



Francis Marion University
School of Health Sciences
RN to BSN Program Track Option
Learner Information Guide

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RN to BSN Learner Information Guide

Welcome to the RN to BSN Nursing Program Track Option at Francis Marion University. The RN to BSN Student Information Guide will help you successfully navigate through online content.

In addition to this resource, you will want to review the *School of Health Sciences Nursing Student Handbook*, *Francis Marion University Student Handbook* and *Catalog*. The *Francis Marion University Catalog* and *Student Handbook* as well as the *School of Health Sciences Nursing Student Handbook* are online and not irrevocable contracts. The University and the Nursing Program regulations are policy statements to guide students, faculty, and administrative officers in achieving the goals of the institution.

The Francis Marion University Nursing Program is fully accredited by:

Accreditation Commission for the Education for Nursing

3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850

Atlanta, GA 30326

(404) 975-5000 phone

(404) 975-5020 fax

Mission Statement Francis Marion University

Francis Marion University is a four-year public institution established by the state of South Carolina. It is located in the northeastern part of the state near the city of Florence and has more than 4,000 students. Its purpose is threefold: to provide students with an excellent education, stimulate inquiry and research, and serve the Pee Dee region and the state of South Carolina.

Francis Marion University adheres to the primary purpose of its establishment as a college in 1970: to make available excellent educational programs for the people of the region and the state. The University offers bachelor's degrees in a wide range of liberal arts disciplines, as well as in the health sciences, education, and business. The University also offers professional degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, and specialist levels. While maintaining high standards, we serve students with a broad range of preparation and ability. We seek a wide variety of students, primarily from the Pee Dee region, but also from the entire state, other states, and foreign countries. We believe that a student body diverse in age, racial and ethnic background, and country of origin enriches the education of all students. To achieve its educational goals, the University has outstanding faculty members distinguished by high achievement and diverse academic backgrounds. We provide traditional and, when appropriate, non-traditional instruction, access to an excellent library as well as electronic resources, and staff members committed to student learning and success. A low student-faculty ratio and faculty concern for the individual student help us to achieve our goals. The University recognizes the importance of the out-of-the-classroom experience and offers opportunities for students to engage in activities that promote personal growth. In addition, the University provides students with special learning opportunities, such as an honors program, internships, study abroad destinations, and cooperative degree programs.

Since our highest priority is excellence in teaching and learning, we believe that intellectual inquiry and analysis by students and faculty members are essential. We encourage all scholarly pursuits, including student research for courses and faculty research for presentation and publication and for use in the classroom. The University provides faculty members with support for professional development through resources for innovative teaching, scholarship, and service. Our goal of an academic experience built on inquiry and research as well as the transmission of information allows students to develop their ability to think and communicate, to gain knowledge and skills, to pursue a career or further study, to appreciate the creativeness of the human mind, to be aware of the human and natural environment of the world, and to have the capacity to pursue a life of learning and understanding.

The University also serves the needs of Florence and the surrounding area in ways beyond formal education. Numerous artistic and cultural activities, athletic programs, health initiatives, and outreach efforts benefit not only our students, but also the community. To foster the economic development of the region, we offer consulting services to businesses, industries, and government. Academic and practical assistance to area schools is basic to our endeavors. Faculty and staff members participate in and contribute to a wide range of community activities.

Francis Marion emphasizes liberal arts education while offering new academic programs and innovative technology. It is small enough to provide attention to each student, but large enough to offer a variety of academic and cultural resources. It, thus, combines the advantages of a liberal arts college with the resources and programs of a public university.

History

The School of Health Sciences began as a Department of Nursing at Francis Marion University (FMU). The original baccalaureate nursing program was approved by the South Carolina Board of Nursing on March 17, 2005, and by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education on May 5, 2005. The baccalaureate nursing program was previously administered by MUSC as a satellite of the College of Nursing. Strong community support led the Francis Marion University Administration and Board of Trustees to establish a Memorandum of Agreement with MUSC transferring the program to the administration of Francis Marion University. Considerable work has been accomplished to make the program fully a Francis Marion University program in its mission, program outcomes and learner outcomes. Since the inception of the nursing program the health sciences have grown considerably.

Vision Statement

The School of Health Sciences at Francis Marion University strives to provide the highest quality baccalaureate and master's degree programs that educate healthcare professionals from the Pee Dee region, the state of South Carolina, and beyond who will provide quality care to diverse patients and families.

Mission Statement

The School of Health Sciences at FMU is committed to providing interprofessional learning opportunities to a diverse student body. The faculty strives to inspire students to become lifelong learners and competent and caring healthcare professional leaders who use evidence-based practice to deliver safe, ethical, and value-based care to diverse patient populations.

The nursing and physician assistant programs are fully accredited. Faculty in the School of Health Sciences are active in teaching, scholarship/ research, and service and the majority are doctorally prepared. Many faculty hold certifications in specialties recognized by national professional healthcare organizations. The School of Health Sciences programs require a variety of targeted clinical experiences in many different healthcare environments. The School of Health Sciences promotes diversity, tolerance, and respect among faculty, students, and healthcare partners.

