TO: Baccalaureate Nursing Students

FROM: Laura King, DNP, RN, CNE
Assistant Professor
Baccalaureate Program Director – Junior Level

DATE: January 2019

RE: New Student Orientation Information

On behalf of the faculty of the School of Nursing at The University of Texas Medical Branch, I would like to welcome you to the Baccalaureate Nursing Program. It is my hope that you will achieve your educational goals during your tenure with us. This letter is to provide specific information about our program and requirements that must be complete prior to orientation.

Your orientation to The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) is on the UTMB Campus, January 3-4, 2019. All new students are required to attend orientation activities.

You will notice that requirements and expectations for attending a professional school may be quite different than your previous scholastic experiences. We are very eager to assist you in meeting these new challenges.

The first class day will be January 7, 2019. A schedule of key dates for the 2018-2019 academic year is available on the website for your long range planning, and accessible at the following link:

https://ispace.utmb.edu/departments/SON/Admissions%20and%20Student%20Affairs%208RMAN%20Calendar/FY%202018-2019%20Calendar.pdf

The course calendars are available in the Online Student Center in Blackboard. This is accessible using your UTMB username and password at: https://eclass.utmb.edu/

SON Curriculum

The total curriculum plan is listed on the website for the traditional program. The fall and spring terms include thirteen weeks of classes and a final exam week. The summer term includes twelve weeks of class with a final exam week. You will notice on the academic calendar that there are breaks between each semester, as well as holidays and Spring Break. The number of clock hours students must spend to earn semester credit for clinical and laboratory hours differs from that earned for classroom work. One clock hour spent per week in the classroom over the course of a semester earns one credit hour. To earn one semester credit for clinical and laboratory work, you must put in three clock hours per week. Therefore, your weekly time commitment as a student in a professional nursing program will be, undoubtedly, heavier than for your prerequisite course work.

Course Plan for Spring 2019

As a full-time student, you can expect to be enrolled in up to 14-16 credits per semester and be engaged in classroom, laboratory and/or clinical activities Monday through Friday, as well as occasional weekends. Some clinical experiences are routinely on weekends due to the large number of schools competing for clinical resources.

The School of Nursing has many resources to assist students to succeed academically. You will be assigned a faculty advisor and should make an appointment at your earliest convenience to meet your advisor. You are expected to communicate regularly with your advisor, who will be your guide throughout the program. During orientation, you will have the opportunity to learn about our tutoring programs and the many other resources available on campus to assist students with academic skills.
Preparing for Nursing Academics

We want you to be successful. To ensure you are off to a good start we recommend that you review you're A&P I and II material. In addition we have a number of YouTube videos that will prepare you for your courses. Please view our webpage of resources at: https://nursing.utmb.edu/future-students/Resources.aspx.

Managing a Full-Time Course Load

We recommend that full-time students not be employed for the first term. After that, we have found that some students may be able to manage part-time employment. Any work hours must be scheduled so that they do not conflict with course commitments and should be kept to a minimum number of hours. Clinical activities during the program may include days, evenings, nights and weekends, as well as include travel to clinical facilities in the Galveston and Houston areas.

Resources Students Will Need

- Transportation – You will be responsible for transportation to clinical sites. Therefore, you will need access to a car for your transportation for clinical activities. While some experiences will be “on campus” at UTMB hospitals and clinics, all students will have experiences at a variety of area hospitals, health departments, clinics and patient homes. All students need independent transportation, and you should build transportation costs into your budget.
- You can expect to have coursework assignments that will be available online; therefore access to a personal computer with broadband internet access (Cable/DSL) is essential. Furthermore, the e-mail system is used extensively in our communication with students. Computer resources are available in the Moody Medical Library and the Jamail Student Center for use while on campus. Please refer to the UTMB website for the MINIMUM computer and software requirements.
- Software needed may be purchased at the bookstore with a huge discount. You will need your badge or, if you go to the bookstore before you have your badge, you may receive the discount if you take your driver’s license. Microsoft Office 2016 for Windows and MAC, as well as earlier versions, and Windows 10 Professional Upgrade, Windows 8.1 Pro Upgrade and Windows 7 Upgrade are available.
- Students with children may need to note that clinical work will involve some early morning (6:00 am), evening/night, and weekend hours. This should be considered when making child care arrangements.
- Basic CPR for Health Care Professionals certification is required for all students by the agencies we use for clinical rotations. Students must obtain certification before school starts. If you have not already done so, visit the website of the American Heart Association to find a course offered in your geographical area. Please be sure you complete the BLS course for Health Care Providers which covers infant, child, adult and 2-man CPR. Please bring a copy of your certification card to orientation for verification purposes.
- All immunizations must be current throughout your schooling at UTMB. Verification of personal health insurance is also required. The information regarding immunizations, including meningitis, is available on the Student Health website, http://www.utmb.edu/studenthealth/.

Best wishes. We look forward to meeting you in January!