



August 12, 2021

Dear BSN Students,

It is a great honor to welcome you to the 2021-22 Academic Year. We are very excited to welcome our students on campus to continue to provide you a quality nursing education. We have experienced unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have seen that our students, faculty, and staff are agile and resilient, but it has not been easy. It has taken a tremendous amount of courage to face the threats of this virus and adapt to the impact on our day to day life. Our compassionate hearts have extended to all people impacted by this virus physically, spiritually, and financially; and the human to human connection has been strained while we had to use personal protective equipment and physically distance ourselves. Because of this, our theme this academic year is Education as a Ministry: Courage, Compassion, and Connection. We truly believe that our students “are the hope tomorrow needs” and we are here to support you in your educational journey.

The BSN Pre-Licensure Program will continue to be offered in a hybrid delivery method which is a combination of online and on campus learning. Our goal is to provide you with an engaging, quality education by combining the best of the pre-COVID traditional methods while capitalizing on the creative and innovative strategies developed during the emergent COVID-19 pandemic. We will be offering our courses that focus on NCLEX preparation in the Beyond the Lecture model, but this year the interactive learning experiences will be on campus, instead of Zoom. Some of your courses will continue to be offered in an asynchronous, 100% online delivery method that allows you the flexibility to engage in class throughout the week at a time that best fits your schedule. Labs and practicums will be delivered primarily on campus or in the health care setting with the flexibility to provide some online learning opportunities as needed. These intentional decisions to select the best strategies to create this new normal represents how Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing remains on the forefront of the best nursing programs in the state and nationwide.

As you know, we are still experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our community has made major strides in creating safer environments through the implementation of prevention strategies to include COVID-19 vaccinations. However, due to the surge of the Delta variant we will need to implement strategies that will prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. All students, faculty, and staff will be held accountable to implement the following guidelines:

- All members of the campus community will continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to campus where they will be required to attest to continual self-monitoring of the following symptoms prior to entering a building:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

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**Bon Secours Memorial
College of Nursing**

- All faculty, staff, students, and visitors inside campus facilities should:
 - Wear a cloth or procedure mask in public areas of the building. Faculty may remove masks when teaching in a classroom or lab setting as long as a distance of 6 feet is maintained at all times between the faculty and the students.
 - Practice physical distancing of at least 6 feet from other people whenever possible.
 - Avoid gathering in groups unless it's for established classes and/or meetings.

Although the College and the Health System have yet to require the COVID-19 vaccine for associates and students, it is very possible that this decision could change at any time. We highly encourage all students, faculty, and associates to follow all recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination to keep themselves, our campus, and our patients safe. Ensure that you maintain documentation of your vaccination and have it readily available to share if or when needed. If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 or you are exposed to someone that has been diagnosed with the virus, please closely follow the guideline posted on the web: <https://www.bsmcon.edu/im-fully-vaccinated>.

Our College campus is open for student use. You can find more detailed information about the College's COVID-19 plan on the College [website](#). In general, students can use all identified entrances to the building and students may use the library, the student lounge, the skills lab, and computer lab within the guidelines listed above to include physical distancing and use of personal protective equipment. Our goal is to keep our campus open in this fashion as long as it is safe to do so; however, if the public health status changes and we need to convert to more distance education to keep our community safe, our program is ready to seamlessly pivot.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you as the Dean of Academic Affairs. We are blessed to be part of a campus community and ministry that is devoted to “foster holistic lifelong learning through innovative career education designed to cultivate servant leaders who are passionate about bringing people and communities to health and wholeness.” You are important to us. Our community needs you. Please continue to commit to do your part to keep our community safe. If there is anything I can do to enhance your experience, I invite you to stop by my office or send me an email. If you would like a scheduled appointment, please contact Peggy Gault at peggy_gault@bshsi.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Perkins

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