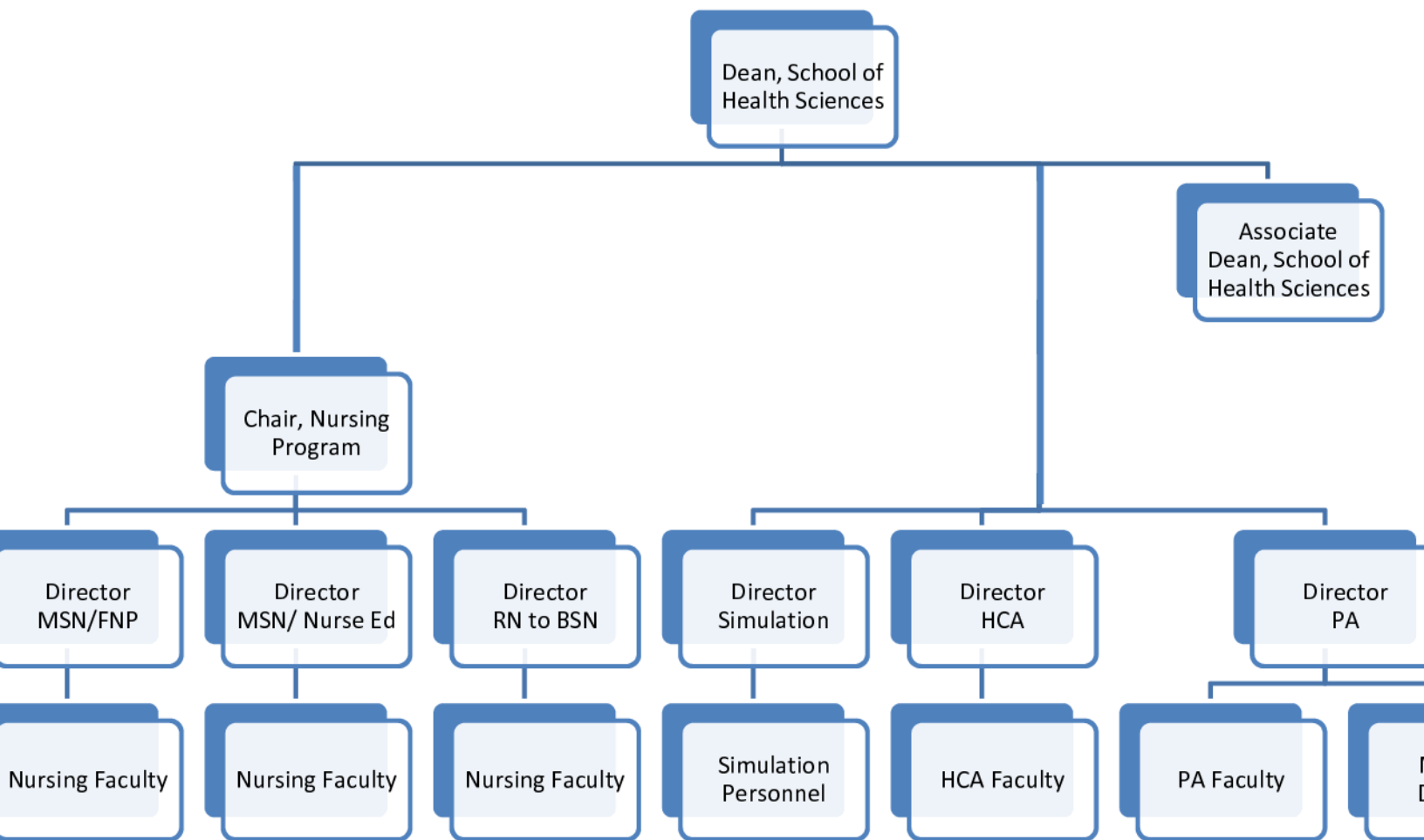
The key values adopted by the School of Health Sciences include:

- Caring and compassion
- Interprofessional collaboration
- Healthcare technology and innovation
- Evidence-based practice
- Ethical decision-making
- Integrative healthcare policy and leadership

The School of Health Sciences offers programs which lead to the following degrees and/or certificates:

- BS: Healthcare Administration (HCA)
- Nursing (BSN, RN-BSN, MSN/ FNP, MSN/ Nurse Educator, Post-master's Nurse Educator Certificate)
- MS/ Physician Assistant

Organizational Chart



Dear Students,

Welcome to the Francis Marion University RN to BSN Program Track Option. This is an outstanding educational process, which will prepare you for contemporary professional nursing practice. I would like to congratulate you on your decision to continue your nursing education. A baccalaureate in nursing is necessary in today's healthcare world that is comprised of technological advancements, evidence-based practice, and national health initiatives. Collegiate nurses will be at the forefront of healthcare reform and change. Francis Marion University provides a superior education that develops students' leadership skills in order to affect healthcare progress.

