FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE TRANSITION STUDENT

1. Where should students find information about the Transition program from LPN to RN or Paramedic to RN? You may contact Rhonda Boles in the Allied Health building at the Lake Worth Campus by email at bolesr@palmbeachstate.edu.

A monthly information is held at the Lake Worth campus to discuss in detail the Transition program. Details are found at the following link: http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/nursing/transition-program/default.aspx

2. Does Palm Beach State maintain a wait list? Yes, the wait list is for transition students only (LPN’s and Paramedics). Entry is based on space availability for the nursing program.

3. Are any courses subject to an expiration date 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 be completed within ten (10) years of entry into the registered nurse program. Anatomy and Physiology I is waived if Anatomy and Physiology II is within ten (10) years.

4. How can I transfer 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 equate? 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

6. How long is the nursing program? The completion of the nursing program depends on which transition track a student selects. The Full-time Track at the Lake Worth and Belle Glade campuses both span two years in length (four semesters, excluding summers). The Evening/Weekend Track is two years and eight months, including summers (year-round program). The Accelerated Track is designed as a primarily online, one year, program. The
transition student can challenge semester one and enter into semester two of the nursing Transition program by passing an Accelerated Challenge Exam (ACE).

***PLEASE NOTE*** The Accelerated Track is offered to transition students entering into semester two ONLY.

7. **When can I sit for the Accelerated Challenge Exam (ACE)?** Transition students MUST complete the following pre-requisites before taking the ACE exam:
   * Chemistry (CHM1032)
   * Anatomy & Physiology I and II (BSC2085/2085L and BSC2086/2086L)
   * Developmental Psychology (DEP2004)
   * Microbiology (MCB2010/2010L)
   * the Math Section of HESI Exam (80% or higher)

8. **What subject area does the Accelerated Challenge Exam (ACE) cover?** The ACE I exam covers the Fundamentals of Nursing, which is the focus of the first semester of nursing. The ACE exam has approximately 185 questions. The transition student will need a passing score of 75% or higher on this exam in order to advance place into semester two of the nursing program.

9. **What is the cost of the ACE Exam?** The total cost of the exam is $70. To register for the exam, the transition student needs to show proof of licensure, plus successful completion of pre-requisites and the HESI Math Exam. When this is verified, the Program Specialist will issue an ACE code in order for the student to register online and pay the $55 fee with a debit or credit card. On the day of the test, the student will pay the remaining $15 by cash, check or credit card through the cashier’s office.

10. **Where can I find study material for the Accelerated Challenge Exam (ACE)?** Students can purchase the RN-NCLEX review guide, or any fundamentals of nursing book from any bookstore or online website.

11. **Where should I turn in my completed nursing application?** Applications are not required for the transition student. Your nursing information sheet given at the required monthly information sessions will serve as your application along with the required medical license and American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR card.
12. **If I have a prior conviction, will that hinder me 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.

**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).

13. **Will failing the drug test disqualify me from starting the program?** Individuals who fail to meet the requirements of the screenings are deemed ineligible for enrollment and are required to drop the courses from the program.

14. **If I started another nursing or BSN program but did not complete it, can I transfer those credits into the nursing program at Palm Beach State?** No; the nursing program at Palm Beach State does not accept transfer nursing credits. However, your pre-requisite and co-requisite courses MAY transfer into our college, but you will have to send your official transcript from your previous college for evaluation.

15. **Are online nursing classes offered at the Belle Glade Campus?** If a transition student is admitted to the Full-time Track at Belle Glade, then you MUST drive to that campus as online nursing classes are NOT offered. Belle Glade nursing students are permitted to take the hybrid Pharmacology course (50% in class and 50% online) which is taught from the Lake Worth Campus.

16. **Which co-requisites should I take before entering the nursing program?** We suggest that students complete as many co-requisites as they can if not all of them before applying to the program. ENC 1101 and STA 2023 are semester two pre-requisites. PSY2012 is a semester three pre-
requisite. The Humanities elective is a semester four pre-requisite. These courses require completion before the entering semester or along with the registered semester. Elements of Nutrition (HUN 1201) is no longer required for the nursing program but is a pre-requisite for the RN to BSN program.

17. **How can I add my name to the list for entry into the nursing program?** Once the pre-requisite courses are completed and you have a score report showing the minimum 80% on the HESI Math section, please contact Rhonda Boles by email at bolesr@palmbeachstate.edu so that she may email an ACE code for registration. Please include your student ID in the email. Once the ACE exam results are received in the nursing program offices, the student’s name is placed on the wait list.

18. **How long is the wait list for entry into the nursing Program?** Our best estimate is one semester from the date of your ACE exam. We will try and admit as many transition students as possible into the upcoming semester based on the ACE score, provided space availability.

19. **What if I am not accepted for the upcoming semester?** Your ACE score guarantees that your name can remain on the waitlist for up to two years. If not accepted for a particular semester, your name is automatically considered for the next semester.

20. **How much work experience must I have before starting the nursing Transition program?** We require every transition student who advance places into semester two, to have at least six months of work experience in their designated field. The six month work experience requirement is not necessary for students accepted into semester one of the nursing program.

21. **Approximately how much per semester is the cost of the nursing program?** In-state residents will spend approximately $1900 per semester, and out-of-state residents will spend approximately $4500 per semester.

22. **Can students work while completing the nursing program?** It is highly recommended that transition students who enter the Full-time Track or the Accelerated Track work no more than 20 hours per week. The Evening/Weekend track is designed so that students may work full-time.
For additional information call:

Palm Beach State College Nursing Program
at (561) 868-3412, Monday - Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm

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An Equal Opportunity Institution

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