Increasing levels of complexity and technology in health care are driving changes in the way providers and hospitals work, and initiating a push for more education for every professional who is involved in patient care. Nurses are no exception. While a two-year registered nursing degree has been the standard that many hospitals and institutions required for years, experts in the health care field are calling for the bar to be raised to a required Bachelor of Science (BSN) degree.

Referred to as the “BSN in 10,” the new requirements, which several states including Ohio are considering, would require all associate degree educated nurses to obtain their bachelor’s degree within 10 years of licensure. Nurses educated before the legislation takes effect would be exempt, but many would be encouraged to further their education.

The trend has already changed the way many local health care organizations are approaching nursing. At Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center the BSN degree is the preferred standard for new hires, says Susie Allen, PhD, RN-BC, assistant vice president for the Center for Professional Excellence and Education at CCHMC.

“Our goal is to be at 80 percent (BSN educated nurses) for direct care by 2020,” says Allen, which is also a goal set by the Institute of Medicine for all health care institutions in a report issued in 2010. Currently the hospital’s percentage of direct care nurses with BSN degrees is 70.2 percent, she says.

Allen says there are several industr...
When registered nurse Debra Buck decided to go back to school to get her bachelor’s degree in nursing, she expected to take all her classes in a brick and mortar building. But midway through her 18-month University of Cincinnati RN to BSN program, the Goshen woman found herself taking her courses online instead – and not by choice. “I was freaking out,” Buck said. “I’m a hands-on learner. I wanted to be in a classroom. It took me a while to catch on.”

Despite her misgivings, Buck, 53, continued with the online program and earned her bachelor’s degree last month. She is one of a growing number of students in the University of Cincinnati’s College of Nursing who are pursuing part or all of their education through online classes.

“When I like about online is I could go to class anytime,” said Buck, who has worked 19 years as an emergency room nurse at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

“I could do homework at 2 a.m. if I wanted to. I couldn’t go to class at 2 a.m.”

Doing all her assignments outside the classroom taught Buck how to prepare a PowerPoint presentation, and other skills she can apply to her work as more updated technology comes to health care settings.

“I’d rather go to class, but now that I’ve done it, I would recommend it to anybody. It pushes you into learning more about technology.”

Buck said her next goal is to get her master’s degree even if it includes online courses.

Honing tech skills an added benefit to learning online

By Sue Kiesewetter

Enquirer contributor

When registered nurse Debra Buck decided to go back to school to get her bachelor’s degree in nursing, she expected to take all her classes in a brick and mortar building. But midway through her 18-month University of Cincinnati RN to BSN program, the Goshen woman found herself taking her courses online instead – and not by choice. “I was freaking out,” Buck said. “I’m a hands-on learner. I wanted to be in a classroom. It took me a while to catch on.”

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CERTIFIED NURSE?

By Jeff Wallner
Enquirer contributor

With health care costs rising and technology changing rapidly, the need for specialized, highly trained nursing care is becoming increasingly important. Hospitals, and even patients now are placing greater value on nurses with the skills and knowledge acquired through certification. “Certification has validated my knowledge and the care I provide to patients. It helps keep me functioning at a high level.”

The Institute of Medicine’s goal is for 90 percent of clinical decisions to be evidence-based by 2020, believing this will result in improved patient outcomes, thus reducing costs to hospitals as well as patients, with fewer complications and reduced length of stays.

Burke says the ongoing education she’s received every five years through the recertification process has helped keep her up to date on the latest technology and made her better prepared to make critical decisions to improve patient outcome and reduce costs. “Certification has helped me keep my knowledge current.”

For example, using a dressing that isn’t changed as often because it has been proven through intensive study to have better absorption. “There’s research behind it,” Burke says.

Missy Rittinger of Union, Kentucky, is a certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A) at St. Elizabeth Healthcare in Edgewood, Kentucky. “Certification exhibits to professionals in the medical-legal system that the nurse has experience in and specific knowledge about caring for patients of sexual assault,” Rittinger said. “The certification also demonstrates the highest level of clinical excellence in the field of forensic nursing and allows the nurse to provide specialized care that these patients need and deserve.”

Juanita Dudley, RN, NTMNC of Batesville, Indiana, and Christy Lammers, RN, BSN, NTMNC of Western Hills are certified in neonatal touch and massage nursing at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Good Samaritan Hospital.

