

## **University of Ottawa - Algonquin College Collaborative Nursing Program**

The College of Nurses, the licensing body for Registered Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses, have targeted January 1, 2005 as the date when newly graduated nurses must have a Baccalaureate degree in Nursing (B.Sc.N.) to begin practice as a registered nurse. All other health care professionals (eg. Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Dieticians, Social Workers) have their basic preparation at the university level. This is the natural evolution of any profession whose body of knowledge is growing and wants to better serve the needs of the public in an increasingly complex health care system.

To train these future nurses, the University of Ottawa and Algonquin College have signed an agreement to offer a four-year Collaborative Nursing Program leading to a Baccalaureate in Nursing B.Sc.N. from the University of Ottawa. The program has been approved by the Senate of the University of Ottawa and the Board of Governors of Algonquin College with the first students starting in the program in September 2001 (Budget approval from MTCU pending).

### **1. What is a Collaborative BScN Nursing Program?**

*The four-year Collaborative Nursing Program is a Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (B.Sc.N) program offered jointly by the University of Ottawa and Algonquin College. The program will be delivered jointly by each of the partner institutions with the University and the College sharing human resources to maximize the expertise of each partner whenever possible. (N.B. The University of Ottawa and La Cité Collégiale have set up another Collaborative program offered in French. For details please check the Q&As for that program).*

### **2. What is the value of a Collaborative University/College BScN Nursing Program?**

*The benefit to a student enrolled in a Collaborative BScN Nursing Program is access to the combined expertise and resources of both the college and the university environments. The curriculum has been developed jointly, all courses will be offered at the University or the College campuses and a student can choose to register at one or the other site. The admission requirements, the progression rules and the graduation requirements will be the same for all students. The Collaborative BScN Nursing Program graduates will meet the College of Nurse of Ontario=s revised Standards of Practice for 2005.*

### **3. How did collaborative nursing education develop?**

*Representatives of the Nursing Profession at both the Federal and Provincial level have*

*long been advocating the baccalaureate degree as the entry to professional practice. Locally, for the past decade, nurse educators from the University of Ottawa and Algonquin College along with clinical partners, have been working towards the goal of a Collaborative BScN Nursing Program for the Ottawa area. The Ontario government now agrees and has made funding available to ensure the viability of Collaborative Programs whose goal is to educate nurses with basic baccalaureate preparation.*

**4. Will the Algonquin diploma Nursing Program continue to be offered?**

*There will be one final Diploma Nursing Program intake for September 2001 at the Pembroke and Woodroffe Campuses of Algonquin College. This group of students would normally graduate in 2004 before the new eligibility requirements come in force.*

**5. What will the tuition fees be?**

*Each student in the Collaborative Program will be registered at University of Ottawa or the Algonquin College site. The tuition fees for the Collaborative Nursing Program will be the same for all students (approximately \$4500.00 in 2001-2002). Ancillary fees will vary between University and College sites (ie. Student Association fees, computer lab access, health services, athletic services).*

**6. As a student in the Collaborative Nursing Program, will I have to commute between the two campuses to take courses?**

*No, all courses in each of the four years of the program will be offered at the Algonquin College and University of Ottawa site.*

**7. Where is my degree going to come from?**

*The University of Ottawa will issue the degree bearing the name of the University of Ottawa and Algonquin College.*

**8. I am presently registered in the Nursing program at the University of Ottawa, will I have to transfer to the new Collaborative program?**

*The Collaborative BScN Nursing Program affects only those students beginning Nursing in September 2001 and beyond. You will continue your program and courses at the University of Ottawa..*

**9. I am presently registered in the Nursing Diploma program at Algonquin College, will I**

**be automatically be part of the Collaborative program?**

*Your program at the College will continue and you will receive a Diploma in Nursing and be eligible to write your RN exams, if you complete your diploma requirements prior to January 1, 2005. You will not receive a BScN on completion of your diploma studies. You will be eligible to apply to the Post-RN BScN program at the University of Ottawa and some credit will be given for equivalent courses studied at the College.*

**10. I am presently registered at the College in the nursing program and I have all the prerequisites for the University program. Can I transfer to the University of Ottawa?**

*If you have the prerequisites for the B.Sc.N program, you may apply to transfer to the University of Ottawa prior to the completion of your diploma, and your application for transfer would be reviewed by the Admissions Committee.*

**11. As a student in the Collaborative B.Sc.N Nursing Program, will I have access to the resources ( libraries, gym etc) at both sites?**

*Student access to resources at the partner institution will be negotiated by the Steering Committee of the Algonquin College University of Ottawa Collaborative Nursing (BScN) Program.*

**12. Where will I have clinical practice time?**

*Clinical Coordinators at each campus (Algonquin College and the University of Ottawa) will jointly arrange your placements in hospitals, long term care facilities and the community throughout your program of studies.*

**13. Do I need to go out of town for clinical practice placements?**

*Currently, clinical placements are in the Ottawa area. This does not preclude clinical placements in surrounding areas should the need arise.*

**14. What is the salary range for registered nurses?**

*Most salaries are determined through negotiation with the Ontario Nurses Association (ONA). The current salary range for registered nurses is \$39,975. - \$59,968. per annum (ONA contract April 1, 2000)*

