BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in Pima Medical Institute’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree completion program. As a prospective student, we would like to provide you with some information regarding the program. This packet includes information on the following: general BSN program description, program’s mission, philosophy, goals/objectives, financial commitments, admissions process, curriculum, and frequently asked questions.

Non-Discrimination Policy
In compliance with Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, it is the policy of Pima Medical Institute not to discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, age, marital or parental status or disability in all of its educational and employment programs and activities, its policies, practices and procedures.

BSN Prepared Registered Nurses
The Pima Medical Institute (PMI) Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Degree Completion program of study is designed for registered nurses working in the profession to obtain a BSN through an online learning platform. The program, enhanced with liberal arts and sciences education content, is aimed to prepare Associate Degree and Diploma nurse graduates for increased responsibility in an ever-evolving health care environment. The BSN program of study focuses on theories, concepts, and principles important for development of nursing leadership and management knowledge, skills, and attitudes; evidence-based research analysis and utilization; and pertinent clinical, fiscal, legal, and political trends confronting healthcare and the nursing profession. The graduate will be prepared to assume roles requiring increased leadership capability and clinical responsibility in the delivery of care to individuals, families, communities, and global populations.

Mission Statement
The mission of the Nursing Program at Pima Medical Institute is to continually integrate state-of-the art academics and technology with personal attention to each student’s uniqueness. Through the mission, PMI will guide the nurse generalist through a transformational process that increases the level of nursing judgment and decision making; advances assessment and critical thinking skills; and prepares the graduate for enhanced clinical leadership and formal career advancement. Through the integration of liberal arts education with nursing science, students will utilize innovative, evidence-based research to provide leadership within a healthcare organization and provide high-quality, patient-centered care for culturally diverse populations within the global community. The baccalaureate nurse graduate will be prepared to lead the transformation of professional nursing practice in the contemporary healthcare system of the 21st century.

Program’s Philosophy
The philosophy of the Nursing Program is to offer quality nursing education that nurtures clinical reasoning; competent and compassionate care, and service oriented nursing professionals who lead
processes for developing better healthcare environments for healthcare consumers and the nursing profession. As educators, we believe in the worth, uniqueness, and potential of every human being and therefore promote in each nursing student a sense of self-worth, discovery and excellence by providing a student-centered nursing educational program that provides experiential learning activities relevant to the individual student. It is expected that the graduate will in turn believe in the worth, uniqueness, and potential of every person with whom they come in contact, whether as a participant in civic responsibilities or in service to others.

It is the faculty’s responsibility to offer a solid educational experience while the students accept responsibility for their learning. The faculty, students, and graduates represent their chosen field and must demonstrate strong ethical comportment and accountability with respect for human rights and dignity. In addition, they must be willing to grow within their profession to provide continued excellence in leadership and patient care through a personal commitment to self-directed life-long learning, awareness of changes occurring in the health care environment, and communication with the health care team and other professional organizations.

**Goals and Objectives**
The BSN program has developed its mission, goals, and objectives to align with the mission of Pima Medical Institute and specific to the professional community that it serves. The program and curriculum are dynamic to meet the continuously changing needs of the community and the nursing profession. To accomplish the mission of the nursing program, the nursing faculty has identified five goals for the nursing program. At the completion of the baccalaureate program, the graduate will be prepared to lead clinical, organizational, and professional transformation of nursing and healthcare. The nursing program will prepare the graduate nurse with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be:

1. Leaders and Managers supporting Integration of Quality, Safety, and Technology throughout the healthcare milieu;

2. Collaborators, Communicators, and Decisions Makers within Complex Healthcare Organizations sustaining cognizance of legal, ethical, fiscal, and regulatory trends/issues;

3. Evaluators of Evidence-Based Literature aimed at Research Utilization to Improve Outcomes;

4. Promoters for Health, Wellness, and Disease Prevention for Individuals, Families, Populations and Communities; and

5. Advocates for Life-long Learning, Professional Identity, and the all-encompassing Nursing Profession.

**Student Learning Outcomes**
The programmatic student learning outcomes are performance indicators that provide evidence of the students’ achievement of the programmatic goals. Each objective documents student achievement of
various milestones along the education pathway. The outcome milestones are used as an evaluative measurement to determine effectiveness of the education program and serve to guide maintenance or revision of various components of the nursing program. The programmatic student learning outcomes have been guided by the AACN *Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* (AACN, 2008).

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Integrate nursing knowledge with the humanities, arts, and sciences as a foundation for effective clinical reasoning to support independent and interdependent decision making in the delivery of care to individuals, families, communities, and populations.

2. Demonstrate leadership in promoting safe, quality care with a focus on continuous improvement within a variety of organizations and healthcare systems.

3. Utilize best current evidence from nursing and the sciences to support decision making, and disseminate/participate in nursing scholarship.

4. Integrate a variety of technologies to communicate, support, and provide safe quality care to individuals, families, communities and populations across the healthcare continuum.

5. Influence the allocation of health resources and reduce health disparities through practice and participation in the shaping of healthcare policy, finance, and regulatory environments.