St. Elizabeth Healthcare’s Missy Rittinger, RN, BSN, SANE-A, CFN has held the SANE certification for 14 years. PHOTOS BY TONYA BORGATI FOR THE ENQUIRER

What does it mean to be a certified nurse? The Institute of Medicine’s goal is for 90 percent of clinical decisions to be evidence-based by 2020, believing this will result in improved patient outcomes, thus reducing costs to hospitals as well as patients, with fewer complications and reduced length of stays.

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Which certification is best for you? For a comprehensive list of nursing certifications, visit the American Nurses Credentialing Center at nursecredentialing.org/certiﬁcation and the American Board of Nursing Specialties at www.nursingcertification.org (click on Accreditation).

Certification cost $650 plus test costs $275, or $400 for members of the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN), the American Board of Nursing Specialties and member upon successful completion. For members of the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN), the test costs $275, or $400 for non-members. To be a member of the IAFN costs $125 annually. Continuing education is the financial responsibility of the nurse, Rittinger says.

For Lammers and Dudley, Neonatal Touch and Massage Certification costs $650 plus travel expenses. They applied for and were granted the full amount through the Mary Ann McGrath Nursing Education Endowment Award. Recertification costs $85 per year. Health care providers see the benefits to the bottom line of employing and training a highly skilled team of nurses. The ongoing training of knowledge and skills is as important to the certification itself.

“Everything comes down to better patient outcomes and fewer complications,” Burke said. “Medicare grades us on those results. Certification encourages life-long learning.”

What does it mean to be a certified nurse do? Velour Pashi, RN-BSN, E-EMF in neonatal electronic fetal monitoring labor and delivery nurse at Mercy Health Anderson Hospital’s Family Birthing Center.

Pashi uses technology that visually assesses the well-being of a baby in utero throughout pregnancy, labor and at delivery.

Pashi believes “Certification is a great tool for nurses. I am an interpreter,” Pashi said. “Nurses are in the middle between the patient and the doctor. The doctor provides the orders and touches base with the patient, but when the doctor leaves it’s up to the nurse to keep his or her orders in the minds of the patients and to subsequently make sure the doctor knows how the patient is feeling and why.”

Depending on shift assignment, Pashi works one on one with patients who are in late stages of labor, two patients in early stages and up to 15 patients in triage ER for women in various stages of pregnancy. Pashi said the cost for the National Certification Corporation in Electronic Fetal Monitoring was $200 and the cost of renewal certification was $100.

Jo Kovach
LEADING, ADVOCATING & COLLABORATING
to improve child health, here and around the world.
Financial aid

Continued from Page S4

Second-degree nursing programs like Mount St. Joseph’s MAGELIN (Master’s Graduate Entry-Level into Nursing) allow students who already have an undergraduate degree to complete the requirements for nursing in as little as 15 months, but that may not offer cost savings to students who bring debt from their first degree.

Mary Givhan, director of financial aid for Thomas More College, advises nursing students to start looking for financial aid at least 1½ to 2 years before they start their degree.

“The first year is mostly going to be research,” Givhan says, noting that the preparation pays off. “The year leading up to the application you’ll have all that stuff down pat.” She also advises students to ask about institution-specific aid as early as possible.

Givhan knows from her own daughter’s experience paying for a nursing degree that students need to have a solid financial plan despite the opportunities. “There are a lot of jobs available for nurses and they are paying well,” she advises, “but it does take some commitment on their part to have a plan going in.”

BSN in 10

Continued from Page S1

try reports that cite decreased mortality and mortality rates for patients in hospitals with higher numbers of BSN educated nurses. One of the more widely quoted studies was published by Dr. Linda Aiken at the University of Pennsylvania Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research which cites a 4 percent decrease in the risk of death with each 10 percent increase in the number of BSN educated nurses on hospital staff.

“I really believe in this. Not only for patient outcomes, but for elevating the professional standard of nurses,” Allen says.

To help nurses achieve this educational goal, CCHMC and other organizations have instituted programs that assist with scheduling and paying for increased training.

Agnes Distasi, program director for the RN to BSN Program at the Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences, says Christ began its first RN to BSN specific program this fall.

“Programs to continue your education are very available,” she says. “Hospitals are providing a pathway to do this. Students in RN programs do not think of it as an endpoint anymore. They think of it as the start of their training.”

Deborah Smith-Clay, RN, MSN, PhD(c), dean of nursing at Beckfield College, says hospitals are interested in achieving Magnet status, recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center that means the hospital has demonstrated excellence in care across 35 areas of focus. Magnet hospitals employ higher percentages of BSN educated nurses, she says.

