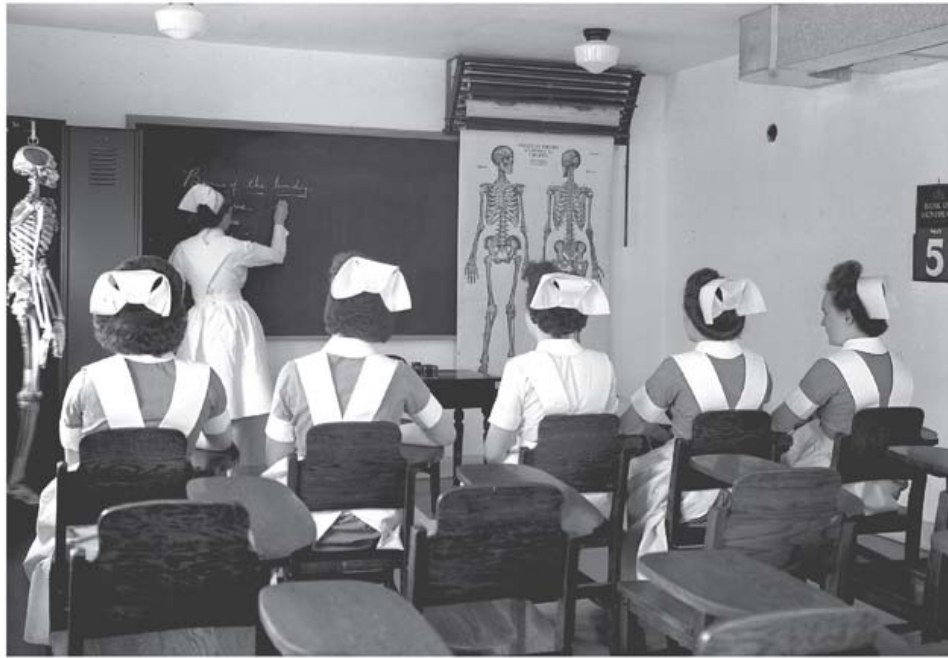


## 1910-1955

### Galt School of Nursing



Anatomy class in the Galt School of Nursing, 1945. A. E. Cross Studio Fonds: Miscellaneous Series: Galt Hospital Class, 20001094027

Many young women in southern Alberta dreamed of the day they would wear all white and tend the sick and injured. The Galt School of Nursing (GSN), which started in 1910, provided the necessary education and experience to achieve that dream. Olive (nee Cardwell) Faulds cooked for a threshing crew while Akiko (née Fujimagari) Kamitakahara worked in the Taber Cannery so they could afford to attend.

In the early years of the GSN, students like Margaret Hamilton trained as they worked with doctors and qualified nurses in the wards, operating rooms and laboratories. Eventually, classrooms were set up and students learned theory and practical skills (called Nursing Arts) under the guidance of Nursing Instructors like Miss Anne Fallis and Mrs. Evelyn Michael who taught in the 1950s.

The women spent three years, wearing the student uniform of blue dresses under white aprons with black shoes and stockings. They lived together in a residence under the strict supervision of a matron who enforced specific regulations that included evening curfews, instructions on how to make their beds and sort their laundry, and rules preventing them from visiting the Mounted Police Barracks. Time away from duties was rare and put to good use in trips to the mountains, corn roasts in the river valley and taking in the first part of a movie (then rushing back to residence before curfew).

At the end of training, those who passed the exams proudly traded the hated black shoes for white ones and added a black band to their caps. During the ceremony, held at Southminster Church, they received red roses from the doctors and recited the Florence Nightingale Pledge. The new nurses moved on to careers that took many of them to distant places.