

Belmont Abbey College Launches Direct Admit Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Belmont, N.C. (September 30, 2024) - Today Belmont Abbey College announces that beginning in Fall 2025, the college will offer direct entry to its Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, eliminating the stress of a separate application process. The Direct Admission BSN program will allow students to secure their place in the nursing program upon acceptance to the college. Accepted students will begin the BSN curriculum within 2 years of starting at Belmont Abbey College and must maintain admission standards and progression throughout their time in the program.

To be considered for the BSN Direct Admission program at Belmont Abbey College, students must earn a minimum unweighted high school GPA of 3.25, be admitted to the college by February 15, 2025, and submit their enrollment deposit upon acceptance into the Direct Admit Program. In line with the college's commitment to expanding nursing education rooted in the Catholic tradition, this new initiative plays a vital role in meeting the growing demand for skilled nursing professionals both within our community and beyond.

The Direct Admission BSN program is designed to provide aspiring nurses with a streamlined pathway to earn their degree and enter the healthcare workforce. The demand for skilled nursing professionals continues to rise, with the Bureau of Labor Statistics projecting a 9% increase in nursing jobs over the next decade. "Healthcare is evolving, and we recognize the need for a more efficient pathway into nursing education," said Julie Fleming, Assistant Vice Provost of Admissions at Belmont Abbey College. "Our Direct Admission BSN program simplifies the admission process and ensures that our students receive the support and resources they need to succeed from day one." This new program aims to equip students with the knowledge and experience they need to thrive in the workforce and ultimately, make a meaningful impact in their communities.

Belmont Abbey College celebrated its inaugural graduating class of BSN students in May of 2024. "These students have been a true blessing to the college, and we are thrilled to watch them impact even more lives as they embark on the beginning of their careers. The new Direct Admission BSN program will help us identify even more future nurses who are seeking a pre-licensure program that takes a holistic approach, integrating medical discipline with a foundation in the liberal arts and sciences," said Dr. Lee-Ann Kenney, Chair and Program Director of the School of Nursing. The class of 2024 is poised for success in the nursing field, as evidenced by the 100% pass rate on the NCLEX. Through the Direct Admission Program, Belmont Abbey will offer the following to aspiring nurses:

- Guaranteed Admission: Students accepted into the program can transition seamlessly into the nursing major, provided they meet specific academic progression requirements.
- Comprehensive Curriculum: The program offers a robust curriculum that combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on clinical experience in various healthcare settings.
- Supportive Environment: Students will benefit from personalized academic advising, mentorship opportunities, and access to state-of-the-art simulation labs.
- Career Readiness: The program emphasizes skills development, critical thinking, and compassionate patient care, preparing graduates to excel in a variety of nursing roles.

Prospective students interested in the Direct Admission BSN program can find more information on <u>our website</u> or attend our upcoming <u>Nursing Exploration Day</u> on October 29, 2024. Join us to learn more about BAC's Nursing program, meet our faculty, and tour our newly renovated, state-of-the-art nursing facilities.

About Belmont Abbey College: Founded in 1876, Belmont Abbey College is a private, Catholic baccalaureate and liberal arts institution that educates students in the liberal arts and sciences so that in all things, God may be glorified. The college welcomes a diverse body of students and provides 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. The college is conveniently located just 10 miles west of Charlotte, N.C., and is currently home to more than 1500 students. For more information, visit<u>https://belmontabbeycollege.edu/</u>.