



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-2024

# *Message from the Dean*

**Costantine Daher, PhD**

The Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing stands as one of the region's premier institutions for preparing healthcare professionals nurses who are distinguished by their clinical excellence, commitment to community service, and dedication to lifelong learning. Grounded in our core values of teaching, research, and community engagement, our School continues to lead with purpose and compassion.

Quality has always been the cornerstone of our development. Our accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is a powerful affirmation of the high standards we uphold in nursing education. As we look ahead, our strategic vision is to continuously elevate the caliber of clinical training and graduate nurses who are truly practice-ready. Our curriculum integrates evidence-based practice, interprofessional education, and a strong sense of social responsibility aimed at improving the health and well-being of communities in Lebanon and across the region.

This mission has taken on even greater significance in the face of Lebanon's unprecedented economic collapse and ongoing sociopolitical instability. Despite the hardships, including war, inflation, resource shortages, and uncertainty, our students and faculty have shown remarkable resilience, determination, and unity. Their unwavering commitment to education, patient care, and community service during these trying times is nothing short of inspiring. They embody the spirit of nursing: steadfast, selfless, and courageous.

Our talented faculty and dedicated staff ensure that students receive not only the essential clinical and academic preparation but also the moral support and mentorship needed to thrive in today's challenging healthcare environment. The Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing at the Lebanese American University is known for its student-centered education and tight-knit, nurturing community. Here, students are equipped not only with knowledge and technical skills but also with the empathy, leadership, and resilience required to become transformative agents in healthcare.

There is truly no better place to begin or advance your nursing journey. Employers across Lebanon and the region hold our graduates in high esteem, recognizing their exceptional training, professionalism, and sense of purpose. This collective success fills our entire community with immense pride.

We invite you to explore our program, visit [our website](#), and become part of our growing nursing family, one that is shaping the future of healthcare with compassion, courage, and excellence.



## *Message from the Program Director*

**Bahia Abdallah, PhD, MPH, RN**

As Director of Nursing, I am pleased to share the accomplishments of our BSN program, reflecting our commitment to academic excellence and professional readiness.

Our work aligns with the AACN Essentials for Baccalaureate Education (2021) and the CCNE Accreditation Standards (2018) to ensure every graduate is prepared to deliver safe, high-quality, evidence-based care.

Over the past year, we revised our BSN curriculum in consultation with an expert external reviewer to align with the latest 2021 AACN Essentials, ensuring our graduates meet national competency standards and are prepared for current healthcare practice demands (AACN, 2021; WHO, 2022). These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to producing competent, practice-ready nurses and addressing workforce gaps. We expanded clinical placement opportunities for BSN students by increasing our formal agreements with healthcare organizations. These partnerships ensure students access diverse, high-quality clinical settings, including hospitals, primary care, and community health organizations. Our focus on experiential learning strengthened through these new collaborations, equipping students with practical skills for real-world nursing. We also maintained a 100% Colloquium success rate, reflecting the academic rigor of the program and readiness for professional practice. In addition, more scholarships were secured to ease financial barriers, supporting student retention and success. We marked a major milestone by celebrating the 10th Anniversary of our BSN program during the Pinning Ceremony, recognizing a decade of preparing competent nursing graduates.

Our students actively participate in community health projects that promote health equity and address population health needs. Faculty remain dedicated to mentoring and academic support, ensuring students meet essential nursing competencies. Moving forward, the program will further expand clinical training sites through new partnerships, maintain the high standard of Colloquium success, increase scholarship opportunities, and ensure the curriculum aligns with national and global nursing education standards.

