

The Tablet

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Collaborative Partner Newsletter

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Summer 2008

An Overview of Vancouver Island University BSN Program Curriculum Changes

Why change at this time?

- Age of the curriculum – new practice realities.
- Decision to move to baccalaureate as entry to practice several years ago.
- Changes in the entry level competencies (CRNBC).
- Evaluation data from a variety of sources.
- Increasing numbers of students coaxing us to review how we “do things”.
- The growing amount of “content” in the curriculum that was detracting from students learning principles, processes and concepts.
- A desire to return to the original premise of the curriculum – the importance of assisting students to develop inquiring minds and the ability to critically think through situations so there is reduced need for “rote learning”.

What's Different Now?

More emphasis on:

- primary health care
- evidence informed practice, critical inquiry
- leadership
- cultural competence
- broad assessment skills including the social determinants of health
- health care informatics

- intra- and inter-disciplinary collaboration
- ability to work with a variety of ages and life-stage groups, as well as families, groups, communities and society

The Program Goals

1. Practice nursing within a framework of promoting health and healing through the integration of the art and science of nursing within a variety of contexts and with diverse client populations.
2. Be accountable practitioners providing care and making decisions based on relationships with others, nursing knowledge, and different ways of knowing.
3. Influence the current reality and future of nursing practice and health care at economic, political, social, and professional levels by anticipating and responding to the changing needs of society.
4. Be critically reflective, independent and motivated practitioners with an inquiry approach to lifelong learning.

Update on Our Progress and Impact on Practice

We have just completed the first implementation of Year One of the revised curriculum.

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In the fall, we will be implementing Year Two. Students may not “look” quite the same at each milestone in the program as they have in the past, e.g. Year One has an emphasis on health and health assessment. So students entering Year Two will not have learned some skills or competencies that they did in the past. However, these students have developed other competencies.

Faculty may engage students in a variety of learning activities while in practice that do not necessarily involve taking on a “full patient load”, e.g. at the beginning of Year Two students may focus on assessments via nursing rounds, or may share a patient assignment so they can discuss and collaborate, or may spend time with several patients to talk about their pain experiences etc. Over time students will assume responsibility for more of the patient’s care, but it will look different that it has and may be more progressive.

Scholarly Activity at Vancouver Island University

We’re taking this opportunity to brag! Carly Singbeil and Kendra Torvik, both fourth year nursing students, were published in the May issue of the Canadian Nurse. Carly and Kendra have done extensive research regarding how nurses are using social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook. Their research has raised some important ethical questions for all nurses. Please join us in congratulating Carly and Kendra on their accomplishment. You will see Carly and Kendra working at NRGH this summer. Both students will be finishing their program in September 2008, and will receive their degrees at Convocation in December.



Faculty News

Although we bid farewell to both Linda Cornell and Erika Blakeman when they retired last year, both have returned to contract positions for the summer. Since the last newsletter, Jacqueline Fournier has announced her upcoming retirement in July 2008 and has assumed a contract position with VIHA in Victoria. Anna Grieve also retired and is pursuing her love of outpost nursing by taking contracts in the Yukon Territory.

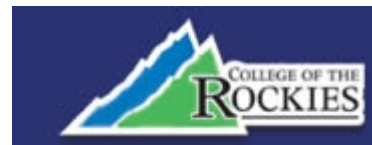
Janet Rankin and Linda Shorting have resigned their positions at Malaspina University College and have assumed positions at the University of Calgary.

Maureen O’Connor plans to step down as co-chair of our program to return to her first love, teaching. Madeline Heffel-Ponting will remain in the Chair Position for another year.

Both Linda Byrnes and Stephanie Buckingham have been granted six month education leaves. Stephanie Buckingham will be away July to December 2008 pursuing Nursing History, and Linda Byrnes will be away January to July 2009 studying Integrative Energy Healing.

Marilyn Chapman’s secondment to the Collaboration for Academic Education in Nursing (CAEN) has been extended and she will also be on leave for 6 months in the coming academic year.

Collaboration for Academic Education in Nursing (CAEN) Partners



We appreciate your flexibility and commitment to our students and your future nurses!
Please feel free to contact us to share your thoughts.

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