Nursing students, as they do today, demonstrate their advocacy by submitting a petition to the President that they walk at graduation together and receive their degrees from Mrs. Haugen. It was denied.

The nursing program at Southern Oregon College was established in 1968, leading to an associate degree in nursing. The first class graduated in 1970. A baccalaureate completion program for registered nurses was added in 1975, the first one in the state of Oregon. Mrs. Betty Haugen was the founding director of the nursing program.

1970s

The VA Domiciliary in White City was an early clinical partner. Faculty Barbara Irvin observes an unidentified student administering insulin, circa 1972. Barbara taught in our nursing program across four decades, retiring in 2009.

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In the ten years from 1970-79 there were:
- 394 Associate Degree in Nursing graduates and
- 68 Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing graduates for a total of 462 nurses educated

Class of 1970
First Associate Degree Graduating Class

Terence R. Brown, Director of Financial Aid and Nursing Program Director Betty Haugen accept a scholarship in front of the new Science building, circa 1968

First Baccalaureate Degree Graduating Class, 1977

In 1975, Southern Oregon College was renamed Southern Oregon State College

Achieving a baccalaureate degree opened new doors for many nurses. Mariah Taylor recounts her experiences as an student coming to Ashland to complete her degree so she could continue her education to become a nurse practitioner. Mariah went on to open the North Portland Nurse Practitioner Community Health Clinic. In 2000, she received the Oprah Winfrey Use Your Life Award.

1972, student nurse Lonnie Pellott practices pulse assessment. While uniforms may go out of style, some skills never do.

Topics Senior Nursing Students Studied in 1978:
- Sexual Education for Adolescents
- Birth Control Clinic for Students
- Support Groups for the Dying
- Transcultural Nursing
- Reminiscence Groups in Gerontology

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