“Becoming a nurse today means you have to look forward to continuing your education and keeping up with changes,” says Smith-Clay. “The bedside contact nurses provide is a critical part of the healing process and their training is very important.”

Extraordinary Nurses

In honor of Nurses’ Day, we’d like to thank all of our nurses for their extraordinary dedication to the patients of St. Elizabeth.

Your contributions are immeasurable and your skill, enthusiasm and commitment to care are inspiring.

We’d also like to congratulate Judi Brungs, Heather Clark, Tracy Hagood and Darlene Pence on being nominated for the Florence Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing. Thank you for being extraordinary.

Extraordinary St. E
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Robotics & Telehealth
In the evolving world of health care delivery, telehealth is becoming ubiquitous. Through community partnerships, UC College of Nursing is exploring the potential impact robotics and telehealth can have in this environment. Students’ exposure is key to once again allowing them to graduate with the skills they need to effectively provide care utilizing telehealth technology.

Faculty Positions
Our vision is “through creative leveraging of technology, UC College of Nursing will lead the transformation of health care in partnership informed by the people we serve.” This vision guides the work of the college and creates exciting opportunities, not just for students, but also for faculty members. If you love connecting with others, collaborating and innovating, then consider a faculty opportunity at UC College of Nursing. We’re a college on the rise, and we are looking for nursing leaders to join us in leading the transformation of health care.

Program Offerings
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- Master of Science in Nursing (with on campus, online & hybrid options)
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- Doctor of Nursing Practice (hybrid)
- PhD in Nursing

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THE ENQUIRER // SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2014

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S  T O  T H E  2 0 1 4  R E C I P I E N T S

NIGHTINGALE AWARD RECIPIENTS

J E N I F E R  B R O D S K Y
West Chester Hospital
Called “a hand to hold and a shoulder to cry on,” West Chester Hospital trauma program manager Jennifer Brodsky is known for her positive impact on the quality of care and patient experience. Brodsky’s peers praise her poise, energy and constant willingness to go above and beyond for her patients and West Chester Hospital. She is a vital component of the hospital’s trauma program, and has helped support efforts to become a verified level 3 trauma center. Brodsky is a Cincinnati native with a BSN from the College of Mount St. Joseph.

L I N D Y  M A T H E S
Bethesda North Hospital
A DASH award recipient for outstanding care in 2013, Lindy Mathes spent seven years in direct patient care before being promoted to charge nurse – a role she has expanded into several leadership positions. Mathes demonstrates boundless energy and a passion for nursing despite a fast pace schedule at the Medical/Surgical Oncology unit at Bethesda North Hospital. She also serves as a mentor for new registered nurses and a clinical coach for new employees. A dedicated volunteer with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Mathes is enrolled in the College of Mount St. Joseph’s BSN program and will graduate in May 2016.

S H E I L A  C A R R O L L
Rose Garden Mission
Retirement from a 40-year long career in nursing was just the beginning for Sheila Carroll. After her times as a nurse, she assisted in founding a medical clinic at Rose Garden Mission in Covington, KY, where patients without insurance can seek care. There, Carroll manages volunteer staff and funding, and also volunteers in the clinic three to four days a week. Her peers note that she passed up a life of leisure to take on the poor and less fortunate, and her strong faith shines through in the delivery of her care. Carroll has a Master’s of Nursing from the University of Kentucky and is a registered nurse in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

D A V I D  S E N S
Bethesda Butler Hospital
A registered nurse in Bethesda Butler Hospital’s emergency department, David Sens pushes those around him to pursue their utmost potential. Sens also shines amidst under pressure and is known for being a team player and resource for other nurses learning the ropes of the profession. He co-leads the Shared Leadership Committee and the Patient Satisfaction Committee and works closely with colleagues to facilitate their understanding of drawing blood, CT scans and cleaning rooms during busy times. Sens trades beach vacations for mission trips through the organization Caring Partners and responds to local disasters as part of the Cincinnati Chapter’s Red Cross medical team. Sens holds a BSN from Ohio University.

S A D I E  H U G H E S
Cincinnati Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
A nurse practitioner at the Cincinnati Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Sadie Hughes provides extraordinary care to veterans at the Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Clinic. Since 2010, Hughes has performed readiness exams for active military soldiers. She has grown the clinic to serve nearly 200 veterans with spinal cord injuries and other conditions that affect the spinal cord and nervous system. Hughes’ peers note that she develops new knowledge and practices while remaining committed to professionalism and top notch patient care. Hughes holds a Doctorate in Nursing from Robert Morris University.