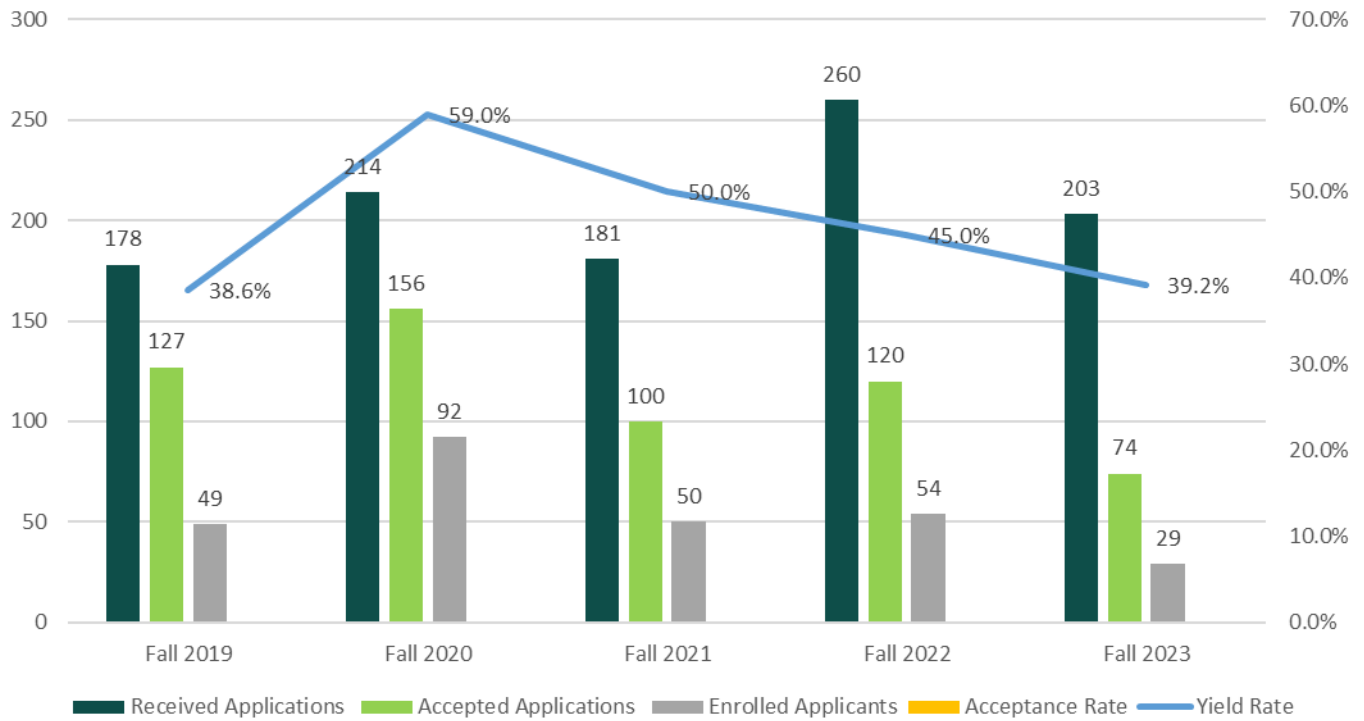
Looking ahead, we will initiate new diploma programs based on current needs and healthcare system demands. These programs will expand professional pathways for students and support the development of specialized nursing workforce.

Thank you to our faculty, students, and clinical partners. Your dedication strengthens our BSN program and ensures we produce nurses ready to meet the demands of today's healthcare systems.