6. Foster open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision making by functioning effectively with patients/families, communities/populations, nursing colleagues, and inter-professional teams.

7. Utilize all levels of prevention to promote health and reduce disease/injury in individuals, families, communities, and populations in complex situations.

8. Assimilate professional, ethical, legal, and leadership principles consistent with that of a professional nurse in a dynamic healthcare system.

9. Provide competent nursing care to diverse individuals, families, communities, and populations in a variety of settings across the lifespan.

**Program Structure**

The BSN program is presented over a period of 75 weeks. This period is divided into five (5) 15-week semesters consisting of 915 clock hours spent in the online classroom, laboratories, and through experiential learning activities. The individual courses run for a 7.5 week period. There is a one week recess between semesters. Students must maintain a minimum grade average of 77%. A grade of “D” or “F” or failure to complete coursework during a given semester may require students to “sit out” until
the course is offered again. This would be the case if the particular course is a pre-requisite to another
course later in the program. Not all courses are offered every semester.
For each assigned hour of online activities, the student can anticipate an additional 2 hours for outside
preparation and learning activities. These outside activities include but are not limited to reading the
assigned materials from the textbook and/or additional resources and conducting research to submit
substantive responses for each of the assigned discussion questions and preparing written assignments.
As an example, a 3 credit theory course with 45 hours of online activities, one should anticipate an
additional 90 hours of outside activities or “homework” for a total of 135 hours for the duration of the
course. For a 7.5 week theory only course, this would mean approximately 18 hours of in class and
homework time per week for that particular course.

The BSN degree completion program is designed to be taken in sequence as presented in the program
outline however; flexibility is acceptable provided pre-requisite courses are taken in order. For
example, CPT 301 - Microcomputer Applications and ENG 310 - Technical Writing courses must be
taken prior to any other general education courses offered through Pima Medical Institute and prior to
or concurrently with NUR 300 - Role Transition and Professional Development. The majority of the
general education courses and 300 level nursing core courses must be completed prior to taking 400
level nursing core courses. MTH 310 - Research Statistics must be completed prior to taking NUR 425
- Foundations of Evidence-Based Nursing Practice or NUR 440 - Quality Improvement in Nursing and
Health Care Organizations and NUR 425 - Foundations of Evidence-Based Nursing Practice must be
taken prior to or concurrently with NUR 440 - Quality Improvement in Nursing and Health Care
Organizations. Furthermore, NUR 475 – Community Oriented Nursing Practice and Global Health
Issues and NUR 480 – Nursing Leadership and Health Care Management have been designed as
culminating experiences and must be taken as the final two (2) courses in this program of study. Prior
to attending any of the online courses offered in this program of study, the student must participate in a
short online orientation to introduce the student to the online learning platform and technology tools
utilized throughout the online program.

**Experiential Learning Activities**
There are experiential learning activities incorporated into many of the nursing courses. These
experiential learning activities help to solidify student understanding of course material by applying
concepts and promoting interaction with nurse leaders and other health professionals at the student’s
place of employment or at other healthcare settings secured by the student.

**Financial Commitments**
Finances are often high on a list of student concerns. Listed below are some of the anticipated expenses
in the BSN program at Pima Medical Institute. All prices are estimated and fees are subject to change
without notice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Costs per Calendar Year</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Application Fee</th>
<th>Registration Fees\</th>
<th>Textbooks*</th>
<th>Transfer Credit Transfer Fee**</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>$18,000</th>
<th>$50</th>
<th>$100</th>
<th>$2230</th>
<th>$150</th>
<th>$20,530</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

* Includes shipping and handling. In Arizona, includes Tax @ 8.1%. In Nevada, includes Tax @ 8.100%. In Texas, includes Tax @ 8.25%.

**Transfer of PMI credit is not subject to the transfer fee.

Computer Requirements

For all online courses, students must have access outside the campus setting to a computer with the following specifications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PC</th>
<th>MAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dual core processor (Intel or AMD) 768 MB RAM * Recommended 1 GB</td>
<td>Power Mac G5 (or better)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Speed Internet – minimum 2,000 kbps connection</td>
<td>High Speed Internet – minimum 2,000 kbps connection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows XP, Vista, or 7</td>
<td>Mac OS X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speakers (internal OR external)</td>
<td>Speakers (internal OR external)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printer</td>
<td>Printer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD/DVD Drive</td>
<td>CD/DVD Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point - 2003 (or newer)</td>
<td>Pages, Spreadsheet, Presentation – current version</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Library

Access to Pima Medical Institute’s online library is accessed through Blackboard. URL: www.online.pmi.edu

There are several requirements that you need to meet in order to successfully take an online course at Pima Medical Institute. The link below will take you through a seven-step system check process to assure that you’re properly set up.

http://repo.pmi.edu/online/Blackboard_Admin/OnlineLearning_System_1.html

Admission Requirements

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) program is a degree completion program. Applicants must maintain an active license as a registered nurse and be employed as a registered nurse in order to be eligible for admission to the program. Admission to the program also requires that the applicant possess a high school diploma or recognized equivalency and complete a total of 60 semester credits of specific coursework at the postsecondary level. The 60 transfer credits shall consist of 45 nursing credits and 15 general education credits.