V I R G I N I A  S U M M E
Good Samaritan Hospital
After 25 years in the neonatal intensive care unit, Virginia “Gissy” Summe has developed a focus on treating infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome, a condition caused by exposure to narcotics in utero. Instead of staying away from these difficult-to-treat patients, Summe identified an approach to not only improve their quality of life but to also personally connect with the mothers through education programs she has developed. Mothers who take advantage of these programs often have a great understanding of their infants’ behaviors. As a mother herself, she enjoys spending time with her husband and children. Summe graduated from the Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing.

F l o r e n c e  N i g h t i n g a l e

The “Founder of Modern Nursing,” Florence Nightingale was born on May 12, 1820, in Florence, Italy. In 1825, her parents purchased a home in Enemble Park near Romsey, England. Despite her parents’ objections, Florence pursued her desire to be a nurse. She traveled to study European hospitals and worked as a nurse in France and Germany. When the Crimean War began in 1851, Florence Nightingale organized a group of nurses and took them to the battlefield in Russia. There she found that nearly half the sick and wounded soldiers were dying because of primitive sanitation methods and lack of nursing care. As a result of the nursing methods and strict sanitation she set up, the death rate greatly decreased. To describe the reduction in deaths, she drew ornate statistical diagrams known as caxcamps which indicated her process as a nurse researcher. Upon her return to England, she started the Nightingale School of Nursing at St. Thomas Hospital, London. The opening of the school marked the beginning of professional education in nursing. During a number of other wars, including the American Civil War, she was consulted on questions concerning the organization and operation of battlefront hospitals. Florence Nightingale died at her home in South Street, London, on August 13, 1910. She was buried on August 29, 1910, at St. Margaret’s Church, East Wellow, England. The tombstone reads: F.N.Born 12 May 1820 • Died 13 August 1910.
The University of Cincinnati College of Nursing’s Board of Visitors hosts the Florence Nightingale Awards for Excellence, now in its 22nd year. The six 2014 winners give their advice to those who are considering pursuing a career in nursing.

Sadie Hughes, Cincinnati Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Nursing is an honorable profession that holds many opportunities for helping others. If service is one of your gifts you will find nursing very rewarding. While the basic study of nursing is constant, the domain of nursing has grown over the years to include many specialty branches in which one might find their passion. I am blessed that God has afforded me the opportunity to be employed in such a humble profession.

Lindy Vitatoe Mathes, Bethesda North Hospital
There are so few opportunities in life to profoundly impact the lives of people and yet a nurse has that opportunity every day. Nursing is more than a career, more than a profession. It is a calling to heal, to help, to stand by their side during some of the most difficult challenges of their lives.

Ginny Summe, Good Samaritan Hospital
Nursing is not just about classroom and clinical education. Computer and business skills complement and support nursing care. However, more importantly is the human interaction with doctors, support staff, patients and families that achieves excellence in patient care. Learning to time manage and critically think are key. Listening to and advocating for your patient will achieve the best possible outcome for everyone.

Jenifer Brodsky, West Chester Hospital
My advice to anyone interested in becoming a nurse is to be prepared to work hard every day. With this work come great rewards. Nursing allows you the opportunity to make a difference in the world one patient at a time. While completing your nursing degree take advantage of all educational opportunities that are available. As you enter the nursing profession find yourself a mentor in whatever path of nursing you select. This relationship can be invaluable toward the success of your career. Never be afraid to pursue new challenges in your nursing career.

David Sens, Bethesda Butler Hospital
A nursing career is a great choice. I suggest volunteering at a hospital or shadowing a nurse to give you an idea what the job is all about. The special thing about nursing is that there are many different types and areas of nursing to get involved in. Be prepared to meet an amazing, caring group of people! It’s great.

Sheila Carroll, Rose Garden Mission
The sub-specialties of nursing are so vast. I would advise a nursing student to explore the many departments within the hospital, out-patient, community, faith-based, and advanced degree to see what is your passion. Spend at least one year really learning nursing after you get your degree. Meet each new patient as a new complex individual, not as a complex nursing problem.
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TriHealth.com
By Val Prevish
Enquirer contributor

Nursing is going high tech with strong job growth predicted in the new specialty of informatics.

Information technology is changing health care and nurse informaticists now have opportunities to incorporate tech skills into their careers by becoming experts in this new specialty niche.

