

Palm Beach State College receives state approval to offer two new bachelor's degree programs

Plans are underway for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Applied
Science in Information Management

(Lake Worth, Fla. - June 29, 2010) – Palm Beach State College will soon begin offering two additional bachelor's degree programs in what are projected to be some of Florida's most high growth career fields: nursing and information management.

The State Board of Education recently approved the College's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in information management and a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. The College plans to begin offering the upper division coursework for the information management degree in January 2011 and for the nursing degree in either fall 2011 or spring 2012.

"We are so excited about adding these additional baccalaureate degree programs to our curriculum inventory," said Dr. Dennis Gallon, Palm Beach State president. "These programs will create additional opportunities for our students who have completed an associate degree or 60 semester hours to complete a bachelor's degree closer to home and at more affordable tuition rates. Most importantly, these are fields where there will be strong employment opportunities."

Palm Beach State began offering its first bachelor's degree, the Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management, in fall 2009. Soon after, College leaders conducted an analysis to determine what other bachelor's degree programs are needed. While the College considered several, state data as well as businesses and community surveys revealed the clearest need for nursing and information management. Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation data shows an average of 563 registered nurse job openings a year in Palm Beach County through 2017 due to job growth or separations. The agency projects an average of 513 a year for those with information management training for such careers as computer programmer and computer software engineers.

There likely will be no shortage of students for the BSN program. Palm Beach State currently accepts 240 to 250 students per year into its two-year nursing program. “This allows our students and other students who have an associate degree in nursing to continue here and get their BSN,” said Sharon Sass, vice president of academic affairs. “It meets the needs of the community that wants more bachelor-degreed nurses.”

Palm Beach State College already is working to accommodate the growth. The College will break ground this summer on a new 36,000-square-foot, three-story building on its Lake Worth campus to house its bachelor’s degree programs.

Serving more than 50,000 students annually, Palm Beach State College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing the bachelor’s degree, associate degrees, professional certificates, career training and lifelong learning. Established in 1933 as Florida’s first public community college, it offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

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