

NEWS RELEASE

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USM's New Accelerated Nursing Program Allows Students to Earn a Bachelor's in One Year

Learn More at www.stmary.edu/NursingNow

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—Building on the university's strong and storied tradition of educating nurses, the University of Saint Mary is launching a new Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN-AT) offering that will allow qualified degree-seekers to complete the program in just 12 months. The first classes for the USM BSN-AT will begin in June of 2012.

This week, the university gained approval from the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) to begin offering an accelerated track. KSBN's approval means USM has the go-ahead to take on as many as 24 BSN-AT students.

The Accelerated BSN, notes Glenna Mahoney, director of nursing at USM, is designed for individuals looking for a career change—a career that is perhaps more personally fulfilling. Applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree in another field in order to be accepted.

It's a particularly intensive track. Students will be completing the same coursework and other requirements of a traditional BSN student—which would typically take two years—in just 12 short months. Mahoney points out that accelerated does not mean abbreviated.

Classes are taken in terms of either seven or eight weeks in length. Students will take 58 credit hours of courses and 772.5 hours of clinical/laboratory experiences over the course of their studies.

“It's a challenging path that leads to immediate personal rewards” Mahoney said. “Our program is also one of the most affordable Accelerated BSN programs in the Kansas City area. With our Leavenworth campus just 30 minutes from Kansas City and its close proximity to so many hospital clinical sites, USM is an ideal location for the accelerated nursing program” she added.

The University of Saint Mary is sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, whose ongoing mission has been to meet the current needs of society.

“There is a growing need for non-traditional BSN education,” said Mahoney. The 2010 survey of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing found that there are approximately 14,000 students enrolled in accelerated BSN programs in the U.S., and those numbers are steadily increasing. As a group these students tend to be intelligent, curious, and sophisticated consumers of higher education who actively pursue learning opportunities. The most successful accelerated students are very goal-oriented, with the ability to prioritize and capitalize on their time management skills.

Beyond presenting a key opportunity for the university and its students, the creation of USM's BSN-AT helps address pressing social needs, as the nation's demand for more and better-trained health care professionals continues unabated.

"We are very pleased to have received all of the approvals necessary to start an Accelerated Nursing program this coming summer," said Dr. Bryan Le Beau, USM's academic vice president and dean. "It is a natural next step in the expansion of our health science programs, in general, and our nursing programs in particular. We know there is a need to provide such opportunities to those who, after graduating from other degree programs, decide that they want to enter the nursing profession.

"And, as with all of our health science programs, this will be a rigorous, high quality program."

Besides the new Accelerated BSN, USM also offers a traditional face-to-face BSN program on the main campus in Leavenworth and an online RN-to-BSN path for busy working nurses.

Applications are now being accepted. Classes start in June. Learn more about USM's Accelerated BSN program at www.stmary.edu/NursingNow.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

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