



DALTON STATE
C O L L E G E

2005 GRADUATING NURSES (RN) SURVEY
SUMMARY REPORT

Highlights

- ❖ 51 Registered Nurses graduated from Dalton State College. 47 graduates responded to the survey.
- ❖ 93.6% of the respondents said that they would recommend the Dalton State College RN program to others.
- ❖ 87.0% of the graduates said they would select Dalton State College again for their RN program.
- ❖ 91.5% of the respondents said their attitude toward Dalton State College was Very Positive or Positive.

BACKGROUND

Age at the time you graduated

20-25	23	48.9%
26-30	6	12.8%
31-40	12	25.5%
41-55	5	10.6%
Over 55	0	0.0%
No reply	1	2.1%

Marital Status

Unmarried (including single, divorced, and widowed)	21	44.7%
Married	26	55.3%
Separated	0	0.0%

County of Residence:

Catoosa	12	25.5%
Gordon	4	8.5%
Murray	7	14.9%
Walker	7	14.9%
Whitfield	14	29.8%
Other- Cobb	1	2.1%
Other – Fannin	1	2.1%
Other – Pickens	1	2.1%

Highest level of educational experience achieved prior to entrance into the Dalton State College nursing program

GED	1	2.1%
High school, graduated within two years of acceptance	16	34.0%
High school, graduated over two years prior to acceptance	12	25.5%
College, 1-4 years (including certificate/technical)	14	29.8%
College graduate	4	8.5%

While you were a student at Dalton State College, were you mainly enrolled

Full-time	36	76.6%
Part-time	11	23.4%

At the time of this survey, have you written and passed your licensing examination?

Yes	1	2.1%
No	46	97.9%

BACKGROUND (continued)

If you've passed, please indicate the month you received board results

No Reply	47	100%
January	0	0.0%
February	0	0.0%
March	0	0.0%
April	0	0.0%
May	0	0.0%
June	0	0.0%
July	0	0.0%
August	0	0.0%
September	0	0.0%
October	0	0.0%
November	0	0.0%

After graduation, what was your primary source of preparation for the NCLEX

Independent review	12	25.5%
Computer review	0	0.0%
Formal review classes	17	36.2%
Other	0	0.0%
No preparation	0	0.0%
No reply	18	38.3%

NURSING EMPLOYMENT

Did you have any health related work experience prior to entering the Nursing program at Dalton State College

Yes	19	40.4%
No	28	59.6%

Current working status

Full-time in nursing	7	14.9%
Part-time in nursing	20	42.6%
Employment in another field	10	21.3%
Not employed at this time	9	19.1%
No reply	1	2.1%

NURSING EMPLOYMENT (continued)

If working, please indicate the month you began your job

January	3	6.4%
February	6	12.8%
March	2	4.3%
April	4	8.5%
May	5	10.6%
June	2	4.3%
July	2	4.3%
August	4	8.5%
September	3	6.4%
October	0	0.0%
November	1	2.1%
December	0	0.0%
No reply	15	31.9%

If you're not working full-time in nursing, please specify your reason

Seeking higher education	7	14.9%
Scheduling	10	21.3%
Family obligations	3	6.4%
Other	7	14.9%
No reply	20	42.6%

Other specific reasons given: Full time job prior to DSC - 1; No job yet - 1; School Commitment - 4

If you are working in nursing, please specify which area

Hospital	26	55.3%
Public health / home health	0	0.0%
Industry	0	0.0%
Physician's office / clinic	2	4.3%
Nursing home	1	2.1%
No reply	18	38.3%

If you are employed in hospital nursing, please specify which area

General duty	11	23.4%
Specialty care unit (ICU, CCU, L&D, NICU)	3	6.4%
Emergency	4	8.5%
Operating room	0	0.0%
Other	8	17.0%
No reply	21	44.7%

Other specific answers given: Medical/Surgical – 3; Tech – 2; Cardiac Step Down Unit – 1; Post Partum – 1; Respiratory/Peds. – 1

NURSING EMPLOYMENT (continued)

If you are employed in general duty nursing, please specify which area

Medical-surgical	14	29.8%
Psychiatric	0	0.0%
Postpartum, newborn, GN	4	8.5%
Pediatric	0	0.0%
Other	3	6.4%
No reply	26	55.3%

Other specific answers given: Cardiac – 3.