The faculty of Francis Marion University's Nursing Program have years of experience in nursing and education. We are all here to help you succeed in your educational goals. We pride ourselves on the competencies, critical thinking ability and caring attitudes our graduates take with them to care for the citizens of the Pee Dee region and beyond. We invite you to establish a professional relationship with us so we can mentor you through this educational process.

The journey of returning to school to obtain a BSN is exciting. Use this manual as a resource to help you navigate the path. Remember that the faculty and I are always available to assist you along the way.

On completion of this collegiate study, you will have enhanced your skills as an excellent and caring professional. Your clinical decision-making skills and critical thinking ability will enable you to continue onto graduate school or take a leadership role in the healthcare workforce.

Congratulations on being accepted into this program. The next twelve months will be a positive life-altering experience. The nursing faculty and I feel blessed to be able to share this journey of learning with you and will do everything possible to promote your success.

Sincerely,

Ruth A. Wittmann-Price, PhD, RN, CNS, CNE, CHSE, ANEF
Dean of the School of Health Sciences

Dear Nurses:

Greetings and welcome to the beginning of your next educational adventure! If you are reading this guide, you have been accepted into the RN to BSN Track at Francis Marion University. Congratulations!

Starting an educational endeavor is both exciting and stressful. Many ask, "Can I do this? Do I have time? Can I compete with younger students? Will I really learn anything, and will my practice as a registered nurse really change?" The answer is YES to all of these questions.

Just because the RN to BSN Program Track Option is in an online or hybrid format for the Mt. Pleasant site, and online for the Florence site, does not mean you will not have access to the faculty or support persons. You may call or email us, and we will get back with you to answer your questions. We can make arrangements to meet face-to-face and or have a conversation over the phone. The faculty and I are here to facilitate your success.

*Sincerely,
Rhonda Brogdon, DNP, MBA, RN
Associate Professor of Nursing
RN to BSN Program Track Option Director*

Overview

The Francis Marion University RN to BSN Track is an online or hybrid format for the Mt. Pleasant site and online for the Florence site; it is a three semester, 30 credit hour nursing completion track. The emphasis is on leadership, group process, communication skills, and team building. The learner will be taught the skills of life-long learning, and will be prepared for graduate education in nursing.

The RN to BSN track follows an adult learning theory model. As such, the faculty acknowledges the learner's need for autonomy, decision making, and relevance of content within the learning environment. Learners are given flexibility in choosing learning topics and learning activities.

The course content is developed to meet all accreditation standards, and is circular in design. Learners may access the curriculum at any point, rather than following a longitudinal model. This allows increased flexibility in admissions, course progression, and individualization for each learner's learning needs.

Nursing content is fully online or hybrid for the Mt. Pleasant site and online for the Florence site. Learners need to be self-motivated and able to work within this autonomous environment. Orientation to the library services, Blackboard, and American Psychological Association (APA) publication guidelines are provided. Blackboard Learn, a virtual learning and classroom management program, is the delivery format for the RN to BSN track, and all work will be done within this system.

Each course is divided into three-week Blocks. Learning is accomplished by textbook readings, additional web sources, group projects, and individual assignments. Discussion board questions are presented in each Block. This format replaces classroom discussion, and for the adult learner, a great deal of knowledge is gained from these discussions. All group projects are done totally online or face-to-face in a designated group site specific for the members of the group.

Evaluation of each course is done at the conclusion of the semester, and evaluation is completed upon graduation. The evaluation results are used to improve individual courses, the overall program, and to better meet learning needs

Upon acceptance into the RN to BSN Program Track Option, learners must provide documentation of the following

- Satisfactory criminal background check and drug screen completed by Certified Background Check.
- Health history-per college requirement (Annual TB skin test, Hepatitis, Immunizations, Varicella titer); and
- American Heart Association (AHA) CPR certification at the healthcare provider level, earned prior to the start of classes.

Required Hardware and Software for the Online Learning

Since the Francis Marion University RN to BSN track is online or hybrid at the Mt. Pleasant site and online for the Florence site, having reliable access to computer and Internet services is mandatory. The required word processing program is Microsoft WORD.

All learners are encouraged to have a back-up plan in the event of computer issues, loss of electrical services, or other technical problems that would hinder timely participation in the online classroom. Personal computer issues will not be considered an excuse for absence.

Campus Services

Library Resources:

The Library currently houses a NetLibrary e-book collection of 1456 books in the field of Nursing under the subject heading of Health and Medicine, many of which can be accessed electronically. The university provides access to an extensive collection of electronic resources including CINAHL full text.

Membership in **PASCAL** (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries) has further enhanced the university's ability to provide a wide variety of quality resources for the nursing. For example, through PASCAL and beginning January 2010, Ovid Lippincott online was made accessible to faculty and students in the.

The library's web site <http://www.fmarion.edu/rogerslibrary/subjectguidenursing.htm> lists selected print resources and electronic resources in its **Nursing Subject Guide** which is listed under **Research Tools and "Choose a subject"**. Below is a copy of the page that lists journal articles and databases, and Internet Resources to which faculty and students have both campus-wide and remote access.

