



Belmont Abbey
COLLEGE

*That in all things God
may be glorified*

For Immediate Release

Contact: Julia Long

P: 423-827-8727 E: julialong@bac.edu

Belmont Abbey College Takes Majors Steps Towards Full Approval of Baccalaureate Nursing Program

Belmont, N.C. (February 10, 2022) – Belmont Abbey College announces the initial approval of its baccalaureate nursing program. Following a phased approval process, the college recently received confirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of College and Schools Commissions on Colleges (SACSCOC) and approval from the North Carolina Board of Nursing. Investments in this program began in early 2021 with the construction of brand-new nursing classrooms, labs, and offices on Belmont Abbey's Sacred Heart Campus. The building opens in April of 2022, and classes officially begin in August. The first cohort includes 40-45 students and seven full-time faculty.

In keeping with the Benedictine tradition of caring for the sick, Belmont Abbey College provides a holistic approach to nursing that integrates the nursing discipline with a foundation in the liberal arts and sciences and Catholic healthcare ethics. "At Belmont Abbey, we will prepare our nursing students for service distinction, moral courage, and ethical leadership in the healthcare community," says Dr. Carolyn Harmon, Dean of the Nursing Department. "Our transformational program provides a solid foundation in theology, scripture, and philosophy and explores the connection between faith and healthcare," she says. Nursing graduates of Belmont Abbey emerge with a strong understanding of the nursing discipline, a deep knowledge of nursing practice, and a passion for patient care.

The news of the North Carolina Board of Nursing approval comes at a very crucial time, as quality healthcare workers are in higher demand than ever before due to the pandemic. Healthcare professionals are experiencing burnout due to increased workload, and healthcare administrators are trying to balance the needs of their staff and their patients. In a tough time, Belmont Abbey is partnering with other Gaston County institutions to answer the call and meet community needs. In the fall of 2021, Gaston Early College opened a Medical Services institution that allows students to complete their high school and Associates' degrees in 5 years. Additionally, Belmont Abbey and CaroMont Health are building a new hospital on Belmont Abbey's campus with expected completion by mid-2023. With its Nursing program and Master of Health Administration, Belmont Abbey College is training future generations of healthcare professionals. "We offer a unique education at the Abbey that combines quality academics with a focus on making the world a better, healthier place," says Dr. Travis Feezell, Provost at Belmont Abbey College. "We see the need in our community for skilled healthcare workers, so we are excited to see our programs in action and move towards final approval in the near future," says Dr. Feezell. The North Carolina Board of Nursing will return for the final approval of the baccalaureate nursing program in Spring 2024.

Experts estimate that 500k new nursing jobs will be available by 2028. "The need for quality nurses will never go away," says Dr. Harmon. With a strong foundation of Catholic ethics, Belmont Abbey College prepares nursing graduates to provide exceptional patient care and use their compassion to better the lives of others.

About Belmont Abbey College: Founded in 1876, Belmont Abbey College is a private, Catholic baccalaureate and liberal arts institution. Our mission is to educate students in the liberal arts and sciences so that in all things, God may be glorified. Guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition and the Benedictine spirit of prayer and learning, we welcome a diverse body of students and provide them with an education that will enable them to lead lives of integrity, to succeed professionally, to become responsible citizens, and to be a blessing to themselves and to others. Our beautiful and historic campus is conveniently located just 10 miles west of Charlotte, N.C., and is currently home to more than 1500 students. For more information, visit <https://belmontabbeycollege.edu/>.