Your primary position is

Staff nurse	8	17.0%
Head nurse / supervisor	0	0.0%
Team leader	1	2.1%
Charge nurse	0	0.0%
Other	19	40.4%
No reply	19	40.4%

Other specific answers given: Agency Nurse – 1; Nurse Intern – 2; Nurse Tech – 15; Patient Care Tech – 1.

Shift worked

Days	15	31.9%
Rotating shifts	5	10.6%
Evenings	5	10.6%
Nights	6	12.8%
Other	1	2.1%
No reply	15	31.9%

Present hourly salary including any shift differential

Below \$13 with benefits	5	10.6%
Below \$13 without benefits	7	14.9%
\$13.01-\$16.00 with benefits	6	12.8%
\$13.01-\$16.00 without benefits	3	6.4%
\$16.01-\$19.00 with benefits	4	8.5%
\$16.01-\$19.00 without benefits	2	4.3%
\$19.01-\$21.00 with benefits	2	4.3%
\$19.01-\$21.00 without benefits	2	4.3%
Above \$21.00 with benefits	0	0.0%
Above \$21.00 without benefits	0	0.0%
No reply	16	34.0%

NURSING EMPLOYMENT (continued)

In which of the following professional growth activities, have you participated (choose all that apply)

The regular reading of nursing literature	15	31.9%
Attendance at workshops/seminars/in-services	14	29.8%
Participation in a professional organization	3	6.4%
Continuation of formal education	12	25.5%
Other	0	0.0%
No reply	19	40.4%

Please describe briefly what you feel contributes to your satisfaction or dissatisfaction with your job as a nurse.

- Satisfaction due to the ability to help others recover from disease and educate them on well being. Dissatisfaction due to the amount of patients assigned to me – too much responsibility at times.
- I love leaving work every day knowing that I helped someone stay alive and made a difference in their lives.
- I would love to have a job as a nurse, but was not taught about the fact that prior to graduation we are considered nurses. I applied for CNA positions, which is where my application stopped. My intent to become a nurse was the underlying reason for every application I submitted.

Program Information

During the nursing program

	<i>Always</i>	<i>Most of the time</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Rarely</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>No reply</i>
I received information about employment opportunities in nursing	16 34.0%	14 29.8%	16 34.0%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
I was provided information about working conditions in the nursing field	14 29.8%	18 38.3%	12 25.5%	3 6.4%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
I received information about salary expectations	14 29.8%	11 23.4%	14 29.8%	4 8.5%	4 8.5%	0 0.0%
I was provided with information about job requirements	16 34.0%	15 31.9%	13 27.7%	2 4.3%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%

Program Information (continued)

Which best describes your experiences with the following programs

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>No Reply</i>
Academic Advising	23 48.9%	12 25.5%	9 19.1%	3 6.4%	0 0.0%
Guidance and counseling	21 44.7%	16 34.0%	8 17.0%	2 4.3%	0 0.0%
Nursing courses	25 53.2%	18 38.3%	4 8.5%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
Non-nursing requirements (e.g., psychology, sociology)	16 34.0%	26 55.3%	4 8.5%	0 0.0%	1 2.1%
Equipment/facilities	22 46.8%	21 44.7%	3 6.4%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%
Student services	17 36.2%	24 51.1%	4 8.5%	1 2.1%	1 2.1%
Student financial aid	15 31.9%	16 34.0%	6 12.8%	7 14.9%	3 6.4%
Career preparation	17 36.2%	20 42.6%	8 17.0%	1 2.1%	1 2.1%
Nursing trends/opportunities data	19 40.4%	21 44.7%	7 14.9%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%

Curriculum

To what extent did the nursing curriculum at Dalton State College prepare you for nursing care and at the entry level in the following areas

	<i>To a Very Great Extent</i>	<i>To a Great Extent</i>	<i>To a Moderate Extent</i>	<i>To a Limited Extent</i>	<i>To No Extent At All</i>	<i>No reply</i>
Gerontological	9 19.1%	13 27.7%	22 46.8%	3 6.4%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
Medical	13 27.7%	18 38.3%	15 31.9%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
Surgical (Pre and Post-Op)	7 14.9%	18 38.3%	14 29.8%	7 14.9%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%
Obstetrical	7 14.9%	17 36.2%	18 38.3%	4 8.5%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%
Pediatric	8 17.0%	9 19.1%	20 42.6%	9 19.1%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%
Psychiatric	9 19.1%	12 25.5%	19 40.4%	6 12.8%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%

Satisfaction with Nursing Program at Dalton State College

I am satisfied...