Journal Articles and Databases	Internet Resources
Academic Search Premier ArticleFirst 1990-via OCLC FirstSearch CINAHL Plus with Full Text via EBSCOHost ECO 1995-via OCLC FirstSearch (PASCAL) ECO 1995-via OCLC FirstSearch (DISCUS) Health Source Nursing/Academic Edition Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe Liebert Online Medline via EBSCOHost Ovid Nursing Collection II: Lippincott Premier Nursing Journals ScienceDirect	American Nurses Association Gray's Anatomy of the Human Body Hands on Health - South Carolina Healthfinder: Nursing Human Anatomy Online McGill University Virtual Stethoscope Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy National Center for Health Statistics National Coalition of Ethnic and Minority Nurse Associations National Institutes of Health National Library of Medicine

<p>National Student Nurses Association Physical Exam Study Guides RN Central Rx List South Carolina – Health and Medical Resources U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</p>

Learners receive library access as soon as they are enrolled. The student ID number allows remote access 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

An online library orientation will be provided. Orientation is given as soon as the student satisfies financial obligations to the University because it is administered through the Blackboard Learn System.

Campus Technology:

FMU offers students technological and media support daily (8:30 AM to 5 PM) via telephone at (843) 661-1111. Blackboard help is available 24/7 from the company, with contact information found on the initial opening screen in Blackboard.

Blackboard Learn orientation is provided by the Nursing Department upon acceptance to the RN to BSN track, and must be completed before learners can begin online or hybrid classes. A Blackboard Learn tutorial is available on the Blackboard Learn site once you access it.

Learners are issued a student identification number upon acceptance to the university (four zeros followed by five numerical digits). Learners will use this number to access all campus technology systems.

The FMU home webpage (www.fmarion.edu) has a convenient drop down menu that provides access to all University functions and departments. This user-friendly webpage has a direct link to Blackboard Learn and SwampFox E-mail so learners have easy access to necessary sites.

Writing Center:

The FMU Writing Center is fully accessible online. The writing center provides one-to-one assistance on a wide range of writing tasks including projects, research, literary analysis, creative writing, lab reports, resumes, and graduate school applications. Since college-level writing is required in the RN to BSN track, learners who struggle with grammar or writing issues are highly encouraged to seek the help of the Writing Center. Learners can access the Writing Center on the FMU website.

Financial Aid and Registrar Offices:

The financial Aid office is open during business hours and will answer financial aid questions for learners by e-mail (access through the FMU website) or phone (843-661-1190). Learners must have their student ID number when calling. Learners must file a FAFSA if seeking financial aid through the university.

RN to BSN learners who are Marlboro County Residents Only:

Learners interested in applying for scholarship funds from the Marlboro County Hospital Board of Trustees, specifically designated for Marlboro County residents, must be accepted into the program by June 15 (for Fall semester) or December 15 (for Spring semester). Scholarship awards vary each semester and are never guaranteed.

The Registrar's office is responsible for all official transcript evaluations. The Registrar reviews senior student files and approves petitions for graduation. Any questions about transcript evaluation, course transfer evaluation, or eligibility for graduation should be addressed to the Registrar's office at 843-661-1175.

Counseling and Testing Center:

The Office of Counseling and Testing is responsible for meeting the personal counseling needs of FMU students. Professional counselors are available to help with personal, relationship, and/or emotional issues. The office also coordinates the CLEP testing services. The Office serves as the focal point for academic services for students with disabilities. All students with disabilities should contact the Counseling and Testing Center prior to registration (843-661-1840).

Contact Phone Numbers

Dean of the School of Health Sciences	Dr. Ruth Wittmann-Price RWittmannPrice@fmarion.edu	843-661-4625
Associate Dean of the School of Health Sciences/Director of the Nursing Program	Dr. Karen Gittings Kgittings@fmarion.edu	843-661-1688
RN to BSN Program Track Director	Dr. Rhonda Brogdon Rbrogdon@fmarion.edu	843-661-1674
Coordinator of Student Services	Ms. Devin Cribb DCribb@Fmarion.edu	843-661-1226
Nursing Program Administrative Associate	Ms. Bonita McFadden BMcfadden@Fmarion.edu	843-661-1690

Admission's Office	843-661-1231
Registrar's Office	843-661-1175
Cashier's Office	843-661-1596
Reference Librarian	843-661-1310
Writing Center	843-661-1528
Internet Technical Support	843-661-1111

Contact information for individual course faculty can be found in the syllabus.

Student Nurses Association

The Nursing Program encourages nursing students to participate in pre-professional organizations that promote leadership and awareness of issues that may affect present and future nursing practice. The Nursing Program has a FMU Chapter of the South Carolina Association of Nursing Students.

FMU Honor Society

FMU has a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Honor Society. Twice a year educational programs are provided. RN to BSN learners will be made aware of upcoming events.