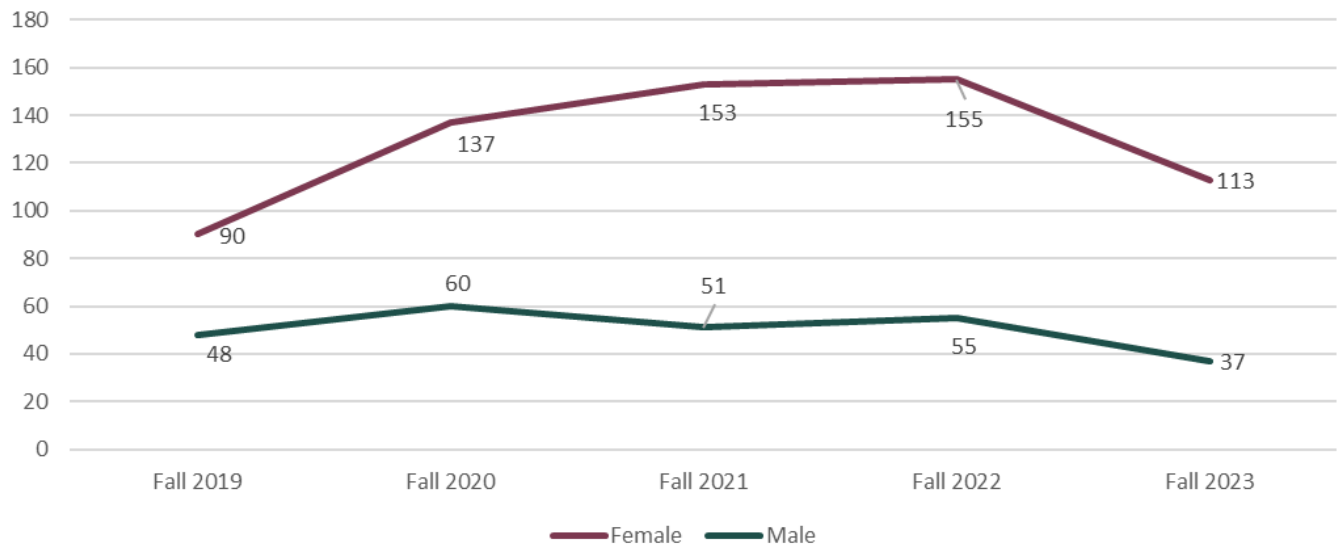


## Trends in Admissions and Enrollment

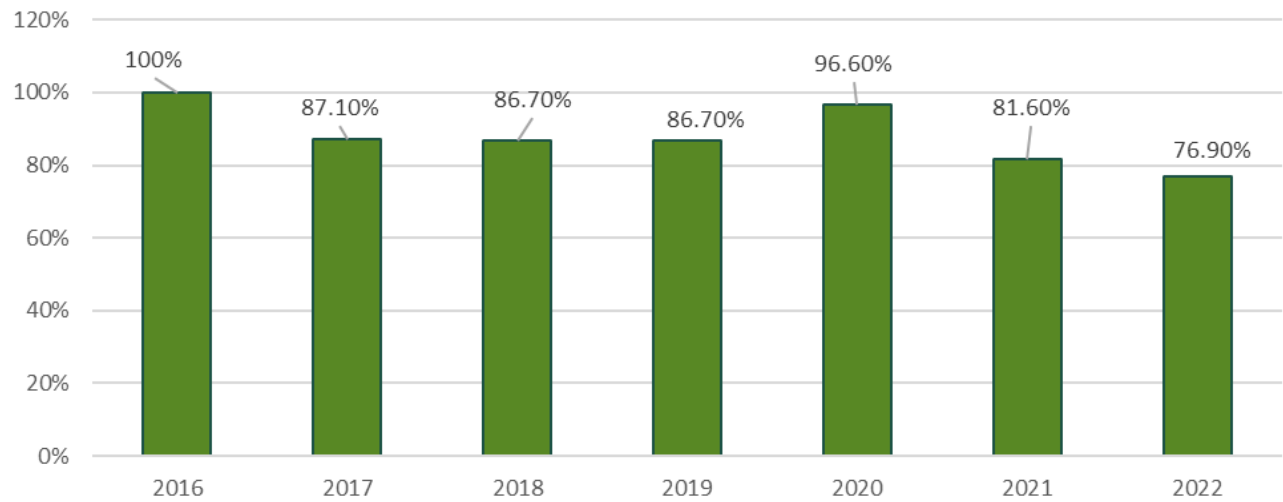
### Enrollment Trends and Yield Rates 2019-2023