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>No reply</i>
With the nursing program at DSC	24 51.1%	19 40.4%	2 4.3%	0 0.0%	2 4.3%	0 0.0%
With the teaching ability of the nursing faculty	15 31.9%	24 51.1%	4 8.5%	1 2.1%	3 6.4%	0 0.0%
That the courses in prepared me for employment	16 34.0%	20 42.6%	9 19.1%	2 4.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
With the fairness of grading in my nursing courses	18 38.3%	24 51.1%	3 6.4%	1 2.1%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%
With opportunities for classroom evaluation of classroom and practical instruction	17 36.2%	25 53.2%	2 4.3%	1 2.1%	2 4.3%	0 0.0%
With faculty advising in my program	20 42.6%	20 42.6%	5 10.6%	0 0.0%	2 4.3%	0 0.0%
With assistance in planning my career	13 27.7%	21 44.7%	8 17.0%	4 8.5%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%
With feedback from instructors about my progress	17 36.2%	20 42.6%	8 17.0%	0 0.0%	2 4.3%	0 0.0%
With the academic ability of other students in the nursing program	18 38.3%	20 42.6%	7 14.9%	2 4.3%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%

Please provide any additional comments about the nursing educational preparation at Dalton State College, including whether you feel the preparation was excellent or less than acceptable.

- No need to scare students, but teach the reality about the expectations once the student is out of Nursing School.
- I have learned a lot. I feel comfortable taking care of patients with my instructor's help. I hope to take all I have learned and put it into good use.
- Very intense, but excellent preparation for my career.
- The second semester was not as difficult. I had no idea the extent of paperwork, diagnosing, fast thinking, etc. of nursing when I started.

ABOUT DALTON STATE COLLEGE

Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the following experiences at Dalton State College?

	<i>Very High</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Very Low</i>	<i>No reply</i>
Academic Experiences	19 40.4%	22 46.8%	4 8.5%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%	1 2.1%
Student Activities	15 31.9%	17 36.2%	12 25.5%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%	2 4.3%
Quality of Instruction	18 38.3%	22 46.8%	5 10.6%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%	1 2.1%

Would you recommend Dalton State College to someone who wanted to major in nursing?

Yes	44	93.6%
No	3	6.4%

If you had to do it all again, would you select the Dalton State College nursing program?

Yes	40	85.1%
No	6	12.8%
No reply	1	2.1%

Please elaborate on your response.

- Because it is the best one around considering the other options.
- I feel it is a very good and difficult program. You learn a lot.
- I feel as if the nursing instructors are very knowledgeable and have definitely done their part to help me enter the nursing profession.
- If offered, I would have chosen a bachelor's program instead of the associates in nursing.
- The hard work that is expected (and it is so difficult to adjust the first semester) is the very thing that solidifies the labs, diagnoses, and material in our minds. I love and hate it, but appreciate it.
- Compared to other nursing programs, I've heard DSC prepares for a better nurse. It's harder and more demanding but you benefit more, later in your career.

What is your general attitude toward Dalton State College?

Very Positive	21	44.7%
Positive	22	46.8%
Negative	3	6.4%
Very Negative	0	0.0%
No reply	1	2.1%

ABOUT DALTON STATE COLLEGE (continued)

Overall, how did your experiences at Dalton State College meet your need in the following areas?

	<i>Very Well</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>No reply</i>
Intellectual growth	27 57.4%	17 36.2%	1 2.1%	2 4.3%
Personal growth	26 55.3%	18 38.3%	1 2.1%	2 4.3%
Preparation for career	25 53.2%	19 40.4%	1 2.1%	2 4.3%

Please use the space below for any additional comments you wish to make about the nursing program or about Dalton State College.

- I was refused financial aid because I had too many hours in another field of study.
- It was extremely challenging and I feel a great sense of accomplishment having finished the program.
- Facilities are too cold.