The Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) are excited to work in partnership with the nursing community to explore and implement best practices for the mathematics education of nurses. In collaboration with Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN), we aim to catalyze the improvement of both nursing student success and quality practice. Effective quantitative reasoning skills are essential for safe nursing practice, both in medication administration and in quality improvement. This long-term collaboration and comprehensive national initiative will identify the key mathematical concepts and skills that nurses need to be successful in their careers, will guide reform in educational practices and assessment, and will create a set of student learning outcomes for associate and baccalaureate nurses.

The vision for the larger initiative is timely and ambitious: All students in nursing programs gain the mathematical knowledge, skills, and attitudes to promote and provide safe, high-quality health care.

Get involved!

Join our task force!

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Take our survey!


Nurses use complex mathematics every day. Are you prepared?
www.utdanacenter.org/math-for-nurses

Given the information shown in these orders...

...how much acetaminophen should the nurse draw up?

Patient questions such as:

AM I HIV POSITIVE?

...require an understanding of the math.

100 Positive HIV Tests
Per 30,000 HIV Tests

91.7% POS
8.3% FALSE NEG

99.9% NEG
0.1% FALSE POS

PROB(POS|TEST POS) = 92/122 ≈ 75%

- Out of 30,100 HIV tests, 122 would test positive, while only 92 would be HIV positive.
- Of 4 people who tested positive for HIV, 3 would be HIV positive.