Registered nurses who have successfully completed a nationally or regionally accredited Associate’s degree Nursing program will receive a maximum of 45 semester credits for pre-licensure nursing course work. Graduates of a recognized Diploma school may be required to take additional lower division courses to meet the overall credits to graduate from the RN to BSN degree completion program. The following lower division courses must be transferred or completed prior to admission to the BSN program: English Composition, 3 credits; Biological Sciences (Anatomy and Physiology or
Microbiology) 3 credits; Social Sciences (both Psychology and Sociology), 6 credits; and Mathematics, 3 credits.

Furthermore, lower division general education courses numbered 100 or 200 may be eligible for up to 21 semester transfer credits and upper division general education courses numbered 300 or 400 may be eligible for up to 18 semester transfer credits provided a grade of “C” or better is achieved, course descriptions and content are similar to that of PMI courses, and courses fulfill an appropriate category in arts or foreign language, humanities, biological, physical & social sciences, written & oral communication, mathematics, and computer applications as determined through the official transcript review.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **How many students are admitted into the program?**
   A full program of study begins every other semester with the first cohort of students anticipated to begin in October 2015.

2. **How many students are enrolled in each course?**
   Pima Medical Institute accepts 20 - 25 students in each course section. If there are more students interested in a particular course, additional sections of that course can be opened.

3. **Is there a deadline to complete the admissions process?**
   Qualified applicants are accepted on a first come, first served basis until the class is full.

4. **Will my previous college credits transfer?**
   You will be able to transfer credits to any Pima Medical Institute program if they are transferred from a nationally/regionally accredited institution; you received a grade of “C” or better; and the course is numbered 100 and above. The transferred credits are required to be a broad sampling of various educational experiences including arts and humanities, business, informational systems, social sciences or natural sciences. Refer to the catalog/program requirements for more specific information.

   Students requesting credit for previous education must submit official transcripts, course descriptions, and other supporting documentation as deemed appropriate by the Program Director. Credit can only be awarded for courses completed with a grade of “C” or better. Determination of transferable college credit will be decided on an individual basis by the Program Director. Pima Medical Institute recommends that each student completes the curriculum in its entirety, but exceptions will be made on preparatory/general education course work.

5. **Will credits from Pima Medical Institute transfer to another institution?**
   Pima Medical Institute does not guarantee any transfer of credits; the transfer of credit is up to the receiving institution. However, we have articulation agreements with regionally accredited institutions for graduates seeking additional bachelor’s or master’s degrees.
6. **Is Financial Aid available?**
   Financial Aid is available to eligible students. Please contact your Admission Representative to schedule a Financial Aid appointment.

7. **Is the program accredited?**
   The BSN program at Pima Medical Institute is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and approved by the Arizona State Board for Private Post-Secondary Education. Pursuit of affiliate status with Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) governed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) will begin upon enrollment of the first cohort of students. The approval process takes approximately 24 months.

9. **How does online education work?**
   Pima Medical Institute’s online programs are taught via the Internet, allowing for schedule flexibility to help you balance school, family, work and other personal commitments. These programs feature a rigorous curriculum and dedicated instructors and staff, just like you’d expect at one of Pima Medical Institute’s physical locations. Each online class is led by an instructor, and you will be part of a virtual class of other students.

   [Click here](#) to view an instructional video about online learning at Pima Medical Institute.

10. **What is the course schedule?**
    Semesters begin on a Wednesday and courses run for 7 ½ weeks.
    Courses in the final semester of RN to BSN Degree Completion Program run for a full 15 week semester.

11. **Will I be required to be online at a particular time?**
    No, you do not need to be online at any specific time. You can access your class from any computer with an Internet connection, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

12. **If I have an issue, where do I go for help? How soon can I expect a response?**
    If a student has a question about course content or needs extra help with the coursework, he/she should contact the instructor in that course. Instructors are available to provide personal feedback and one-on-one assistance to students. If a student has other questions about books, financial aid, time management, etc. he/she can contact the online department and we will assist. Students can expect a response within 24 hours.

13. **If I decide that online education isn’t for me, can I transfer to a ground location?**
    No, there are no onground equivalent programs at this time.

14. **Do I need to purchase textbooks? Where do I go to buy them?**
Yes, you will need textbooks for your courses. You can purchase the necessary textbooks for your program through an online bookstore. Once you enroll, you will receive further instruction on how to buy them.

15. **Will Pima Medical Institute provide me with a computer?**

   No, Pima Medical Institute does not provide students with a computer. You will need to have your own computer or regular access to a computer with Internet access to complete your coursework. A tablet is provided during the first semester and is included in the nursing program tuition and fee schedule so the student can access Blackboard, the online learning management system, and e-books.

16. **Do I have to come to campus?**

   No, you don’t have to come to a physical campus location while enrolled in an online program at Pima Medical Institute.