**15. What will determine my choice of site?**

*The academic program is identical at both sites. Choice of sites will depend on personal preference, geographic location, ease of access etc.*

**16. What are the employment opportunities in Nursing?**

*There are many opportunities in Nursing in the Ottawa area, in the province of Ontario, across Canada and internationally. Nurses work in many areas including; hospitals, community health centers, regional health departments, northern outposts, industry and home care. The baccalaureate degree in nursing serves as a foundation to ongoing and advanced education in the nursing discipline including the preparation of advanced practice nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse researchers, managers and administrators.*

**17. Is there a difference if I take my degree at the University of Ottawa or another university?**

*Each accredited baccalaureate program in Nursing is responsible for the development and implementation of its nursing curriculum to meet Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing accreditation criteria which include uniqueness and accountability. All programs prepare graduates to write the provincial licensing exam (RN Exam).*

**18. Will I be able to practice nursing at the bedside?**

*A baccalaureate degree prepares the nurse to practice at many ~~A~~bedsides@ - in the hospital, in the community or with groups of people needing specialized nursing care such as the elderly.*

## **Applicants and Prospective Students**

**19. What are the prerequisites for the Collaborative BScN program?**

*OSSD and 6 OACs, or equivalent, including OAC Biology, Chemistry (minimum 65% in each), and OAC English, with an overall average of 70%. Additionally, applicants require Grade 12 Advanced level Math (4A) or equivalent.*

**20. What are the prerequisites for a mature applicant status?**

*Mature applicant status includes; OAC Biology, Chemistry (minimum 65% in each) and OAC English plus Grade 12 Advanced level Math(4A) or equivalent. Mature status applies to applicants who have been out of **full-time** studies for a minimum of two years since high school.*

**21. Where do applicants apply?**

*For this year only (2001), applications will be accepted from both the Colleges Application Center (OCAS) and the Universities Application Center (OUAC). Applicants will be encouraged to apply through OUAC. As of 2002 all applicants will have to apply through OUAC. The OUAC application fee is \$85.00 for applicants from high school and/or CEGEP plus an additional \$35.00 for non-secondary students. The OCAS application fee is \$65.00 for all applicants.*

**22. I applied to OCAS for the College Nursing Program and I have the prerequisites for the university program. What happens to my application? What about my application fee?**

*All applicants to the Algonquin College University of Ottawa Collaborative Nursing (BScN) Program will be informed in writing about the new program and will be offered the opportunity to indicate their site of preference. All courses, in each of the four years of study, will be offered on both the Algonquin College and the University of Ottawa site.*

**23. How will applicants be informed of the Collaborative BScN and the choice of two sites?**

*A letter will be sent to all applicants, informing them of the Collaborative Program and that the program will be offered on 2 sites beginning with the 2001-2002 academic year. This letter will emphasize that the program is one program offered on two sites and asking them to indicate a preferred site. Beginning 2002-2003 the Collaborative BScN Nursing Program will also be offered at the Pembroke Campus of Algonquin College.*

**24. How is applicant information shared between the two institutions?**

*Both College and university will request a signed information release form from applicants to share application information between the two institutions. Applicants will be asked to indicate the site of preference at this time.*

**25. What will be the response deadline?**

*The offer of admission letters, from both institutions to the Collaborative Nursing Program will be sent beginning March 30, 2001.*

**26. What will be the confirmation date?**

*The common date for confirmation for both sites will be June 13, 2001. Offers will continue until classes are filled at each site.*

**27. I applied to the College for Nursing, but I do not have the prerequisites for the BScN program. Will I still be eligible?**

*You will need to complete academic upgrading to meet the nursing program prerequisites. If you meet the *Amature student applicant@* criteria, you will require OAC Biology and Chemistry (minimum 65% in each), OAC English and Grade 12 Advanced level Math(4A) or equivalent. Mature status applies to applicants who have been out of full-time studies for a minimum of two years since high school.*

**28. Where can I get the necessary prerequisites for the Nursing program?**

*In order to assist applicants to Nursing to achieve necessary prerequisites, the General Arts and Sciences Program of Algonquin College will be offering OAC equivalent Biology and Chemistry courses during the Spring 2001 term. OAC English and Grade 12 advanced level Math (4A) courses are also available through local school boards in adult day programs and night continuing education courses. Correspondence courses are also available through the Independent Learning Centre.*

**29. I have university prerequisites and have applied through both OCAS and OUAC. Is it**

**possible for me to get two offers? Will one of my application fees be refunded?**

*Applications will be reviewed by the Algonquin College University of Ottawa Collaborative Nursing (BScN) Program Admissions committee before offers are sent to applicants. As it is one program, you will receive only one offer. We will strive to accommodate your request for the preferred site for the program. You will not be refunded for your application fee as your application must be processed by both application services.*

**30. If I register at one site for the first year, and wish to transfer to a different site the next year, will this be possible?**

*It is anticipated that students will remain registered at the site to which they are initially admitted. Requests for transfer to a different site will be referred to the Algonquin College, University of Ottawa Collaborative Nursing (BScN) Program Admissions Committee. Requests for transfer may be limited.*

**31. Will the program accept transfer credit for courses within previous diploma or degree programs?**

*Equivalent courses at the baccalaureate level are eligible for transfer credit if they meet the criteria for transfer credit. Credit is granted on a course-by-course basis.*

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