### Enrollment by Gender 2019-2023

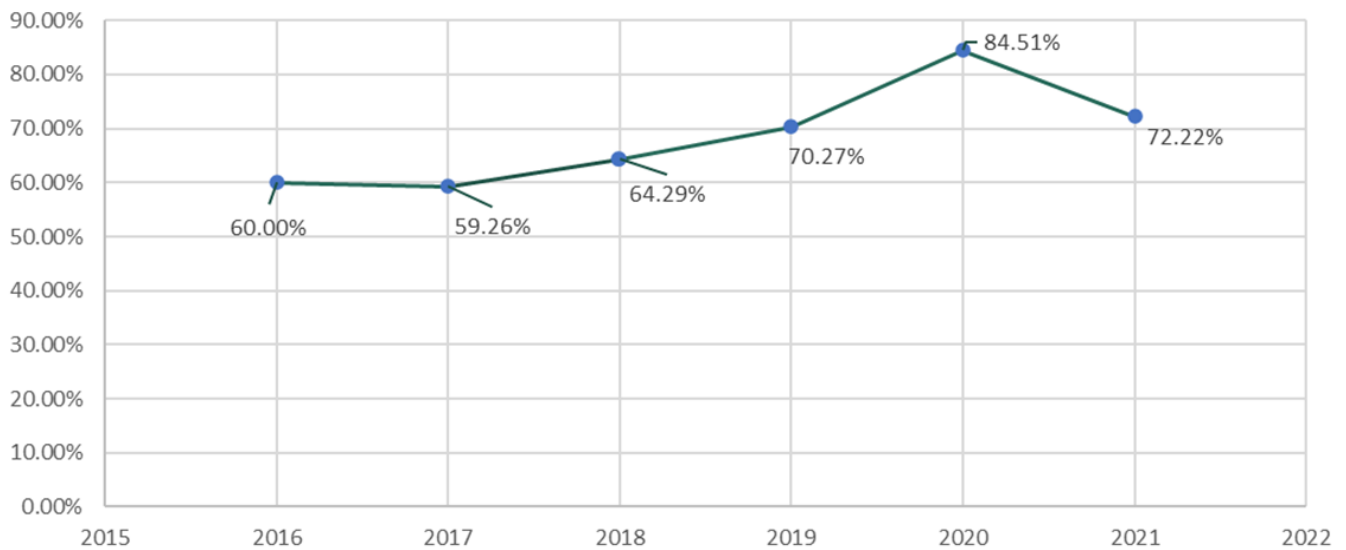


**BSN Retention Rates 2016-2022**

