Registered Nurse to Baccalaureate Online Option Nursing Program

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Message from the Coordinator

There is some good news in the RN to BS Online Option Nursing Program! The program is growing in admission as well as in the graduation of Registered Nurses. Also, the college has added more online general education courses and is maintaining online nursing courses that allow RNs to complete their requirements from SUNY Plattsburgh.

RN students are enrolled in this online program from every corner of New York State and beyond, while some RNs are also attending classes on-campus to experience college life.

More RN students were inducted in Sigma Theta Tau International National Honor Society of Nursing.

Spring 2010 semester begins on January 25, and you will have access to ANGEL one week prior to the start of classes. Have a great spring semester!

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Accreditation

The nursing program at SUNY Plattsburgh is approved by the New York State Education Department and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The College's Nursing Program is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, The Council of Deans of Nursing, and The Council of Directors of Nursing of Senior Colleges and Universities in New York. Plattsburgh has an active chapter (Alpha Delta) of Sigma Theta Tau International, the international honor society of nursing.
Prospective graduates
Nursing Pinning Ceremony, May 14, 2010

Graduation is coming soon, if you intend to purchase a pin, please email Len Stables, Academic Traditions – P.O. Box 693, Summerfield, NC 27358 at lenstables@aol.com. There will be a pinning ceremony and reception honoring both the generic and RN Option nursing graduates and their families the night before graduation, on Friday May 14, 2010 at 7:00 pm. Information will be provided in the future. Please let Anna Liem know if you are planning to attend the ceremony to ensure your name is listed in the program.

Commencement, May 15, 2010

Commencement will be on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 10:00 am at the College Field House. Caps and gowns are mandatory for participation in the graduation ceremony and can be purchased through the College Store at http://www.mypsudebookstore.com/ for $35.00 plus tax and shipping. Your advisor fervently hopes that you will be able to attend!

Please check for information on commencement at http://www.plattsburgh.edu/studentlife/commencement/spring/. Remember to send your completed diploma application to the Registrar’s office, thus your name be included in the commencement program!!

To qualify for the bachelor’s degree in nursing, you must complete a minimum of 120 semester hours of course work. The residency requirement for a baccalaureate degree from Plattsburgh State University is 36 credits. Commencement honors are based on the student’s GPA at PSU; students must complete at least 57 hours of residence study at PSU to be eligible for honors designations at graduation.

2009 Winter Commencement

On Saturday, December 12, 2009, five Registered Nurse to Baccalaureate Online Option Program nursing students received their degrees during the 2009 Winter Commencement ceremony, which was held in the Field House Gymnasium.

Winter 2009 graduates:

Kathleen M. Briggs—Addison, VT
Linda Caffrey—Mohegan Lake
Julie Anne Cruickshank—Massena
Jean Marie Penny—Massena
**Mathew Walter Rushford—Audubon, Penn
**Graduated Magna Cum Laude

From left:
Jean Penny (’09),
Kathleen Briggs (’09),
Mathew Rushford (’09),
Julie Cruickshank (’09) at the Winter 2009 graduation.

Congratulations to all graduates!!

Linda Caffrey (’09)
at work.
Sigma Theta Tau International
National Honor Society of Nursing
Gamma Delta Chapter

Sigma Theta Tau International is a prestigious organization of nurse leaders, scholars, and researchers. The Honor Society, founded at Indiana University in 1922 has chapters at colleges and universities across the globe. Membership in the Society is awarded to bachelor, masters and doctoral nursing students who achieve high scholastic averages, and to community nurse leaders who have made outstanding contributions to nursing.

On October 18, 2009, six RN to BS Online Nursing Option Program students were inducted as members of Gamma Delta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing at Newman Center in Plattsburgh.

The new inductees:
Jill Biggane
Christhelle M. Conlin
Jennifer M. MacDonald
Jean M. Penny (’09)
Mathew W. Rushford (’09)
Kristin M. Sciuto

Congratulations to Inductees!!!
Online Tutoring

The Learning Center's Online Writing Lab has been recently converted to Angel. The service is set up primarily for students taking online courses.