Minority Nursing Association

The Minority Nursing Association (MNA) is a professional organization that was established in August 2013 for nurses and nursing students in the Pee Dee Region. As professional nurses, we can encourage and support one another to grow personally and professionally, and provide guidance and mentoring to minority nurses and nursing students. One of the goals of the organization is to work together as advocates to identify and address the healthcare needs in minority communities of the Pee Dee Region through health promotion initiatives and activities.

Blackboard Learn

Blackboard Learn is the computer software medium for course work in the RN to BSN track. All students must be competent in the use of Blackboard Learn in order to be successful in the educational process.

Upon acceptance to Francis Marion University RN to BSN track, learners are enrolled in Blackboard Learn orientation, which must be completed prior to beginning any online or hybrid nursing courses. Confirmation of Blackboard orientation is sent via email by the RN to BSN track director. Prior to beginning this orientation, students must have the appropriate hardware and software installed on personal computers.

Questions regarding Blackboard Learn orientation should be directed to the RN to BSN Track Coordinator first (Rbrogdon@fmarion.edu) prior to calling Technical Support.

Registering for Classes and Paying Tuition and Fees

How to Register for Classes:

1. Go to the Francis Marion University website: www.fmarion.edu.
2. On the top left corner, click on Quick Links
3. Click on Swampfox for Students

Once in Swampfox for Students, choose “Degree Audit.”

Degree Audit:

1. In Swampfox for Students, click on *Degree Audit*.
2. Learners must provide a user name and password. The user name is the 000012345 ID number provided upon admission to FMU. The initial password is birth month and date (four digits). For example, March 4 is 0304. Users will be asked to change passwords at this point. It is recommended that learners choose a secure password that contains alphanumeric characters.

Once in the system, review the degree audit to identify any general education courses needed for graduation. Comparable courses may be transferred from accredited technical colleges to Francis Marion University. These general education courses may be taken prior to or simultaneously with the nursing courses.

Identify Open General Education Classes:

The nursing course numbers that are needed for the semester will be emailed directly to students. Students must identify general education course numbers they wish to take concurrently. To do so, follow these steps;

1. While in Swampfox for Students, click on the *Open Classes* link
2. Choose the appropriate for registration;
3. Click on the link that identifies the course categories. This will bring up the registration information for all the open courses in the requested category.
4. Identify the course times and days that are needed. Learners should choose at least one alternate class in the event that the first choice is not available.
5. Return to the categories link and select another group until all courses needed are listed.

After course section numbers are identified, learners may register for classes.

Register for Classes:

1. In Swampfox for Students, click on the link, “*Register for Classes.*”
2. Provide the username and password Fill in the section number (first column) and click enter. The remaining information will automatically fill in.
3. On the far right hand side is a column that shows if selected courses are full, require a matching lab, or have a prerequisite. NOTE: The only course for the RN to BSN program that requires a prerequisite is Literature. *Students must take Eng 200 before enrollment in Literature. Students must complete Eng 112 prior to enrolling in Eng 200!*
4. On the top right hand side of the webpage is the number of financial aid hours approved (FA). The computer system will not allow students to register for more or less hours than for the FA shows. Please call the Financial Aid office (661-1190) with questions or concerns.
5. Once the appropriate courses are listed, click *continues*. Make sure to confirm your schedule; otherwise, the chosen courses will be dripped. For questions, please call:

Registrar’s Office- 843-661-1175

Devin Cribb, Student Services Counselor- 843-661-1226

Dr. Rhonda Brogdon, RN to BSN Track Director- 843-661-1674

THOSE WHO ARE PART OF AN AGENCY CONTRACT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SELF-REGISTER FOR NURSING CLASSES. However, students self-register for any non-nursing courses taken in addition to nursing.

APA Writing Style

A writing style is a set of writing standards, which create uniformity and consistency among documents.

The American Psychological Association (APA) writing style () is the accepted standard for the Francis Marion University Department of Nursing. **Students are required to have the most recent edition of the APA manual:**

American Psychological Association, (2010), *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

APA orientation will be included as part of the Blackboard orientation, and must be successfully completed prior to commencement of course work.

RN to BSN Track Policies

Attendance:

Attendance for online classes generally follows a Monday through Sunday schedule. To be considered present, students must log on at least one time and make meaningful contributions to the on-line assignments. Students who do not sign in nor provide substantive input will be considered absent and will risk termination from the course.

Emergency situations arise. It is the responsibility of students to inform faculty of any unusual situations that may require an absence from Blackboard.

Grievance:

The Nursing Program adheres to the University Guidelines for Student Concerns or Complaints as outlined in the current edition of the *Francis Marion University Catalog*. Student concerns or complaints are handled in a professional manner. Discussion and problem solving of issues should be based on facts. Resolution should acknowledge the satisfaction of all parties, but must maintain the integrity of the nursing. If the issue(s) cannot be resolved through the procedures above, a formal grievance may be filed as described in the current edition of the *University Student Handbook*. Refer also to the current edition of the *School of Health Sciences Nursing Student Handbook*.

