ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM IN NURSING

INFORMATION PACKET
The mission of the nursing program at the Florida Keys Community College is to promote quality nursing education of the students. This is done in an effort to prepare them to meet the needs of the broadly diverse populations present in the continually changing healthcare environment of today’s society.

Using the nursing process as a framework, the nursing care taught is evidenced-based practice rooted in research. The goal is to bridge the gap between nursing theory and clinical performance. The focus of care is directed toward the client. Central to this practice is the consideration of individual needs, as well as those of the family and the community.

We endeavor to help develop the associate degree nurse who can provide quality, humanistic, holistic care across the lifespan in a variety of community and clinical settings. The provision of this care is culturally sensitive and done with empathy and genuineness.

**PHILOSOPHY**

Using the metaparadigm of nursing which is nurse, client, environment and health. The faculty have also chosen to add the nursing process as an important component to bring the ideas of the metaparadigm together. The following terms will be defined as follows:

**Nurse and Nursing:**
- Provides care to help meet the needs of the client to assist and promote optimal client functioning. By working towards these needs it puts the patient in the best condition for nature to act upon the client. The nurse utilizes the nursing process to care for a person’s health with dignity and assists them to understand healthier patterns of living. Nursing provides the future foundation of our healthcare system.

**Client:**
Can be defined as the individual, family, community, culture or a global view of a nation or country. The client is a biopsychosocial and spiritual being.

**Environment:**
Defined as the space occupied by the client. It may interact with the client and either assist or hinder health promotion. It may include a hospital, community or a nation.

**Health:**
May be defined as what the client defines it as being. It is changing patterns of behavior from unhealthy to healthy practices. It is a pattern of adapting to changing needs. Health includes physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being of the client.
Role of the Associate Degree Nurse—Build a strong, and solid future in the healthcare arena. ADN graduates are prepared to meet the challenge of the NCLEX exam and are highly marketable in the community workforce. As an ADN nursing student, one is responsible and held accountable for addressing individual learning needs. When in the clinical learning environment, the student assumes the role of patient advocate and care provider. It is very important the student seek learning experiences specific to individual needs. Through the process of role assimilation, the student learns to be accountable and responsible for their actions. This would include building problem-solving skills and working collaboratively with health care team to coordinate the care of their patients. Central to this idea is the importance of strengthening ethical behavior and learning to take responsibility for their actions.

Nursing Education—FKCC nursing faculty believe education to be an interactive learning experience with student success being dependent on a positive attitude and taking care of oneself. Faculty encourage students to strive towards acquisition of nursing knowledge, psychomotor skills, confidence and competence to be competitive in the current healthcare environment. Teaching and learning principles are introduced and built upon throughout the curriculum. Faculty members act as the facilitator and liaison between staff and patients, assuring the delivery of care is safe and meets the necessary standards. Faculty believe immediate feedback is important as the task or skill is being demonstrated. Evaluation, being a type of feedback, should also include areas of demonstrated growth and provide direction for the learner to further improve their skills. The ideal climate for clinical teaching and learning is one that facilitates open communication. If barriers exist, effective learning cannot take place. The environment should be safe for questioning and exploring new learning experiences. The clinical instructor should be supportive of their student and act as an advocate, when needed. Expectations and objectives of the instructor, student and facility staff should be very clear to decrease potential problems.

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE
PROGRAM IN NURSING

The Associate in Science Degree Program in Nursing consists of 30 credits in general education courses and 42 credits in nursing courses. Upon graduation, the candidate receives the Associate of Science Degree in Nursing and is eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) in the state of his/her choice. The successful passing of this exam enables the student to practice as a Registered Nurse. Applicants to the program should have a serious interest in Nursing and should possess high principles of integrity, self-reliance, emotional stability, resourcefulness, and a personal orientation suited to the practice of Nursing.

The Nursing Program begins bi-annually each Fall and Spring semester. Admissions are limited to 36 students per class. Spring Semester (January start date) deadline is October 15th and Fall Semester (August start date) deadline is May 15th. If you meet all
of the admission criteria and your application is complete, including all official transcripts to the admissions office, you are conditionally admitted into the program. Admission is competitive based on TEAS exam scores, prior G.P.A., Essay, interview with the Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, Criminal background check, and Drug Screening.

Nursing courses are planned sequentially and take 22 months to complete. NUR courses cannot be taken out of sequence. This permits the student to progress from simple to more complex situations, from health to disease, from the normal to the abnormal, culminating in the total integration of concepts and competencies.