Accessing Angel

1. You should access Angel through PSU’s homepage (link on the bottom right hand side).
2. Once in Angel, scroll down to the bottom of the page, and click on the link to find Angel group sites.
3. When given a search box, type "online" then search.
4. When given a link for the Learning Center, click on it.
5. Once in the L.C site, you should have access to see what the site offers before actually logging in. However, if you want to utilize the service -- have a paper reviewed, for example, you need to Login to Angel.

Note

Using this service does not guarantee an improved grade on any document, homework assignment, or material submitted. OWL tutors are trained in their areas of expertise, but they cannot do your homework for you and they will not rewrite your paper for you. It is your responsibility to take a tutor's comments and work with them to improve your assignment.

Directions

Follow the following directions once in the online tutoring area:

- Attach a brief description of your assignment
- The date on which it is due

A listing of comments your professor has given you in the past regarding your work; those will be the focus of the tutorial from the tutor's perspective. Before submitting your document, you should read it out loud, either by yourself or with a friend present, to gauge clarity of your ideas and to proofread for editing errors. Please note that a response from a tutor may take 48 hours, and in some instances, you may be asked to revise and resubmit your document.

Online Writing Lab (OWL)

Remember, while the OWL do their best to work with all students who seek their support, a twenty-four hour turn around time is necessary to read and respond to the essays. You will also need to make sure you have ample time to make changes to your draft before submitting it to your instructor.

Writing Skills

Please contact Ms. Nichole Bennett-Bealer (Assistant Director/Writing Specialist at the Learning Center’s Online Writing Lab (OWL), if you need help with your writing skills. She can be reached at 'nbenne001@plattsburgh.edu' and is able to assist you at any point during the semester.
Advisor's Note

The RN to BS Online Option Nursing Program is designed for the working Registered Nurse and can be completed on a part-time or full-time basis. I am the advisor for all students enrolled in the RN to BS Online Option program, my email address is liemak@plattsburgh.edu. Please do not hesitate to discuss your plans with me. All nursing courses and most of the general education and non-nursing cognate courses are offered online at SUNY Plattsburgh via ANGEL.

Success in an online course

Success in an online course requires self-direction, self-motivation, and self-discipline. Although the assignments are done at your daily convenience, you are still bound by deadlines and a semester structure. You are expected to be ready to start the course on the first day of the semester and access to the course will usually be available one week prior to the start date. The time required to type all your responses into a computer is balanced by the greater flexibility to determine your own schedule without travel time.

Part time versus Full Time Study Plan

Working as a registered nurse has a lot of responsibilities and can be exhilarating and also exhausting at times. I strongly encourage you to work part-time or per-diem when pursuing the RN-to-BS Online Nursing Option Program as a full-time student. This is because many RN students find it extremely challenging to work while completing the required amount of clinical hours, studying, and preparing for exams. However, if you want to pursue the RN-to-BS Program as a part-time student (1 or 2 courses per semester), you may be able to work full-time. Please note, if you are receiving financial aid, you must take at least 6 credits per semester.

In either case, please remember taking online courses is time consuming and you must participate a lot in class discussions. There is no hiding and sleeping in online courses. You need to follow all written directions for assignments and do not 'cut and paste' quotes from articles, but instead support your ideas with proper citations from established literary journals by utilizing the American Psychological Association (APA) format. You need to submit early in posting your assignment and write in your own words; thus you need to summarize ideas and present a critical analysis paper. Scholarly work is expected and citations should be used correctly.

Improving Your Grade

You could improve your grade if you are able to spend more time on drafting and revising your work prior to posting. At the end of the day you will appreciate and be proud of all of your accomplishments.

Our program prepares students who desire to go to graduate school, where the requirements of some of the Master-level degrees include publishing in a well-respected nursing and medical journals, daily on-line discussions, and well-prepared presentations. I hope this serves to allay any concerns you have.

Clinical Courses

Students who are enrolled in any clinical courses, including NUR465WB Clinical Practicum in the spring 2010, must obtain professional liability insurance and maintain the policy throughout the nursing program. You are required to obtain adult, child, infant CPR certification prior to the first nursing course with an off-campus clinical component and annually thereafter. Do not forget to submit to the Nursing Department the completed IMMUNIZATION REPORT FOR NURSING STUDENTS and HEALTH ASSESSMENT forms, a copy of your CPR card, and a copy of liability insurance if you have not done so. Please secure your clinical site for your clinical experience.

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