Barbara Irene Campbell
Advisor: Ann A. Hodges, PhD, FNC, Assistant Professor
"USDA Fruit and Vegetable Grant: An Evaluation of its Effectiveness in School-Age Children"

My previous degree is from The Oklahoma State University. I believe nursing will provide me unique opportunities to integrate my passions for evolving my knowledge of food and my desire to address public health concerns related to nutrition and wellness.

Mary Virginia Carter*
"The Care of Children with Type 1 Diabetes in North Carolina Charter School: Experiences of Unlicensed Assistive Personnel"

I grew up in a large extended family with many members employed in the medical field. Several of my aunts are nurses, and their touching stories drew me to the nursing profession. I chose to go into nursing because it combines my fascination of human biology with my passion for helping those in need.

Nicole Ashley Frazer
Advisor: Shere Ballow, PhD, RN, FAN, Professor of Nursing and Director, Doctoral and Post-graduate Programs
"Examining the Interest in an Online Support Group for Young Breast Cancer Survivors"

I chose to go into nursing as a second-degree student. I recognized it as an ideal career path that would allow me the opportunity to help people and communities regardless of race and creed. I want to care for others who cannot care for themselves and to help make others comfortable in their own lives. I am nursing as a profession where I could dedicate myself to my work, continuously learn, grow, and develop. As a nurse, I can work as an ever-evolving field while providing care.

Ryan Elizabeth Love
Advisor: Shere Ballow, PhD, RN, FAN, Professor of Nursing and Director, Doctoral and Post-graduate Programs
"Critical Care Nurses’ Knowledge of Central Venous Catheter Dressing Management"

It may sound redundant, but I believe everyone has a calling in life to do something that makes a difference in the lives of others and gives them a feeling of fulfillment and well-being. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree, traveled around the world, and sought more opportunities in search of determining my own calling. Nursing is my calling because caring for people makes a positive difference in my life; it has broadened my opportunities, and I have the latitude to meet the challenges of a nurse.

Erin Elizabeth Marett
Advisor: Mary Ann Apel, PhD, RN, Professor of Nursing and Chair, Family Health Division
"The Benefits of Equine Assisted Activities for Children with Autism"

I chose nursing as my profession because nursing is a combination of my interests in animals and learning. I enjoy learning about the physiology of the human body and the healthcare interventions devised thus far to treat medical conditions and illnesses. I also enjoy interacting with others in a meaningful way and providing assistance to others that enable physical, emotional, and psychological growth. The profession of nursing provides opportunities that will continually challenge me with new situations and enhance my critical thinking skills, fostering an environment for learning and professional growth.

Micah Andrew McCanna
Advisor: Susan D. Pitt, PhD, RN, Clinical Instructor
" Liberation from Mechanical Ventilation: An Evaluation of Protocols, Extubation Time, and Risks Associated"

I have always wanted to pursue a career in the medical field. I am not sure where I wanted to end up, though. After receiving my BS degree in Exercise Physiology I decided to pursue nursing as a profession. I graduated from the Masters of Health Education and Promotion Program at East Carolina University where I also taught health education for a new year. This was a great job but I was not happy. I found myself at work without the knowledge base that I needed. I started shadowing at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and I fell in love with what I saw. I shadowed a nurse in the Cardiac ICU and was hooked.

* Denotes Highest Honors

Julia E. Rasmussen
Advisor: Jon Grote, MPH, MSN, RVN, PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor
"Cystic Fibrosis-Related Diabetes: A Review of the Literature and Recommendations for Improved Screening"

Nursing is a chosen field that allows me to combine all of my interests: teaching, physiology, and personal relationships. To be a nurse is to consider and prioritize all of the factors affecting your patient’s life from the physiological to the psychosocial. This thoughtful and interdisciplinary approach is what I love about nursing.

Elizabeth A. Reeves*
Advisor: Cheryl Woods-Gonzalez, PhD, MSN, RN, Clinical Assistant Professor
"Examining Social, Cultural, and Personal Factors that Afflict Infant Feeding Practices among Low-Income African-American Women"

Nursing requires a complex knowledge of the human body and the human spirit, and the ability to provide care for their health. The interactions nurses have with their patients provide daily opportunities for the development of the nurse’s knowledge and skill set, as well as for personal growth. Nursing is the ultimate hands-on learning experience, making it a dynamic and professional profession that I look forward to partake in. I also believe that nursing can play a significant role in addressing social inequality and injustice—by advocating for and creating equal opportunities for nurses, nurses can improve the well-being of all patients and contribute to a more equitable and just society for everyone.

Mary Kelly Reid
Advisor: Kathryn R. Alden, EdD, RN, IBCLC, Assistant Professor
"Women’s Satisfaction with Their Labor and Birth Experiences"

I have always had a strong interest in science and healthcare, along with a calling to come in service of others. Nursing combines both for perfectly.

Mary Catherine Rich
Advisor: Mary Ann Apel, PhD, RN, Professor of Nursing and Chair, Family Health Division
"Constructing Support: Adaptation and Resilience in a Latino Family With a Son with Down Syndrome"

Nursing impacts lives. It is a deep and meaningful role. My experience in Ecuador as a Peace Corps volunteer at a rural health clinic motivated me to become a nurse.

Micker K. Samios*
Advisor: Jeanne Truel, PhD, RN, COPN, Clinical Assistant Professor
"Transitioning Kids with Cystic Fibrosis to Independent Care"

Caring for others comes naturally to me. Nursing impacts me to provide holistic individualized care to more than just our patient, but also to our families, coworkers, and myself. Nursing is perfect for me, as it allows me to provide quality care, conduct research and continually expand and develop my knowledge and experiences. This holds true for me.

Sara Anne Schumann*
Advisor: Mary Ann Apel, PhD, RN, Professor of Nursing and Chair, Family Health Division
"Implementation of a Bedside Family Charting Tool in the NICU"

I chose nursing as my profession because nursing provides a more holistic framework with which one can care for patients and their families along the health and illness continuum.

Kara Elise Timmons
Advisor: Carla Fleming, PhD, RN, Clinical Instructor
"Caring for the Bariatric Population in the Hospital Setting — An Online Module"

I always loved science and the human body, which drew me toward healthcare. However, it was my love of human interaction and my compassion for others that drew me toward nursing. Also operating some time working in a surgical clinic and nursing on medical-surgical, I found that nursing holds the professional desire to care for others who need care during times of vulnerability. Additionally, I found the endless possibilities for professional growth to be exciting and encouraging.

Lara Elizabeth Whalley
Advisor: Joyce Berry, PhD, ANP-BC, Assistant Professor
"Dietary Consumption Patterns in Hispanic Mothers with 2-to-4 Year Old Children"

I have always practiced traditional medicine but finally decided to go into nursing after helping many sick relatives in the hospital. I was not passionate about caring for people, but nursing combined everything I was looking for in a career including continual learning experiences, intensity, advanced technology and knowledge, and variety.

Susan Elizabeth Wilson*
Advisor: Megan P. Williams, MSN, RVN, PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor
"The Effectiveness of Burn Camp — A Pilot Study"

I strongly believe the nursing profession chose me. Throughout my life I was introduced to the world of nursing without my realization. I always knew I wanted to work with people, but was unclear in what capacity. I never thought my career path would lead me to become a Nurse, but here I am today, and I love it exactly where I belong.