Pharmacology, communication, nutrition, professional role, nursing process, crisis, stress adaptation, life cycle and biological/psychosocial systems are content areas integrated throughout the curriculum. Clinical experience is obtained in area health care facilities and other related community agencies. Students are assigned to these facilities and are responsible for providing their own transportation. Clinical rotations are scheduled in the Key West, Marathon, Tavernier, Plantation Key, and Homestead areas. For students in the upper & middle keys, clinical rotations are offered in the area based on available vacancies and resources. In the event that vacancies are filled in the applicant’s geographical residence, accepted students will be offered the opportunity to travel to a geographical area other than their own.

Upon acceptance into the program, students may need to travel to classes, campus lab and clinical settings outside their area of residence. Although the nursing labs and lectures are offered at all 3 campus sites, the first week of each course, and any final, written, or clinical exams as deemed appropriate by the course coordinators, will be at the main campus in Key West. Additionally, due to technical difficulties or unforeseen circumstances, students may be required to intermittently travel to Key West during the semester.

Laboratory experiences are mandatory and are offered at all three campus sites. During clinical rotations, every attempt is made to place students in the geographical area of their home. Our clinical affiliations encompass the Upper, Lower, and Middle Keys in addition to our new Scholars Partnership in South Dade County with Baptist Health South Florida (BHSF). However, students may still be required to travel outside their area of residence due to clinical site and faculty availability. In Maternal /Child Nursing, all Upper Keys students will travel to the Miami area for clinical rotations. If you are unable to travel out of a specific geographical area, please be aware that you will not be able to meet the program requirements.

Nursing students who have completed all of their pre-requisite course requirements devote a minimum of 20 hours per week to the program. Florida Keys Community College reserves the right to terminate from the Nursing Program any student who, as evaluated by the Nursing Faculty, does not perform satisfactorily in the clinical areas.
USE OF THIS PACKET

This packet is provided to prospective applicants for the Florida Keys Community College (FKCC) Nursing Program class. This packet can be used for application to that class only. Nursing Program applicant information, procedures, and forms are subject to change each year. Information in this packet supersedes any information found in the FKCC catalog section “Nursing Program—Selective Admissions Requirements,” or any other section of the FKCC catalog.

FKCC is an equal access, equal opportunity institution that does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, marital status or disability in employment or in the admission and treatment of students. FKCC complies with the Florida Educational Equity Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Anyone needing special assistance to register at FKCC should call the Americans with Disabilities Act and Equity Coordinator at (305) 809-3292 to set up an appointment to register.

Florida Keys Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Associates Degree.

The Florida Keys Community College Nursing Program is approved by the Florida Board of Nursing.

Florida Keys Community College reserves the right to make changes in the regulations announced in this publication at any time.

FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key West Campus</th>
<th>Middle Keys Center</th>
<th>Upper Keys Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5901 College Road</td>
<td>Marathon High School</td>
<td>Coral Shores High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key West, FL 33040</td>
<td>900 Sombrero Beach Road</td>
<td>89951 U.S. Highway 1</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.fkcc.edu">www.fkcc.edu</a></td>
<td>Marathon, FL 33050</td>
<td>Tavernier, FL 33070</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: (305) 296-9081</td>
<td>Phone: (305) 743-2133</td>
<td>Phone: (305) 852-8007</td>
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For information regarding application and admission to the Associate in Science Degree Program in Nursing, contact the Nursing Department at (305) 809-3128.
For general admissions and residency information, contact the Office of Enrollment Services at (305) 809-3188.

For general academic advisement, including assistance in preparing for and scheduling the general education courses required in the A.S. Degree Program in Nursing, make an appointment with any of the Advisors located in the Advising Department by calling (305) 809-3196.

Applicants living in the middle and upper Keys can obtain general academic advising by calling either the FKCC Middle Keys Center or Upper Keys Center listed above.

For testing information – including the Florida College Entry Level Placement Test (FCELPT), the CLAST, CLEP exams, or other testing issues – contact the FKCC Testing Coordinator, in the Testing Department at (305) 809-3250.
APPLYING FOR THE NURSING PROGRAM

STEP 1:
(a) Submit an FKCC Application for Admission (if not previously submitted) to the Office of Enrollment Services for processing. There is a $30 FKCC application fee.

STEP 2:
Send official transcripts from all institutions attended to the Office of Enrollment Services. Must have a GPA of a 2.7 or higher.

STEP 3:
Completion of TEAS test, with a minimum score of 70.0%

STEP 4:
Submit nursing application forms A – F & required documentation to the Nursing Department prior to the application deadline date.

