



Watts College of Nursing (WCON) Relocation

Reason for Move & Strategic Alignment

1. Why is Watts College of Nursing (WCON) moving to the Interprofessional Education and Care Center (IPEC) building on Trent Drive?

WCON is relocating to ensure we offer our students the best facilities and learning experience. This aligns with Duke Health's broader educational and clinical mission. This move will enhance collaboration between the Duke University School of Nursing, Duke University Health System, and Watts College of Nursing. This move will expand opportunities for students and faculty.

2. Why is WCON relocating now after 18 years in its current location?

The decision to relocate WCON aligns with strategic growth initiatives within Duke Health. As healthcare education evolves, this move provides an opportunity to enhance collaboration, optimize resources, and create a more integrated learning environment for students and faculty. Additionally, being on Duke's campus allows for greater access to state-of-the-art facilities, continuing education opportunities, and clinical partnerships, ultimately strengthening WCON's ability to prepare for the future.

Identity & Curriculum

3. Will WCON maintain its identity and independence?

Watts College of Nursing will remain a separate nursing program while co-locating within the Duke Health community. This move is designed to enhance collaboration while respecting Watts' unique history and mission.

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4. Will WCON have its own curriculum?

There will be no changes to either school's curriculum as a result of this move. WCON and DUSON will continue to maintain each school's individual curriculum.

5. Will DUSON faculty be teaching WCON courses?

No, this move will not impact DUSON faculty teaching. WCON faculty will continue to lead their own courses.

Timeline & Key Milestones

6. When is the move happening?

The relocation is planned for July 2025, with key logistics and preparations taking place between February and August 2025.

7. What are the key milestones leading up to the move?

The transition will take place in phases, with major milestones including:

- February 2025 – Official move announcement and preparation
- May 2025 – Transition logistics and final move preparations
- June/July 2025 – Full relocation and move-in completion
- August 2025 – Open house and integration activities

Impact on Faculty, Staff, and Students

8. How will faculty, staff, and students be impacted by this move?

Faculty and staff will transition to working in the new location on the Duke University campus, which may affect commutes, parking, office spaces, and workflows. Students will also experience changes in classroom locations, accessibility, and campus navigation. Leadership is working to minimize disruptions and ensure a smooth transition.

9. How will this move impact WCON students?

Students will experience changes in building location and campus navigation. Leadership is ensuring that student resources, study spaces, and essential facilities are clearly communicated and readily accessible.

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Facilities & Shared Spaces

10. Will WCON staff, faculty, and students use DUSON facilities?

WCON faculty and staff will have access to their own designated mailroom, kitchen space, and workrooms within the 3rd-Floor IPEC. They will continue to maintain their own admissions office, student services support, education specialists, curriculum, and teaching resources. WCON students, staff, and faculty will be welcome to use the 1st-Floor student lounge in Pearson and shared space such as the atrium. WCON faculty and staff will have designated offices within the 3rd-floor IPEC space. The WCON and CEPD teams will be invited to Duke Ahead and DANCE activities and invited to presentations that are related to nursing such as the Global Health Lecture.

11. Will WCON use DUSON simulation facilities?

WCON's curriculum is primarily low-fidelity skills labs and is less than 10 percent simulation-based. Their students will use our facilities for skills lab needs while their faculty and clinical staff will continue to participate in faculty workshops as they are already doing. All the skills lab teaching will be led by WCON faculty.

WCON has a staff member who will be the primary liaison dedicated to scheduling and coordinating with our Center for Nursing Discovery team.

12. Will WCON use DUSON classroom support?

WCON will utilize OIT for their office technical support. Our classroom support specialists will be available to assist WCON faculty with classroom technology. WCON will continue to handle their own Ed Tech needs within their school.

Parking & Transportation

13. What changes should WCON faculty and staff expect regarding parking and transportation?

Parking availability, permits, and costs may differ from WCON's current setup. We are actively working on parking solutions, transit options, and clear guidance for all impacted employees. Additional details will be shared as they become available.

Communication & Support During the Transition

14. How will the leadership inform faculty, staff, and students about the transition?

A multi-channel communication approach will be used, including:

- Email updates from leadership

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- Town halls & meetings for Q&A sessions
- Intranet updates with key documents and resources FAQs and resource guides for quick reference
- For questions, please contact: bettertogether@duke.edu

15. What resources will be available to help with the transition?

Leadership is developing a comprehensive transition plan that includes:

- Moving logistics & virtual campus tour
- Updated policy guides & orientation materials
- Dedicated support contacts for faculty, staff, and students

16. How can the faculty and staff provide feedback or ask questions about the move?

Feedback is encouraged through town hall meetings, leadership office hours, and direct communication with project leaders. Additionally, an online feedback form and email contact will be made available for ongoing inquiries.