FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR THE TRANSITION STUDENT

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) 868-3441 for appointments or more preferably, by email at bolesr@palmbeachstate.edu.

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 RN program.

3. Are any courses subject to an expiration date before entry into the nursing program? Only your science courses have expiration dates. All Natural Science courses like Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology II and Microbiology MUST have a grade posted within 10 years of the semester in which the student is accepted. Anatomy and Physiology I is waived if Anatomy & Physiology II is within 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 on the Admissions Office homepage located under Admissions Forms. Request that the similar class equate to the comparable 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 RN program depends on which semester and program the transition student is able to test into. Semester two is the highest semester a transition student can gain acceptance, and this depends on the student’s ACE score and space availability. The Lake Worth campus has an Accelerated Program designed for a transition student to complete in one year. The transition student can also choose to enter the Lake Worth or Belle Glade full-time programs which could span 1-1/2 or two years in length depending on the ACE score,
or request acceptance to the Evening/Weekend program takes two years or two years eight months (year-round program) to complete. The transition student will take an NCLEX type test known as the Accelerated Challenge Exam (ACE) I to challenge semester I of the RN program. If successfully passed with a score of 75% or higher, the transition can start the nursing program at semester II. Please see Rhonda Boles for testing dates and permission to take the ACE exam.

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

8. **What subject area does the ACE exam cover?** The ACE I exam covers the Fundamentals of Nursing, which is the focus of our 1st 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 II of the RN program.

9. **What are the deadline dates for entry?** March 30th for every fall term, (Student begins August of each year) and October 1st for every spring term (Student begins January of each year).

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

11. **Where can I find study material for the HESI Math Test?** Please contact the Math Lab in ETA 230 or (561) 868-3208 for HESI study group sessions and individualized tutoring.

12. **Where should I turn in my completed nursing application?** Applications are not required for the transition student. Your RN information sheet given at the mandatory monthly information sessions will serve as your application along with the required medical license and American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR card.
13. **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).

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

15. **If I attended another nursing program, can I transfer those credits into the RN program at Palm Beach State?** No; the nursing program does not accept transfer nursing credits. The LPN or Paramedic will transition into the RN program with a passing score on the ACE challenge exam. A current LPN or Paramedic license is required before sitting for the ACE exam. Please make sure a copy of your certifications are on file with the RN Office before requesting an Access Code for ACE registration.

16. **Are online nursing classes offered at the Belle Glade Campus?** If a transition student is admitted to the RN Program at Belle Glade, then you MUST drive to that campus as online nursing classes are NOT offered. The Accelerated RN program is fully online EXCEPT for the required 12-hour clinical and the Lake Worth Fulltime Program has an online lecture component ONLY.

17. **Which co-requisites should I take before entering the RN 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 II pre-requisites. PSY2012 is a Semester III pre-requisite. The Humanities elective is a semester IV pre-requisite. These courses require
completion before entering that semester or along with the registered semester. Elements of Nutrition (HUN 1201) is no longer required for the RN degree but is a pre-requisite for the RN to BSN degree.

18. **How can I add my name to the list for entry into the RN program?**
Once a transition student has successfully completed the pre-requisite courses, has a minimum 80% pass rate on the HESI Math section, and a copy of the student’s valid LPN or Paramedic is on file, the student may contact Rhonda Boles by email at: bolesr@palmbeachstate.edu to request permission to sit for the ACE exam. Once your ACE score is on file, the student’s name is added to the waitlist. Please include your student ID in all communications to the Nursing Program Specialist.

19. **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 to the cashier’s office.

20. **How long is the wait list for entry into the RN Program?** Our best estimate is 1-2 semesters following the date of your ACE exam. We will try and admit as many transition students as possible into the upcoming semester, but please remember, acceptance is based on space availability in each of the four RN programs.

21. **How much work experience must I have before transitioning into the RN program?** We require every transition student to have at least six months of work experience in their designated field in order to begin in semester 2 of the RN program. Six month work experience is not required for students accepted to semester one of the RN program.

22. **Approximately how much per semester is the cost of the RN program?** In-state residents will spend approximately $2000 per semester, and out-of-state residents will spend approximately $4800 per semester.
For additional information contact:

Palm Beach State College Nursing Department
at (561) 868-3412, Monday - Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm

Palm Beach State College
An Equal Opportunity Institution

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