Progression:

A student must earn a minimum grade of “C” in each nursing course. A student earning a grade of less than “C” must repeat the course and achieve a “C” or better in order to remain in the program. If a student earns less than a “C” in a second nursing course, the student is dismissed from the program.

Graduation Requirements:

Students must have a minimum of 120 college semester credit hours to graduate. Of those, 30 credit hours must be from Francis Marion University within the past five years.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

If a learner has a documented disability and requires special assistance or accommodations, they should contact the University Counseling and Testing Center (*Francis Marion University Student Handbook, current edition*). Accommodations will be made with proper documentation from the University Counseling and Testing Center. The learner must provide documentation to any or all course or clinical instructors of classes or clinical rotations in which the learner would like to use the accommodations. If at any time during the semester the learner’s accommodations need to be altered, the learner will provide documentation from the

University Counseling and Testing Center instructor. The student must request in writing the accommodations approved by the staff of the Counseling and Testing Center and meet with the course coordinator before any accommodations will be made. The student must adhere to these accommodations throughout the semester. The student must provide documentation of approved accommodations, request accommodations, and meet with all course faculty prior to first day of class in subsequent semesters.

Student Academic Responsibilities:

Each student is responsible for the proper completion of his/her academic program, for familiarity with the *FMU Catalog*, the *University Student Handbook*, and the *School of Health Sciences Nursing Student Handbook*. Each student is responsible for maintaining the grade point average required, and for meeting all degree requirements. The academic advisor will counsel, but the final responsibility for a successful college career rests with the student.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:

See Honor Code found in the *University Student Hand Book: Rights and Responsibilities Standards of Conduct*. All students and faculty are expected to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, **plagiarism**, the giving or falsifying of any academic documents or related materials, cheating, and the giving or receiving of unauthorized aid in tests, examinations, or other assigned work. Please see the *Nursing Student Handbook: Academic Integrity*.

Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct and is the use of another person's words or ideas without providing credit to that person. It is the theft of another person's words or ideas to give the impression that you created them. These words and ideas may be from a variety of sources including printed works, speeches, presentations, and/or internet sites and documents. Appropriate and complete APA referencing of words and ideas obtained from others is a requirement in ALL courses. If a work is anonymous, as may be the case with some internet documents, it still must be fully referenced.

Code of Ethics:

The Nursing Program subscribes to the "Code of Student Conduct" as defined in the "Students' Rights and Responsibilities" section of the current edition of the *Francis Marion University Student Handbook and Catalog*. The Nursing Program subscribes to the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics; whereby, all students and faculty are expected to be honest and honorable in all academic and professional endeavors. It is further expected that they will refrain from any activity, which might impair the image of the University, the Department of Nursing, or the nursing profession. Please see the *Nursing Student Handbook: Academic Integrity* and <http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/CodeofEthicsforNurses/Code-of-Ethics.aspx>

South Carolina Nurse Practice Act:

Students must abide by the South Carolina Nurse Practice Act (*South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation: Board of Nursing, 2009*).
<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t40c033.htm>

Curriculum

Core Courses Offered in the Fall Semester	
NRN 333 Health Assessment and Promotion in Nursing Practice (4: 3-3) NRN 334 Research in Practice (3) NRN 445 Population-Focused Nursing Care (6: 4-6)	13 semester hours
Core Courses Offered in the Spring Semester	
NRN 448 Healthcare Policy Development (3) NRN 449 Leadership and Management in Nursing (5: 4-3) IPHC 450 Healthcare Informatics (3)	11 semester hours
Core Courses Offered in Summer Semesters	
NRN 332 Professional Nursing and Nursing Practice (3) (Summer I) NURS 302 Principles of Pathophysiology (3) (Summer I)	6 semester hours
Total Hours: 30	

Program Learning Outcomes:

The baccalaureate generalist in nursing prepares the graduate to:

- Utilize the liberal education courses as the cornerstone for study and practice of professional nursing.
- Incorporate the knowledge and skills in leadership, quality improvement, and client safety in the provision of high quality health care.
- Provide safe, effective and compassionate care to all individuals and groups across the lifespan based upon the principles and models of evidence-based practice, understand the research process, have the ability to retrieve, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in collaboration with healthcare team members to practice in a manner that improves client outcomes.
- Incorporate information management, client care technologies, and communication devices in providing safe and effective client care.
- Incorporate information on healthcare policies, including financial and regulatory, directly and indirectly influencing the nature and functioning of the healthcare system in professional nursing practice.

- Demonstrate effective inter-professional communication and collaboration through verbal, nonverbal and written communication skills to practice individual accountability, client advocacy, conflict resolution principles, and teambuilding strategies.
- Integrate knowledge and skill derived from the physical sciences, bio-psycho-social sciences, humanities, and nursing in the provision of holistic care to individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations across the life span with a focus on health promotion, disease and injury prevention.
- Demonstrate and utilize principles of legal ethical core values of professionalism with the application of professional values of altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity and social justice in the delivery of care to all clients across the lifespan
- Utilize the roles of provider of care, manager/coordinator of care, and member of the profession in developing and providing safe, effective, and compassionate care to all clients across the lifespan with diverse multicultural needs. This includes but is not limited to cultural, spiritual, ethnic, gender and sexual orientation to diversity (AACN, Baccalaureate Essentials, 2008).

