

This email is being sent to you on behalf of Jeanne Hayes, Director of Nursing and the NCC Nursing Department.



May 27, 2020

Dear Members of Our Advisory Board,

As you may have guessed, we will not be assembling face to face because of the unique challenges posed by COVID-19. In lieu of a meeting, I am going to use this opportunity to bring you up to date on our program.

When the previous Chair of the Department, Terry Williams, left on FMLA, I returned to NCC to take her place. Some of you may remember that I was the original chair of the program until I left to begin a new RN to BSN program at Granite State College. I then taught part-time at Rivier University until being invited back to NCC in November 2019. I am now knee-deep in writing our self-study in preparation for an accreditation site visit by ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing) in mid-October 2020. We have been informed by ACEN that we will have a virtual site visit that will take place over four days. I am waiting to hear the plans of NH Board of Nursing, which was planning to come the week before or after ACEN. In Fall 2020, Lisa Gray will become Department Chair and I will be Program Director.

Of greatest significance has been the initiative, creativity, and sheer hard work of our faculty and administrative assistant in adapting to this unforeseen set of circumstances. They have been inspiring, and in fact, they have used this time as an opportunity to explore the frontiers of teaching and learning remotely. Guided by our end-of-program and end-of-course learning outcomes, faculty have found many pathways to achieve the same goals. Using Canvas and learning resources from Assessment Technologies Institute (www.atitesting.com) and others, students have continued their professional development. Thirteen students will be completing their studies in May, taking the NCLEX-RN, and seeking positions in nursing.

It looks like we have approximately 19 new students in the fall, although it is too early to tell until deposits have been received. We also anticipate three clinical groups in each level of the program. Adapting to online learning was an issue for many of the students and faculty have given a great deal of themselves not just to teaching, but also to personal support of our students. We lost two students second semester, one for personal reasons and one due to academic failure.

You may remember that we had two new full-time faculty last September. We also had a new adjunct in January. They are now well on their way to being competent and versatile nurse educators, having delivered curriculum content traditionally and then under abruptly non-traditional circumstances.

We will be offering one summer course, NURS 230N, Pharmacology for Nursing Practice, three credits. Due to the need for remote learning at this time, we decided to offer it completely online over a period of six weeks.

We know most of you have been under the same sorts of stress and strain that have affected us. I hope that summer brings us all time to take a deep breath and realize just how creative and resilient we have all been. And I hope that we all remain healthy and be able to convene in person in the fall.

Sincerely,

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