Shirley Jean Wright was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on August 19, 1929. Her parents were Murray Blair Wright and Marcella Buckel Wright. She received her elementary education in Budlong and Jamieson Public Schools, Chicago, Illinois, and in Ida M. Fisher Public School, Miami Beach, Florida. She received her secondary education in Saint Patrick's Parochial School, Miami Beach.

In September 1947 she entered Barry College, Miami, with a four-year tuition scholarship. She was graduated with the B. S. degree with distinction cum laude in June 1951. For three years, she worked as a student assistant in cancer research in the Unit of the Institutum Divi Thomae (Ohio) at Barry College. During her Senior year, she was elected to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" and to Delta Epsilon Sigma, a National Catholic honorary. In the summers of 1948, 1950, and 1951 she attended the University of Miami. In September 1951 she was admitted to the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and attended school there until June 1952.

In September 1952 she was admitted to the Graduate School of the University of Miami. While attending the Graduate School, she was privileged to hold assistantships and to teach at the Jackson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. She was granted the degree of Master of Science on August 31, 1955.

Permanent Address: 880 Seventy-first Street, Miami Beach, Florida.