RN to BSN Course Descriptions:

NURS 302 Principles of Pathophysiology (3) This course examines the physiologic mechanisms underlying selected alterations in health that occur throughout the life cycle. Relationships between physiologic responses and environmental influences are explored as these factors interact adversely on body system functioning. Coping and adaptation, as normal human responses to potential or actual health problems, are emphasized as well as selected diseases.

NRN 320 Geriatric Nursing Elective (3) This course is designed to develop the student's knowledge and skills in applying concepts of aging which include physical, psychological, socio-cultural and spiritual variables. The impact of the aging population on the health care system will be applied to nursing practice with the older adult client.

NRN 332 Professional Nursing and Nursing Practice (3) This course explores the past, present, and future of professional nursing. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and life-long learning, professional values and philosophies, socialization and role development of the professional nurse, and the legal and ethical aspects of nursing practice.

NRN 333 Health Assessment and Promotion in Nursing Practice (4:3-3) This course provides the RN the opportunity to refine and validate therapeutic nursing skills and interventions necessary to provide culturally sensitive physical assessment, health promotion and health protection services to clients across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on communication, teaching-learning, critical thinking, diagnostic skills in relation to clinical decision-making, and the delivery of evidence-based nursing care. The practicum for this course is project-based and aims to strengthen the RN's clinical judgment through problem-based case studies. Each case study will present the RN student with a chief complaint and require the completion of a focused health history, assessment of pertinent systems, and the

development of a patient-centered plan of care.

NRN 334 Research in Practice (3) (Nursing RN-BSN 334 is same as Interprofessional Healthcare 334). This course examines the steps of the research process, and provides the RN with the basic skills and knowledge to evaluate research. Emphasis is on the review and critique of published nursing research with consideration of the utilization of research findings to develop evidence based nursing practice. Ethical considerations in research are addressed. Credit cannot be received for both Nursing RN-BSN 334 and Interprofessional Healthcare 334.

NRN 445 Population Focused Nursing Care (6:4-6) This course is designed to develop the RN to BSN student's knowledge and skills in applying health promotion and disease prevention frameworks, nursing and public health concepts, epidemiology, and environmental health issues in working with populations in the community. Emphasis is placed on community assessment strategies; community partnerships, and the design, implementation and evaluation of interventions for health promotion and disease prevention. The practicum of this course is project-based and will consist of the RN identifying a social determinant of health within a specific population and designing a plan of action aimed to alleviate the impact on the population. This project will challenge the critical thinking and clinical decision-making skills of the RN, as the RN will analyze and synthesize data to develop health promotion and disease prevention strategies for that specified population within the community.

NRN 446 Cultural Care in Nursing Practice Elective (3) This course offers the learner an opportunity to explore the cultures of a variety of populations. The course is designed to provide the learner with tools to effectively deliver healthcare to people of different cultures. Emphasis is placed on cultural communication, assessment, and evidence based practice related to cultural care.

NRN 448 Healthcare Policy Development (3) NRN 448 is same as IPHC) 448). This course offers the student the opportunity to discuss healthcare policy and explore political system operations. Disparity in care and social inequity for vulnerable populations such as the uninsured, elderly, physically or cognitively disabled, and terminally ill are discussed. Current healthcare issues such as quality of care are analyzed. Funding of the US healthcare system, both private and public, is evaluated. Comparisons are made to other industrialized nations' healthcare systems. Value systems are analyzed as they impact healthcare reform. Emphasis is placed on the professional's role as a change agent in the political arena and healthcare system. Credit cannot be received for both NRN 448 and IPHC 448.

NRN 449 Leadership and Management in Nursing (5:4-3) This course offers the RN the opportunity to explore the organizational structures, management roles and leadership behaviors within healthcare systems. Systems theory is utilized, and relevant issues such as employee management, budgeting, communication, inter-professional teamwork, quality improvement, and ethical decision making within institutions are addressed. An emphasis is also placed on group process and change theory. The practicum of this course is project-based and the RN will synthesize the application of theory, evidence-based practice, nursing management, and leadership by developing a healthcare system change project. Emphasis is on organizations as systems, leadership roles, and legal responsibilities and implications for professional nursing

practice.

Practicum Requirements

Students taking classes with a practicum component must complete Passport Learning annually. Passport Learning may be accessed at www.passportlearning.com. Students are to also complete certified background requirements.

Grading

Grading Scale:

Alphabetic	Raw Score
A	94-100
B +	90-93
B	87-89
C+	83-86
C	80-82
D+	76-79
D	73-75
F	72 or below

Rounding:

Per policy, only final grades will be rounded. Final grades of 0.50 or greater will be rounded up to the next whole numeric value. Therefore, a 79.50 is the minimum grade needed to pass this course, as this is rounded to an 80. Exam and quiz scores will not be rounded and will be entered in grade book in Blackboard to the nearest hundredth of a percent.