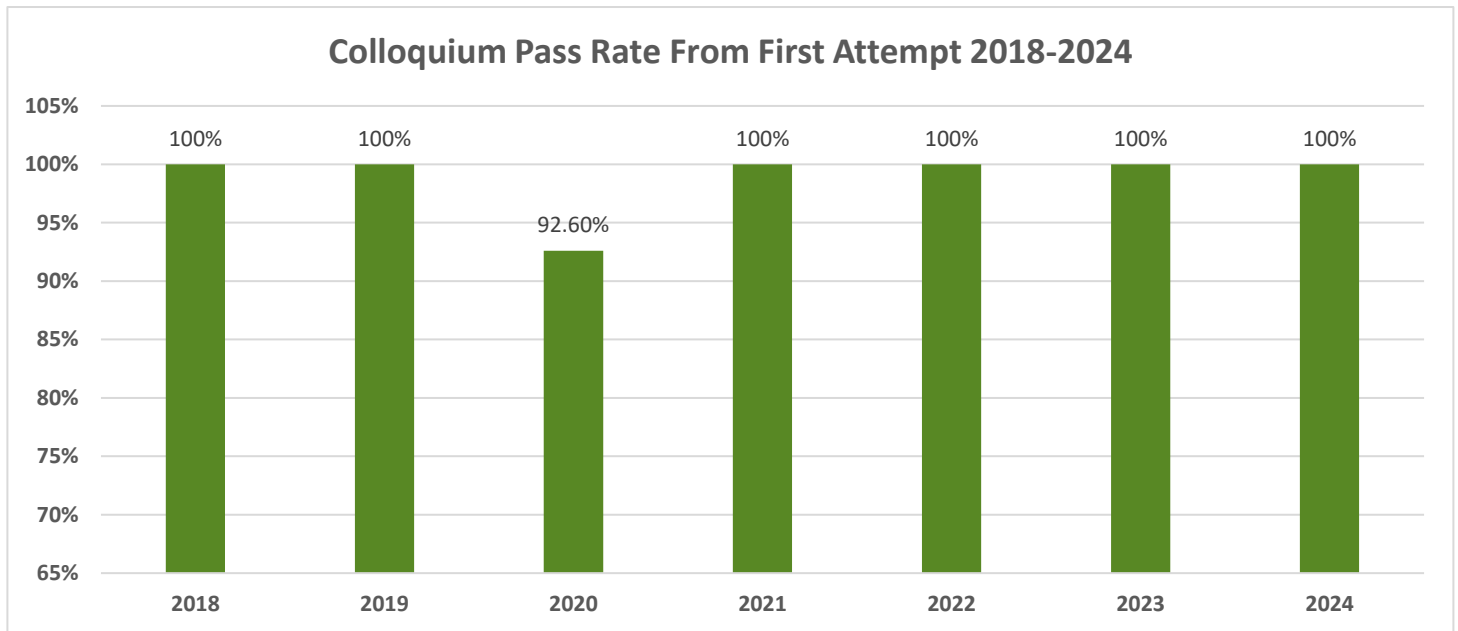


## *Graduation Rates*

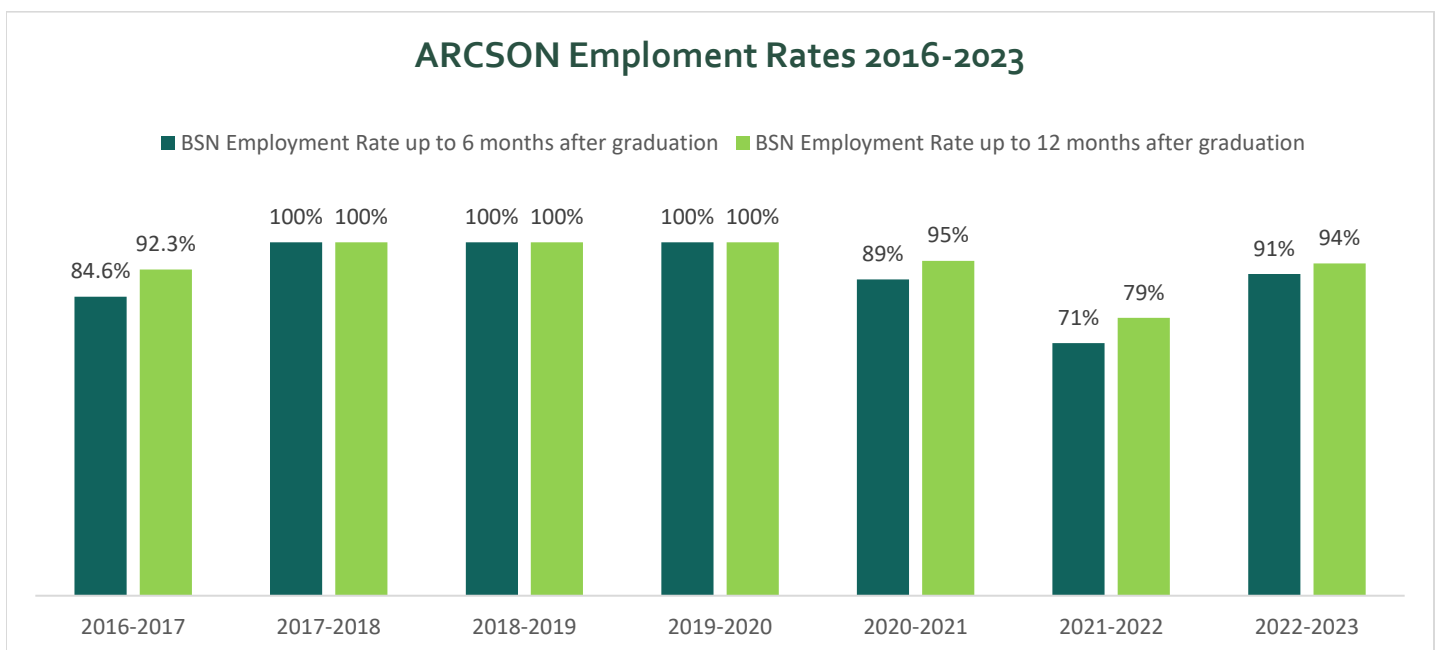
**BSN Graduation Rates within three years**



