&M Health Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing ... Center receives \$1 million from Texas Attorney General's office and \$4 million from Office for Victims of Crime to establish Tex-TRAC, a telehealth care program for sexual assault survivors in rural hospitals ... Texas Attorney General Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services Program partners with center to re-publish modernized Texas Evidence Collection Protocol

Fall 2023: Center secures \$5.5 million contract with Indian Health Service to deliver forensic health care training and consultation

Summer 2024: Health Resources and Services Administration awards center another \$1.5 million for SANE training program



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