Grading Grids (Rubrics):

Grading Grids (rubrics) are utilized to provide appropriate assignment feedback to the on-line student, and to maintain consistency in assigning grades. Grading Grids for each individual assignment can be found in the within the course in Blackboard. The appropriate Grading Grid must be pasted at the end of each assignment before it is sent to the faculty for grading. Papers and projects will not be graded without the Grading Grid.

Discussion Board Guidelines

Discussion board is a mechanism developed to replace class discussion. It is intended to be informal, yet respectful. Each Block one or more questions have been placed in the content section of Blackboard under the Block tab. It is expected that all students will respond to each question.

For full discussion board credit, the student's main response to each question must be posted by 11:59 pm on the second Sunday of each Block. Each student must respond to at least two classmates' posts for each question by 11:59 pm on the last Sunday of the Block for full credit. Therefore, each student will have a total of three (minimum) posts for each question in the

discussion board. ***It is expected that all students will read all posts.*** Any questions posed by the faculty or a classmate in discussion board must be responded to.

Keep in mind that although this is an informal posting, if you are using information you have obtained for a source other than yourself, you must provide the reference information as part of your post.

Politeness and courtesy are expectations. Any post that seems spiteful or judgmental will be deleted.

The discussion board is one of the best learning tools in an online or hybrid course.

On-line Participation:

The purpose of online discussion is to encourage reflection and sharing of your different knowledge and experiences. You will be responsible for reading all postings within the discussion board, responding to student questions directed to you individually, and meeting the discussion board criteria of posting your major response, and responding to at least two of your classmates' posts.

Because the discussion board adds to the learning of your classmates, discussion and contribution is taken seriously. You will be evaluated on the quality of your contributions, your insight, contribution to knowledge, and by inspecting the frequency of your postings and reading of the discussion.

Discussion Board Grading Rubric:

The following rubric may be used for assessing online participation or it may vary by course.

POST	EVALUATION CRITERIA	EARNED POINTS
Primary post worth a total of 50 points	*On time *All topic areas covered *References provided if appropriate *Substantive content *Acceptable grammar/spelling/APA/reference within 5 years	10 points 10 points 10 points 10 points 10 points
Secondary posts (2) worth 25 points each	*On time *Reflects or references others' posts *Substantive thoughts or ideas to the post stream *Acceptable grammar/spelling/APA/reference	5 points 5 points 5 points 10 points

	within 5 years	
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Communication Policy for Blackboard Learn

Online classes require a special set of guidelines to enable equal participation for all students, and to assure privacy, respect, and accountability are maintained.

Online discussions are an integral part of the RN to BSN. The intent of on-line discussions (discussion boards) are to replace the sharing that would occur between students in the classroom, to allow faculty to identify student learning and correct misconceptions, and to share in the educational process as professional nurses. To help you become accustomed to working in an on-line classroom, the following guidelines are listed to help you become accustomed to working in an on-line classroom.

1. Students are expected to check their e-mail and discussion board at least every two days daily for student posts and faculty updates.
2. Each Block there will be from one to three discussion board questions that require student responses. Students are to respond to each primary question by the end of the day on the second Sunday of the Block (11:59 PM), and respond to at least two classmates' posts in each discussion board question by the end of the day Sunday of the third week of the Block for full discussion board credit for the question. Additional detailed information on discussion board participation can be found in the course material in Blackboard and in each course syllabus.
3. Professional respect requires students to respond to discussion board questions directed to them specifically by their peers.
4. A grading rubric will be utilized to assign grades for each week's discussion participation by each student. You will find the rubric in the course materials in Blackboard, as well as in each course syllabus.
5. Some courses will require the students to work in groups. A designated group discussion site will be made available for these discussions. It is highly encouraged that the students utilize the Blackboard group discussion site for their team communications. If a question of equal participation comes up, the faculty will be able to review the group discussions to assess each group member's role.
6. Do not dominate the discussion. Stay on topic. If you have something you want to address that is off-topic, e-mail the person directly. General questions can be posted in the Faculty Forum section of the discussion board.
7. Use a positive and respectful tone.

8. Abusive comments will not be tolerated. You may lose points or this may be grounds for being asked to leave the course. If you are dealing with a sensitive or controversial topic, take time to reflect and write your responses in WORD first before posting so you don't regret a response later.
9. Typing in WORD before posting will help you eliminate spelling and grammatical errors. Using all caps to highlight a point is generally considered "shouting" online.
10. Reference all information used in your post that is not your own knowledgebase.
11. Although information shared online cannot be assumed to be private, please respect the examples and information shared by others.
12. Each course faculty will monitor and respond to discussion board posts as appropriate. However, the discussion board itself is intended to be student-directed.

Netiquette

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, and threaded discussions. Respect is required. If your discussion post is a response, begin the post with the student's name. Please write your name at the end of all discussion postings so we know who has contributed to the learning process.

Thank you for choosing FMU's RN to BSN Program Track Option!