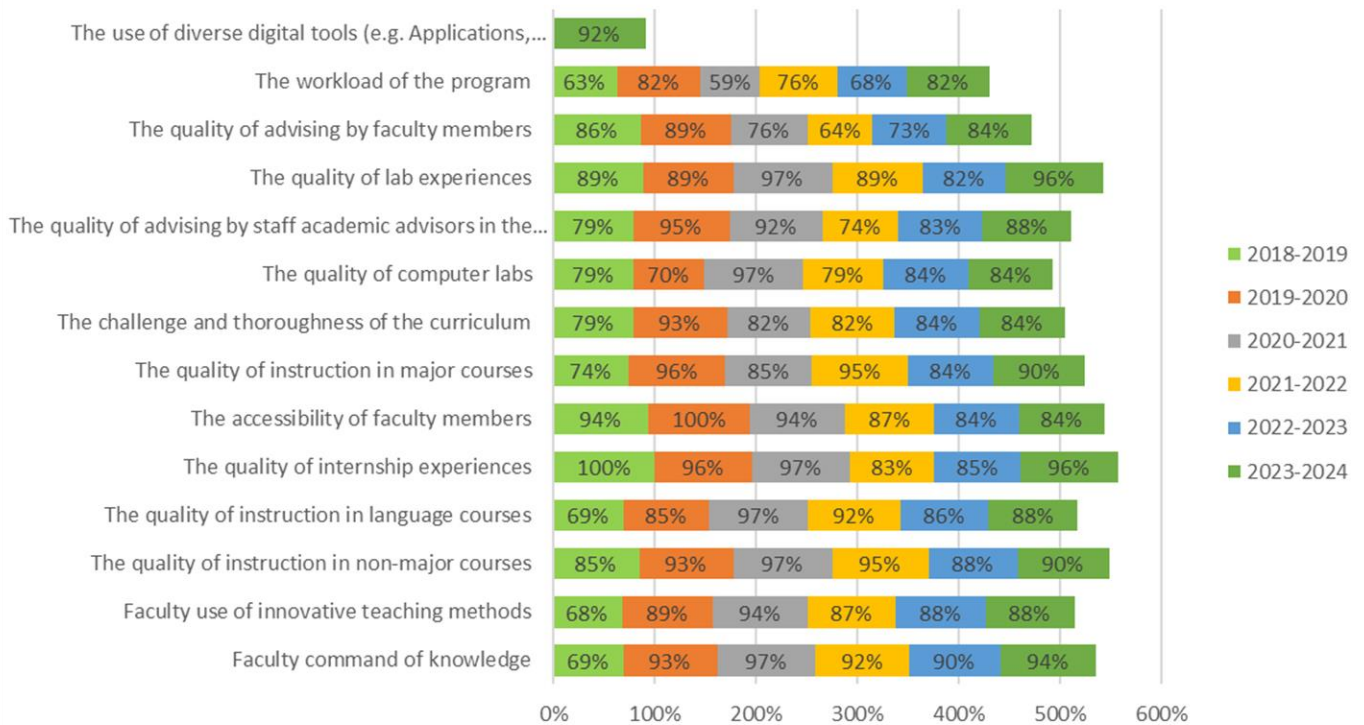
## Colloquium Pass Rates



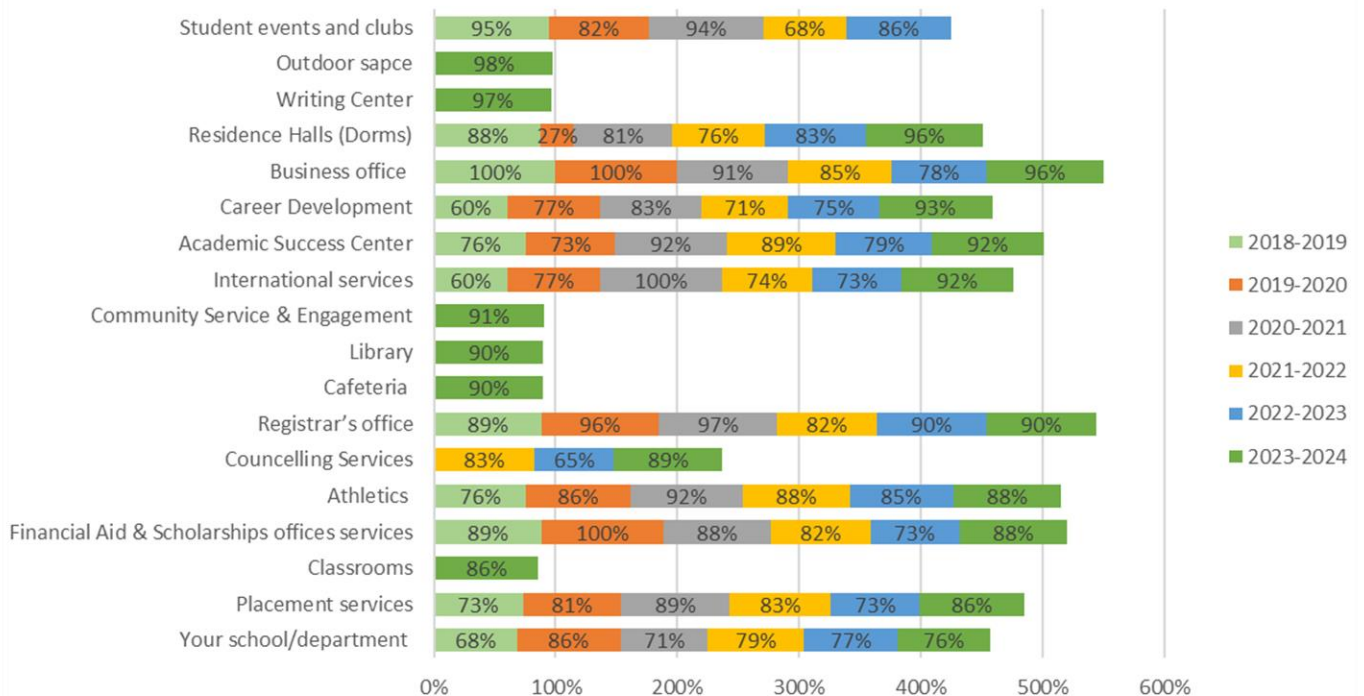
## Trends in Employment Rates



## Student Satisfaction rates with LAU academic services 2018-2024



## ARCSON student satisfaction with LAU Services 2018-2024



**Dr. Costantine  
Daher**

Lteif, A., Shebaby, W., El Hage, M., ... Mroueh, M., **Daher, C.F.** (2024). Lebanese cannabis oil as a potential treatment for acute myeloid leukemia: In vitro and in vivo evaluations. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 333, 118512.

Slika, A., Haydar, C., Chacra, J.B., ... Aldrich-Wright, J.R., **Daher, C.F.** (2024). Unveiling the chemotherapeutic potential of two platinum(IV) complexes in skin cancer: in vitro and in vivo Insights. *Current Research in Pharmacology and Drug Discovery*, 2024, 7, 100205.

Elias, M.G., Mehanna, S., Nasser, S., **Daher, C.F.**, Khnayzer, R.S. (2024). A Ru(II) Polypyridyl Complex Bearing Bathocuproine Ligand is a Potent Chemotherapeutic Agent Against Chemically Induced Skin Cancer Model. *Advanced Therapeutics*.

Ismail, J., Shebaby, W.N., Daher, J., ... **Daher, C.F.**, Mroueh, M. (2024). The Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*): A Phytochemical and Pharmacological Review. *Plants*, 13(1), 93.

Najwa Mansour, Stephanie Mehanna, Kikki Bodman-Smith, **Costantine F. Daher**, Rony S. Khnayzer (2024). A Ru(II) strained complex with 2,9-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline ligand induces selective photoactivatable chemotherapeutic activity on human alveolar carcinoma cells via apoptosis. *Pharmaceutical*. 17(1), 50.

Joy Baz, Aleen Khoury, Maria George Elias, Najwa Mansour, Stephanie Mehanna, Omar Hammoud, Christopher P. Gordon, Robin I. Taleb, Janice R. Aldrich-Wright and **Costantine F. Daher** (2024). Polyaromatic Platinum(II) Complex and its Platinum(IV) Prodrug Against Lung Cancer. *Chemico-Biological Interactions*, 388, 110834.

