FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **How can I get in contact with a nursing representative for specific questions?** You may contact Rhonda Boles in the Allied Health building at the Lake Worth Campus at (561) 868-3412 for appointments or by email at bolesr@palmbeachstate.edu. You may also contact our health science advisor, Latisha Myrick, who can be reached at (561) 868-3819 or by e-mail at myrickl@palmbeachstate.edu for questions and appointments.

2. **Does Palm Beach State maintain a waiting list?** No! A point scale system is utilized to determine entry into the program.

3. **Are any of my courses subject to expiration before entry into the nursing program?** Only your science courses have expiration dates. All Science courses like Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology II and Microbiology **MUST** have a completion date within 10 years of entry into the registered nurse program.

4. **How can I transfer in my credits from another college/university?** Please have the prior college send an **official copy** of your transcripts to any one of the Palm Beach State Admissions offices.

5. **How can I appeal a similar course taken at another school that Palm Beach State did not make an equivalent?** Attach a course description of the course in question to an appeal form located in the Admissions office to request that the similar class equate to a Palm Beach State course. Provide your student ID, address and phone number on the form and submit it to the Admissions office. [http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/forms.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/forms.aspx)

6. **How long is the nursing program?** The Lake Worth and Belle Glade full-time programs both span two years in length or four semesters excluding summers, while the Evening/Weekend program is two years eight months including summers (year-round program).

7. **How many students are selected for the RN program each semester?** The Lake Worth full-time program accepts 90 students each semester for a total of 180 students per year. The Evening/Weekend program accepts 30 students once per year and the Belle Glade full-time program accepts 24 students once per year.
8. **What are the deadline dates for entry?** The Lake Worth full-time program has a fall term application deadline of June 1st of each year (*August start date*) and a spring term application deadline date of October 1st of each year (*January start date*). The Evening/Weekend program and the Belle Glade full-time program both accept applications once per year with an application deadline of October 1st of each year (*January start date*).

9. **What pre-entrance exam will Palm Beach State accept?** The HESI A2 exam is required for entry with a minimum cumulative test score of 80% beginning with the June 1, 2015 application deadline. The student MUST complete all 9 sections of the test in order to submit the application. Please refer to the following website for the nine sections of the HESI exam: [http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/nursing/lake-worth/hesi-pre-admission-test.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/nursing/lake-worth/hesi-pre-admission-test.aspx). Please refer to Palm Beach State testing website at [http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/testing/elsevier-rn-admissions-assessment-a2.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/testing/elsevier-rn-admissions-assessment-a2.aspx) to register for the Belle Glade, Boca or PB Gardens campus site locations. **The Lake Worth Campus will take students on a walk-in basis beginning October 2, 2013 for HESI testing.** In order to submit new HESI scores, the new score report MUST show a date 61 days apart from the last test date. If score reports are 60 days or less, your application is deemed invalid.

10. **Is there a Math requirement for the RN program?** Yes! Statistics (STA2023) is the new math requirement for the RN degree beginning with the June 1, 2015 application deadline. The student will also need an individual math score of 80% or higher on the HESI A2 exam in order to submit an application to the Registered Nurse Program. The overall minimum cumulative HESI score of 80% is also required to submit an RN application. The Limited Access Office will look for two separate scores on the HESI report: the math score and the overall HESI score. For study material on the Math section please call the Math Lab @ 561-868-3208; regarding all sections of the HESI exam, please visit the Learning Express Library at [http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/library/articles-and-databases.aspx#L](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/library/articles-and-databases.aspx#L)

11. **Where should I turn in my completed nursing application?** You may submit your completed nursing application along with your $20 application fee receipt to the Limited Access office located on the Lake Worth campus. The student may also submit completed applications to the Admissions
Office on Belle Glade, Boca Raton or Palm Beach Gardens campuses by the close of business on the deadline date.

12. **If a student has a prior conviction, will it hinder them from being accepted to the nursing program?** We advise all students to check with the Board of Nursing at (850) 245-4125 to inquire about your ability to sit for State Boards at the end of program completion. Background checks, fingerprint and drug screens are required for all accepted students to the RN program. All students accepted to the RN program will pay out of pocket for these screenings. Financial Aid does not cover the cost of required screenings.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Effective July 1, 2009,** section 456.0635, Florida Statutes, provides that healthcare boards or the department boards or the department shall refuse to issue a license, certificate or registration and shall refuse to admit a candidate for examination if the applicant has been:

1. Convicted or plead guilty or nolo contender to a felony violation of chapters 409, 817, or 893, Florida Statutes; or 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970 of 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any probation or pleas ended more than 15 years prior to the application.

