The ATCN Course is taught concurrently with an approved Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS) Course.

Benefits of the ATCN Course include an educational, team building, collaborative, synchronized approach to trauma care as trauma nurses share didactic lectures with the physician attendees of the ATLS® Course. Physicians and nurses caring for trauma patients have the opportunity to share a common language and approach to trauma care. When the ATLS attendees break out for physician skill stations the ATCN nurses join small group trauma nursing skill stations.

These ATCN® skill stations are based on an interactive “hands-on”, scenario-based approach to adult education. The practical testing stations allow the ATCN students to demonstrate the application of ATLS and ATCN information on a moulaged patient. ATCN students are given both the ATLS Student Manual and the ATCN Student Manual.

The ATCN course was developed in response to a need for advanced trauma education for nurses. The ATCN course has been operational for over twenty five years and is under the auspices of the Society of Trauma Nurses (STN). STN is a professional, international nursing organization that spans the continuum of trauma care.

STN validates successful completion of the ATCN® Course and provides continuing education credit for completion of a course.

ATCN is currently available in over 25 states in the USA, and over 30 international sites. Current offerings include the Student, Update and Faculty Courses.
• The Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) is a nonprofit organization whose membership represents trauma nurses from around the world.

• STN Members span the continuum of trauma care in the prehospital setting, the emergency department, the perioperative arena, intensive care units, surgical floors, rehabilitation and outpatient services. They are Trauma Nurse. Coordinators and Trauma Program Managers, bedside clinicians, educators, prevention specialists, researchers, administrators, clinical nurse specialists and nurse practitioners.

• STN publishes The Journal of Trauma Nursing, a quarterly peer reviewed journal which members receive and to which institutions may subscribe

• STN has special interest groups and committees for members:
  o Pediatric Interest Group: A very active group of pediatric trauma nurses and trauma nurses interested in care of the pediatric trauma patient.
  o Rural Trauma Interest Group: This group focuses attention on the needs of trauma nurses who practice in a rural and small community setting.
  o Neurotrauma Special Interest Group: A new interest group which will address the needs and concerns of nurses interested in neurotrauma
  o Legislative Special Interest Group: This interest group is involved in monitoring trauma related public policy and advocacy at local, state, and national level, and maintains the STN Legislative Assistance Center.

• The STN provides educational programs, mentoring, outreach and services to its membership to assist trauma nurses in professional development.
  o Trauma Outcomes and Performance Improvement Course. (TOPIC)
  o Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN)
  o Annual Conference

• STN members may subscribe to the Trauma Nursing Listserve, essential for up to date information and resource sharing.