Salisbury University
Department of Nursing
2nd Degree Baccalaureate Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Who is the Chair of the Nursing Department, and where is his office?**
   Dr. Jeffrey Willey. His office is located on the Second floor of Devilbiss Hall: DH-237

2. **Who is the Director of the Graduate and Second Degree Programs, and where is her office?**
   Dr. Lisa Seldomridge. Her Office is located on the Second floor of Devilbiss Hall: DH-200B

3. **Who is the Administrative Assistant for the Director of the Graduate and Second Degree Programs, and where is her office?**
   Ms. Carmel Boger. Her Office is located on the Second floor of Devilbiss Hall: DH-239

4. **Why is the second degree program considered to be an accelerated nursing program?**
   This program condenses the nursing content that would normally occur over 4 semesters into 3 semesters instead. There are extensive reading assignments, and students must process and master a large amount of material in very short periods of time. This program will likely be much more challenging than your first degree program due to the amount of content covered, the condensed program time, the self-discipline required, and the clinical time demands on your schedule. In addition, many of you have a family and other obligations outside of school. Time management skills will be paramount to your academic success over the next 3 semesters.

5. **When do the nursing courses begin?**
   Courses focused on nursing theory (learning about diseases and patient care) begin in your first semester, and will be paired with a clinical (application) course. Theory courses are taught via a team approach with two to three faculty experts conducting classroom-based lectures/activities.

6. **What is the faculty to student ratio in classroom-based and clinical courses?**
   In the classroom setting, there are generally no more than 40-45 students per lecture section. For proper supervision of students, particularly in the early (junior-level) clinical experiences, there are usually no more than 8 students per faculty member.
7. When & where will I go for clinical experiences?

Clinical rotations begin in the fall semester and continue throughout all three semesters of your program. Clinical courses are paired with related theory courses; the clinical component offers the student the opportunity to apply theory to actual patient care. Locations of the clinical experiences can include hospitals and a variety of other inpatient and outpatient settings on the Eastern Shore. Generally, facilities are no more than a one-hour maximum drive and most are within 30 minutes of campus. Hospital settings used for medical-surgical (Adult Health) clinical include Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin, and Nanticoke Memorial Hospital in Seaford, Delaware. For specialty courses such as psychiatric, maternity and pediatric courses, experiences may extend outside the traditional hospital setting.

8. What is involved in clinical experiences?

Students generally spend an entire day at the hospital or related facility for clinical and in some cases, are required to go to the hospital/facility the day prior for 1 to 2 hours to meet their assigned patient and/or obtain the necessary information in preparation for the clinical day. There are also some mandatory weekend clinical rotations that will be scheduled during your program. There is usually some type of written assignment (for example, a care plan or case study) that is submitted and graded in addition to the actual performance grade.

9. Will I need to provide my own transportation to clinical experiences?

Students are responsible for providing their own transportation for clinical rotations but may carpool with members of their clinical group. Most clinical are located within an hour's drive from SU. For some of the rotations, students will need their own vehicle as they are individually assigned to various locations on the Eastern Shore.

10. Do I have to go to clinical rotations?

Yes. Clinical rotations are required of all students. The clinical rotations are scheduled based on a variety of health care agencies availability. Some are in the evening, some are in the mornings, and some are on weekends.

11. Can I work while enrolled in the accelerated nursing program?

Due to the rigorous nature of the accelerated nursing curriculum, holding a job while enrolled in this program is highly discouraged! There are extensive time demands, a rigorous curriculum, and variable clinical schedules. There are major time commitments required for studying, as well as for classes and clinical rotations. You should expect a much greater time commitment to be successful with this academic program than what you experienced in your first degree program. If one must work, it is recommended that you only work part-time (no more than 10-20 hours/week). Time management skills are of utmost importance in order to be successful in the curriculum.
12. What is the NCLEX-RN exam and what strategies are in place to enhance my success in passing this exam?

This exam is the official licensing exam that all graduates must pass in order to work as a registered nurse upon graduation. In addition to the established well-rounded curriculum that is offered, students also are enrolled in the ATI-CARP program beginning in the 1st semester of the junior year. This computer-based learning system offers students the opportunity to take computer-based NCLEX-style questions in preparation for the NCLEX-RN exam. Other supplemental activities include the Lucy Tull Resource Center which provides opportunity for skills practice, simulation experiences, and other resources to enhance learning.

13. How will I know about important program announcements and requirements?

All official communication will happen through your SU email account. You must monitor this at least twice a day (possibly more frequently) to remain abreast of current issues. This is expected of all students for all courses while at SU.

14. Can you tell me about student advising and the procedure for this?

This is a cohort program, and you will receive program scheduling and advising assistance each semester as a group from Dr. Seldomridge and Dr. Webster. You will also be assigned an academic advisor who can provide individual advising assistance when needed. Additional guidance is available from the Director of the Graduate and Second Degree Programs, if needed.

15. How do I register for courses?

For the first semester only, students will be registered in the courses by our administrative staff. For each of the following semesters, students will need to register themselves using the Gullnet system at SU. **Gullnet is a very important tool for you to use throughout your program at SU.** It is the main communication tool for registration information, drop/add dates, graduation requirements, billing notices, semester deadlines, etc. Be sure to look at your Gullnet account on a frequent and regular basis.