2. Terminated for cause from Florida Medicaid Program (unless the applicant has been in good standing for the most recent five years).

3. Terminated for cause by any other State Medicaid Program or the Medicare Program (unless the termination was at least 20 years prior to the date of the application and the applicant has been in good standing with the program for the most recent five years).

The background screenings will be completed at the student’s expense. All records will be sent directly to the Program Coordinator and will be kept in a confidential file. These files will not be part of the student’s college records.

13. **May I volunteer at a healthcare facility in order to receive the one point for healthcare experience?** Beginning with the October 1, 2014 application deadline, healthcare experience and volunteer experience has been deleted from the point scale system.

14. **What degree will I earn after completing the Registered Nurse Program at Palm Beach State?** An Associate of Science degree in Nursing.

15. **Does Palm Beach State College offer a Bachelor of Nursing (BSN) Program?** Yes, once you obtain your RN license you may apply to the RN-
BSN program here at Palm Beach State. See website for details: http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/bachelor/nursing/

16. **Can I apply to more than one program?** No! You may apply to one program only per term so please apply to your program of choice. Students who check two or more boxes on the application will automatically default to the Lake Worth Full Time Program.

17. **If I attended another nursing program, can I transfer those credits into the RN program at Palm Beach State?** No! Palm Beach State College does not recognize any previous completion of nursing course work. A transfer nursing student will have to apply through the generic applicant pool or through the transition program as a Licensed Practical Nurse depending on their exit status from the prior nursing school.

18. **Are online nursing classes offered at the Belle Glade Campus?** No! If a student wishes to apply to the Belle Glade RN Program, then you will have to drive to the Belle Glade campus as online nursing classes are not offered at this campus. Belle Glade RN students are permitted to register for the hybrid Pharmacology which is taught on the Lake Worth campus. Hybrid courses are taught 50% in class and 50% online.

19. **If the application deadline falls on a weekend, can I turn in my application the following Monday?** Yes, the Monday following the June 1st or Oct 1st weekend deadline, is the official last day to turn in applications. **Please do not wait to turn in your application on the last day as it delays the notification of acceptances and denials.**

20. **Can I take any nursing courses prior to entering the nursing program?** Pharmacology is the only nursing course permitted for pre-nursing students to take prior to entry. **Palm Beach State College no longer offers the 3 credit NUR 2140 Pharmacology course.** Students will only have the option to register for the 2 credit Pharmacology course (NUR 1141) which is transferable into the RN to BSN program at Palm Beach State College.

21. **Can I transfer the 2 credit pharmacology course to a University?** No! A higher level of pharmacology is required at the university level. The BSN program at Palm Beach State will accept the two credit Pharmacology course into their program.
22. **Which co-requisites should I take before entering the RN program?** We suggest that students get as many co-requisites if not all of them out of the way before applying to the program because each successfully completed course are assigned varying points towards the application. BSC2086 with Lab and MCB2010 are both Semester I pre-requisites. ENC 1101 and STA 2023 are Semester II pre-requisite. PSY2012 is a Semester III pre-requisite. The Humanities elective is a semester IV pre-requisite. These courses must be taken before the entering semester or along with the required semester. Elements of Nutrition (HUN 1201) is no longer required for the RN degree but is still required for the BSN program at Palm Beach State College.

23. **How many students apply to the RN program each semester?** The spring term usually has more applicants because we accept applications for all three of our programs. Our best guess is around 400 students for the Spring Term and 275 for the Fall term. Applicants will only have the choice of Lake Worth full-time for each fall term.

24. **Where can I pick up a nursing application?** You MUST download the application from the Palm Beach State Nursing webpage at: [http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/nursing/application.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/nursing/application.aspx).

25. **What is the minimum amount of time it takes to complete the RN degree?** The minimum amount of time to complete the RN program is three years if you are a full-time student. One year will consist of pre-requisites and co-requisites, and the remaining two years will focus on the Full-Time nursing program itself.

   **For additional information call:**

   **Palm Beach State College Nursing Program**

   @ (561) 868-3412, Monday - Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm

   **Palm Beach State College**

   **An Equal Opportunity Institution**

   **Revised March 2015**