

*SIUE Nursing students find comprehensive educational opportunities and a community in which individuals support each other in their search for knowledge and individual development.*



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**EDWARDSVILLE**  
SCHOOL OF NURSING

## SNAPShot

**Overview:** The Student Nurse Achievement Program (SNAP) is a proposed five-year bachelor of science in nursing program (instead of a traditional four-year program). **Students will sign contracts to return to their communities for at least one year after graduation** to provide quality, competent nursing services through the region's health care agencies.

**Background:** Developed with the guidance of a nursing student focus group and the advisory board of the University's East St. Louis Learning Center.

**Target Communities:** Greater St. Louis area, including East St. Louis, Fairmont, Washington Park, Lovejoy, Fairmont City, and Cahokia.

**Target Students:** Top high-school graduates from schools in underachieving districts.

**Students will receive:**

- Two years of freshman general course work at the SIUE East St. Louis Learning Center to help students confidently problem solve, write and verbally communicate in nursing courses.
- Admission to and mainstreaming into the regular Edwardsville Campus nursing program upon meeting its standard requirements (2.7 GPA; pass entrance exam; nursing community service).
- Teaching by a faculty that will receive training in meeting the needs of the disadvantaged student.
- A laptop computer for use at school and clinicals. This will provide the students the means to complete web-based course work, use on-line library resources to research for papers, prepare and conduct class presentations, and feel fully confident in the practice setting as computers are now so highly integrated into patient care.
- Study tables with fellow students and a non-nursing faculty mentor who tutors in math, English, Science, writing and reading, advises on time and money management and study skills, and helps students deal with personal problems.
- A nursing faculty mentor from day one in the program to help with curriculum transition and development of a nursing identity.
- Summer immersions on the SIUE campus to prepare the students for lab work and assimilation into campus life.
- Field trips to a variety of health care settings, conferences, and legislative events.
- A booklet (created by our faculty) on the contributions that African Americans and Latinos have made to the nursing profession to boost awareness and identity.

**What will be different as the result of SNAP?**

- Our program will give disadvantaged students the tools to reach their full potential as productive citizens who contribute to the health, stability, and quality of life in their communities.
- Our program will increase and help us maintain a diverse enrollment in our School that is truly representative of the population we serve.
- We will improve our baccalaureate success rate with disadvantaged populations.
- Health care will improve in our target communities through the growth of a highly qualified nursing pool that will fill the vacancies that have decimated services.
- If proven successful, our University has committed to continuing the program (and it will expand to 30 new students per year).
- We will share our findings with universities around the country and encourage replication of the program in communities facing similar circumstances.