**Dr. Bahia  
Abdallah**

Abir Abdel Rahman, Nada O F Kassem, Marc Lewis Emrys Edwards, **Bahia Abdallah**, Rana Abdel Malak, Adding sugar to children's beverages: a theory of planned behavior study of Lebanese mothers, *Health Promotion International*, Volume 39, Issue 6, December 2024, daae146, <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/daae146>

**Dr. Maha  
Habre**

Interprofessional collaboration among nurses and physicians in Lebanon  
**Habre, M.A.**, Dolansky, M., Lotas, M., Allam, S., Fitzpatrick, J.  
*Journal of Interprofessional Education and Practice*, 2023, 32, 100627

**Dr. Mahmoud  
Salam**

**Salam, M.** and Honein-AbouHaidar, G., 2023. Determinants of influenza and COVID-19 vaccine intent or uptake in Lebanon: a scoping review of the literature. *BMC Infectious Diseases*, 23(1), pp.1-18.

Damsees, R., Jaghbir, M., **Salam, M.**, Al-Omari, A., & Al-Rawashdeh, N. (2023). Unravelling the predictors of late cancer presentation and diagnosis in Jordan: a cross-sectional study of patients with lung and colorectal cancers. *BMJ open*, 13(5), e069529.

Factors associated with COVID-19 vaccine uptake and hesitancy among multinational refugees and migrants in Jordan  
Ali, M., **Salam, M.**  
*International Migration*, 2024, 62(4), pp. 57–81

- PIRF (2023)- Pre-clinical Safety Assessment of a Chloro-substituted Polyaromatic Platinum (IV) Prodrug in Pigs,  
Primary Investigator **Costantine Daher**, Co-PIs: Robin I. Taleb, Maria Elias, Omar Hammoud, Amjad Slika, Janice Aldrich-Wright and Aleen Khoury.

SRRC Grant (2024)- Predictors of Breastfeeding Self-efficacy,  
Primary Investigator **Bahia Abdallah**, Co-PIs: Pia Tohme, Roudy Abi Habib.

*Peer Review  
Recent  
Publications*

*Grants*

## *Giving Back to the Community*

### *Community Activities*

In the fall of 2023, senior nursing students participated and organized the activities of the community course focused on health promotion, restoration, and rehabilitation for underprivileged populations. Key activities included home visits in Bourj Hammoud, where students assessed health and made referrals, conducted blood pressure and diabetes screenings at BEEMART supermarket, and held educational sessions at local health centers and schools on topics like breastfeeding, nutrition, and hygiene. Students also organized health awareness events at the LAU Beirut and Byblos campuses. They also led the health awareness activity in collaboration with the Ghazir Municipality and LAUMC-RH mobile clinic. Their efforts in early screening and health awareness helped in improving community well-being.





## ***Mental Health Fairs***

The senior nursing students hosted two mental health fairs at the International School and Collège des Filles de la Charité and Dar Em-Nour in northern Lebanon. The fairs purpose was to raise awareness about depression, anxiety, suicide, and substance abuse. The nursing students developed posters, educational games, and flyers to engage students, reaching more than 400 students in grades 9 to 12 with information on these important mental health topics.



## ***Community Health Fairs***

The senior students also organized two health fairs. The first one was conducted in collaboration with the Byblos Municipality. During this fair, students raised awareness about healthy lifestyles, breast cancer, diabetes, hypertension, bullying, burn management, and colorectal cancer. The SAID NGO provided free FIT test screening vouchers and support for the event, which was very well attended by the public.



The second health fair was held at the Byblos National School in partnership with Al Salamah Al Ahli Primary Healthcare Center and the SAID NGO.



## *Training of Trainers event in collaboration with SAID NGO*

Senior nursing students hosted and participated in a seminar with SAID NGO on raising awareness about colorectal cancer (CRC) and its early detection. The LAU Nursing Club then shared that CRC is preventable, treatable, and beatable with the LAU community, offering students practical knowledge and contributing to public health awareness.

## *National Organization for Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation (NOD-LB) Workshop*

On Saturday, October 07, 2023, ARSCON collaborated with the National Organization for Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation (NOD-LB) to conduct a workshop for senior nursing students at LAU. The workshop covered the significance of organ donation, the nurse's role, family communication about donation, eligibility criteria, and ethical issues.





## ***Meet and Greet Event organized by the Nursing Club***

On January 30, 2024, The Nursing Club organized a welcoming meet-and-greet event at the start of the Spring 2024 semester. This event was designed to foster a sense of community, offer academic guidance, and support emotional well-being, ensuring a smooth and supportive integration into campus life.

