

Purdue University School of Nursing (PSON) and North Central Nursing Clinics (NCNC)
Academic-Practice Partnership

Purdue School of Nursing and the North Central Nursing Clinics have a long-standing collaboration dating back to when the clinics first started at Purdue in 1995. They work in close partnership to advance nursing education, improve community health, and reduce health care disparities in Indiana. This collaboration creates a unique model where academic excellence directly supports real-world healthcare delivery

Purdue University, Indiana's public land-grant institution, established in 1869, "serves diverse populations of Indiana, the nation, and the world through discovery that expands the frontier of knowledge, learning that nurtures the sharing of knowledge, and engagement that promotes the application of knowledge." Purdue School of Nursing, West Lafayette, began in 1963, began offering a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1970, and graduate programs in 2005. The School of Nursing is one of nine academic units in the College of Health and Human Sciences facilitating interprofessional education and research. PSON "serves to improve the quality of life of people in Indiana, the nation, and the world through discovery and leadership that expands the realm of nursing knowledge as well as learning by disseminating and preserving knowledge that prepares beginning in advance nursing graduates ..." The School provides diverse academic programs consisting of BSN, MS-NP, BSN-DNP NP, Post MS certificates, Post MS DNP, BSN-PhD and Post MS PhD programs. Purdue School of Nursing emphasizes evidence-based practice, interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement. Its faculty are active in research on health care innovation, chronic disease management, and global health, providing students with hands-on experience and strong professional mentorship.

The North Central Nursing Clinics (NCNC) was started as one nurse managed clinic in 1995 and in 2009 became an independent nurse managed Federally Qualified Health Center. Today, there are four sites serving Delphi, Monon, Burlington, and Wolcott Indiana. In June 2014, the Clinics received the National Committee for Quality Assurance Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) level II designation. The clinics provide primary care and health education services to underserved population in Indiana, including rural and low income communities. The clinics focus on holistic, patient centered care and address health disparities through preventative services, chronic disease management, and wellness education. Their mission aligns with Purdue school of nursing dedication to service learning and community health improvement. In 2024, the clinic served 9026 unique patients through 26,508 visits with medical or behavioral health providers. In 2024, 21.4% of the total population reported as Hispanic/Latino. The clinics provide not only medical and behavioral health, but also serve as a clinical site for BSN, master's and doctoral level NP students, and as a research site for PhD students. In addition, the clinics provide clinical resources for pharmacy, speech and audiology, nutrition, and engineering students at Purdue University. Purdue faculty engage in research initiatives at the clinics, using the setting to study community health trends and implement interventions that benefit the patients, the community, and the students.

Together, Purdue School of Nursing and the North Central Nursing Clinics embody a true commitment to community engagement, interprofessional education, and the promotion of health equity.