NOTE: A $30 Nursing Application Fee (MONEY ORDER ONLY) must accompany Forms A-H. (This is in addition to the $30 general FKCC Application for Admission fee.)

Florida Keys Community College
5901 College Road
Key West, FL 33040

REQUIRED TRANSCRIPTS
(1) Provide FKCC’s Office of Enrollment Services with an official copy of your high school transcript or G.E.D. If you are a high school graduate, the high school transcript must be sent directly from the high school of graduation to the FKCC Office of Enrollment Services. Students with a GED must have an official transcript sent directly from the agency that issues the GED. Graduation from high school or equivalent is required for acceptance into the Nursing Program. If you have earned any college credits at a college other than FKCC, you are exempt from submitting High School/GED transcripts.

(2) Provide the FKCC Office of Enrollment Services with official transcripts from EACH college/educational institution which you have attended previously for college credit course work. Transcripts MUST be sent directly from the institution(s) to the FKCC Office of Enrollment Services. Failure to list all previous colleges attended for college credit course work on the FKCC Application for Admission and on the Education Record (Form B) may result in immediate dismissal from the Nursing Program, suspension from FKCC, and cancellation of any credits earned.

IT IS STRICTLY THE APPLICANT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT HIS/HER
FOREIGN TRANSCRIPTS

Applicants that have graduated from a foreign high school must provide an evaluation of these transcripts performed by World Education Services, P.O. Box 745, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113-0745. (Web site: www.wes.org) This course-by-course evaluation will cost the student $125.00. Applicants with course work at foreign institutions must provide an evaluation of these transcripts performed by World Education Services, P.O. Box 745, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113-0745. (Web site: www.wes.org) This course-by-course evaluation will cost the student $125.00.

ADMISSION OF TRANSFER NURSING STUDENTS

Transfer Nursing Students will be handled on an individual basis by the Director of Nursing’s Allied Health.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please refer to the FKCC Catalogue and the FKCC Student Handbook located on the college website (www.fkcc.edu).

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS (FDLE)

Accepted applicants who have ever been convicted or entered a no contest or guilty plea, regardless of adjudication, for any offense other than a minor traffic violation such as speeding and parking tickets must provide a copy of their arrest reports and court documents indicating the judgment and sentence of the court. Felons whose rights have been restored must provide a copy of a Certificate of Restoration of Civil Rights. If the conviction was in the State of Florida, the applicant may contact the Office of Executive Clemency at (904) 488-2952. If the conviction was out of state, the applicant should contact that state for assistance.

Note: Some law enforcement/court offices are slow in providing requested documents. Applicants are advised to secure these documents (if required) on a timely basis.

Students at FKCC involved in direct patient care during a clinical rotation in a hospital or related medical facility are required to complete the FDLE form included in additional requirements requested after acceptance to the program. This is a requirement mandated under the guidelines cited in the current Florida Statutes; Chapter 435, by health care agencies with which FKCC has clinical, internship, and externship agreements.

ELIGIBILITY TO SIT FOR THE NCLEX-RN

Felons whose rights have not been restored are NOT eligible for acceptance into the Nursing Program, nor are they eligible to take the NCLEX-RN. Once a felon's rights are restored, the Florida Board of Nursing will determine his or her eligibility to sit for the NCLEX-RN.

The Florida Board of Nursing (BON) performs computerized criminal background checks on all applicants for licensure as an RN to determine their eligibility. This background check includes the record of all arrests, not merely convictions. Anyone ever arrested or given notice to appear in
court before a judge is likely to have an arrest record. Applicants for licensure in Florida by examination often contact the BON office prior to, or upon, entry into a Nursing program questioning their "chances of licensure" with an arrest record. The BON staff cannot provide the applicant information regarding the possibility of licensure, as BON policy, rules, and Florida statutes may change by the time the applicant is ready to take the examination. An arrest history by itself, does not disqualify a person from licensure.

Prospective nurses should be advised that often a judge withholds adjudication of guilt in an offense and informs the defendant that he or she "won't have a record." However, this information is not always reliable, and the individual, in fact, may have a record. Falsification of a document and attempt to procure a license by knowing misrepresentation are violations of the Nurse Practice Act.

Applicants for the NCLEX-RN who have criminal records (as described above) have no guarantee that they will be approved. For more information on these issues, contact the Director of Nursing and Allied Health (305) 809-3265.

All applications must be complete. Incomplete applications will be rejected. Part of your acceptance is based on your ability to appropriately complete the Nursing forms.

Please sign and date: