

# ICU Experts Partner with School of Nursing Offering Elective Course



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## BACKGROUND

With the growing trend of nursing students having limited exposure to hands-on clinicals and the insufficient number of seasoned mentors in the ICUs, CVICU at the WVU Medicine Heart and Vascular Institute has partnered with the WVU School of Nursing to address this growing concern

In 2024, CVICU had 15 graduate nurses transfer to lower-level acuity units to continue their nursing orientation. This partnership was developed to bridge the gap and strengthen the next generation of critical care nurses



## OBJECTIVES

- **Online Learning:** Establish a strong theoretical foundation in critical care principles
- **Simulation:** Practice essential clinical skills in a controlled environment
- **Shadow Day in CVICU:** Observe experienced clinicians in action for direct learning

## ACTION PLAN

The goal of the course is to better prepare students for the demands and complexities of critical care environments



- **Plan:** To design a curriculum that combines theory, simulation and real-world experiences
- **Do:** Create an innovative 2-hour credit, hybrid course
- **Study:** A hybrid learning approach will ensure students will build a strong foundation in critical care principles and opportunities to observe and learn directly from experienced clinicians
- **Act:** Post course surveys will assist with identifying strengths and areas for improvement



## RESULTS

- The Spring semester of 2025 will mark the inaugural offering for this elective course
- 25 senior nursing students are enrolled in the course
- The course is being offered during the spring semester to assist with preparing students for graduation
- Surveys will be offered before and after each simulation session and at the end of the course to gather valuable feedback

The surveys will help assess the effectiveness of the course, identify areas for improvement, and ensure the course meets its objectives in preparing students

## SCALE UP PLAN

- In future semesters, the course will be expanded to accommodate more students
- The curriculum will be updated to include the student feedback and the most advanced technologies
- Future partnerships to be expanded with other ICUs and specialties within the healthcare systems

## SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

- Regular updates will be made to the course content to stay aligned with the latest developments in critical care technologies
- Ensure that instructors and clinical preceptors are trained regularly to stay abreast of new teaching methodologies
- Establish long standing collaborations between the nursing school and critical care units

## LESSONS LEARNT

“Advanced Life-Saving Technologies in the Critical Care Environment” course represents a significant step forward in bridging the gap and meeting the demands of modern healthcare environments