The job combines elements of nursing, computer science and information management to support patient care, says the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association.

Recent developments in health care delivery such as electronic medical records and the implementation of new regulations surrounding the Affordable Care Act have made the need for more informatics specialists stronger. The completed changeover to electronic health records this year will bring about as many as 70,000 new informatics jobs alone, says JMIA.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a roughly 20 percent increase in health informatics jobs over the next several years, although it did not specify how many of those would go to nurse informaticists over informatics technicians, who do not have the extensive clinical training of nurses.

Lynelle Johnson, an instructor for the Master’s Degree in Nursing Informatics program at Northern Kentucky University and chief informatics officer with the Veterans Administration Healthcare Network of Ohio, says nurse informaticists bridge the gap between the clinical and the technical side of patient care.

“This is truly a new frontier,” she says.

Marilyn Schleyer, PhD, concentration coordinator for the Master’s Degree Program in Nursing Informatics in the Department of Advanced Nursing Studies at NKU, says the field is in its infancy as new jobs open each day with the evolution in the way health care is implemented.

“The jobs are getting created as health care changes. NKU is one of the first nursing informatics programs in the country,” she says.

Debbie Hayes, the first student to graduate from NKU’s MSN Program in Nursing Informatics, says data is taking on a greater importance in providing health care.

“Power of data enables us to provide greater value than just being driven by technology. This means more is expected from data analysis and more specialists will be required to harvest data and improve outcomes. Harnessing the power of data enables us to do this.”

Not everyone involved in the new informatics jobs needs a nursing degree.

“The Affordable Care Act required hospitals to implement electronic medical records now. You have the data, so you need to analyze it,” he says. “They are telling us they need these jobs. The co-op opportunities are increasing.”

Experts in this new specialty niche.

“Those who need these jobs. The co-op opportunities are increasing.” Kniep echoed the feelings of other informatics educators: “The word is out. This is a growing field. People who have these skills are going to seek out these opportunities.”

Sandra Oppelt is a data specialist in the Quality, Case Management Department at Mercy Health Jewish Hospital in Kenwood. Oppelt is one of a growing number of data analysts in the health care field who are trained specifically to use technology to improve care, but who do not have clinical backgrounds such as a nursing degree.
Clinical teaching model gives 1-on-1 instruction

By Sue Kiesewetter
Enquirer contributor

Technology is changing the delivery of education at the University of Cincinnati’s College of Nursing.

It’s coming at a time when the college is also launching Dedicated Education Units at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center—a relatively new practice in the region.

“We want to be able to facilitate active learning,” says Greer Glazer, dean of nursing. “This gives us the ability to have a more individualized approach with students.”

Through the units the college provides faculty to mentor and teach the hospital nurses, who in turn work one-on-one with students in clinical settings. That ensures a close connection between curriculum and practice since the only students in the units are UC students, Glazer said.

Under the model more students are served, which in turns helps address the shortage of faculty. Glazer said studies also show that nurses who serve as clinical instructors are more likely to continue their education.

It’s coming at a time when the college’s assistant dean for Information Technology and Communication, Chris Edwards, said UC’s new Dedicated Education Unit clinical teaching model gives students the opportunity to “become full members of the health care team.”

He said the college is also encouraging students to use iPads, Edwards said. The university is reconfiguring into multitouch books for study with the iPads. Some content can also be converted into flash cards for study with the iPads, Edwards said. The university is encouraging students to use iPads, Edwards said.

“We’re changing how we approach learning. We didn’t take this lightly—asking students to buy iPads,” Edwards said. “They’ll be able to use these on the floor with patients. It fits into a lab coat pocket.”

Some content can also be converted into flash cards for study with the iPads. Edwards said. The university is also encouraging students to use eBooks, which are 40-60 percent less expensive than textbooks.

Doing so will allow them to easier take notes in the appropriate content area as well as send and receive notes from classmates and instructors. Searches can also be done across all content on the iPad, Edwards added.

Claudia Mitchell, executive director of the University of Cincinnati’s undergraduate nursing programs, says UC’s new Dedicated Education Unit clinical teaching model gives students the opportunity to “become full members of the health care team.”

UC’s undergraduate nursing program is also launching Dedicated Education Units at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, which in turns helps address the shortage of faculty. Glazer said.

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Beckfield College is proud to celebrate more than 30 Years of Academic Excellence and 10 years of Nursing Education in Greater Cincinnati.

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