## ***HPV Awareness Session by the Children Cancer Center of Lebanon***

On April 22, 2024, the Nursing Club, in collaboration with the Children Cancer Center of Lebanon, organized an event to raise awareness about HPV and its connection to cervical cancer. The event focused on the importance of vaccination, early detection, and prevention. Representatives from the center also discussed their fundraising efforts, inspiring nursing students with their dedication to supporting children with cancer.





## ***Recognition and Pinning Ceremony "Strive, Evolve, Serve, and Excel!"***

ARCSON hosted its annual Nursing Recognition and Pinning Ceremony on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at the Byblos campus, under the theme "Strive, Evolve, Serve, and Excel!" to honor the 2024 nursing graduates. The event highlighted the hope for a brighter future in healthcare.

The ceremony featured speeches by President Mawad, Dean Daher, and Program Director Dr. Abdallah, along with a keynote address by Dr. Abdinasir Abubakar, the Acting Representative of the World Health Organization in Lebanon. Ms. Samia Itani delivered a speech representing her classmates. Graduating nurses received the school's honorary centennial pins during the event, and various awards were presented and acknowledged.





## *Igniting Passion: ARCSON's Transformative Nursing Summer Camp*

ARCSON held its first Summer Camp, on June 28, 2024, offering high school students interested in healthcare a hands-on nursing experience.

The camp featured activities, mentorship, and skill-building in hand hygiene, Basic Cardiac Life Support (BLS), and vital signs measurement. Students learned about nursing's importance, with insights from ARCSON leaders and financial aid information from Mrs. Ghada Abi Fares.

A simulation lab session emphasized the critical role of nurses, and the camp included a scholarship competition. Participants received certificates, and two winners got hiking vouchers.



# Nursing Graduates Highlights and Achievements

## Acknowledgment by LAU

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On June 6, 2024, 72 graduates of the Higher Education Scholarship (HES) program celebrated their success at LAU's Byblos campus. Supported by USAID, the ceremony honored their academic achievements and community impact. Three graduates from the Alice Ramez Chagoury School of Nursing received Excellence Awards: **Ahmad Mneimneh** (first), **Yasine Jazieh** (second), and **Maria Naim** (third). Mneimneh described his HES experience as life-changing, offering him a supportive environment to grow.



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At the nursing class of 2024 Pinning and Recognition Ceremony, students recited the Florence Nightingale Pledge and received their pins. Three awards were presented: **Maria Abou Nader** received the Dean's Award for Clinical Excellence, **Ahmad Mneimneh** earned the Dean's Inspirational Award, and **Yasin Jazieh** was honored with the Dean's Research Award.



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Nursing Graduate: Ms. **Valeria Nasr** was selected as Campus valedictorian in the 2024 Byblos campus commencement exercises and received the President Award for her outstanding leadership traits.



Ms. **Nour Waizani** received the Torch Award in the 2024 Commencement Exercises for her high leadership and service spirit, through volunteer work, sense of commitment and dedication, and ethical attitude.

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## *Promoting the Nursing Mission and Gaining Recognition*

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In 2024, graduate Ms. **Nour Waizani** was appointed as a Youth Representative for UNICEF Lebanon and represented the country at the Regional High-Level Meeting in Tunisia. The event, organized by multiple UN agencies, focused on improving the transition from learning to work, with a focus on digital skills and gender equality. Ms. Waizani participated in youth-led sessions and presented Lebanon's commitment to youth development to global and Arab leaders.



The Beirut Lions Club recognized nursing student **Sally Abou El Ezz** for her efforts in enhancing the image of professional nursing, both as a student and as a leader within the university and

## Acknowledging our donors

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The school celebrated two champions of its mission. Wildlife photographer and philanthropist Michel Zoghzoghi received an honorary plaque for ten years of sustaining the Dima Healthcare Scholarship Fund, which has kept doors open for nursing students with financial need. We also welcomed American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), represented by Ms. Dima Zayat Shehab, Deputy Country Director – Lebanon, and thanked the organization for its unwavering support to the nursing profession across Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan.



*Mr. Michel Zoghzoghi received his honorary plaque during the nursing recognition and Pinning Ceremony held on June 6, 2023.*



*Ms. Dima Zayat Shehab received the honorary plaque on behalf of ANERA during the nursing recognition and Pinning Ceremony held on May 30, 2024.*

## *LAU Research Day 2024*

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At LAU Research Day 2024, held on April 18 at the Byblos campus, **Dr. Bahia Abdallah** and **Dr. Mahmoud Salam** demonstrated their strong commitment to student mentorship and academic research by serving as session chairs in the Health Sciences track. Dr. Abdallah chaired the Health Sciences B session, which showcased postdoctoral and graduate student research in genetics, surgical innovation, and emerging cancer therapies. Dr. Salam chaired the Health Sciences A session, featuring studies in public health, general medicine, and pharmaceutical development. Their leadership and active engagement played a vital role in fostering a collaborative and research-driven environment for students and scholars alike.

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