



October 23, 2009

Thank you for your interest in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Saint Joseph College. Whether you inquired some time ago or recently, we are pleased to be able to provide you with the latest information about our program, as some important process changes have recently occurred.

I am delighted that you are considering Saint Joseph College as you move into the next phase of your education. As you learn more about the College and its Nursing program, you will discover why we are recognized as a school that uniquely prepares students for achievement and personal satisfaction throughout their lives. Students benefit by studying in the College's state-of-the-art facilities alongside highly qualified Nursing faculty. The College welcomes applications from qualified transfer and second bachelor's degree students.

The Nursing program is highly selective and spaces are limited. In order to serve you better, and provide more information to you earlier, we have developed the following process to support students seeking to transfer into our nursing program. **Just follow these three easy steps:**

1. Review this packet (or check out any updated versions online at www.sjc.edu/transfERNursing) to assess your eligibility.
2. If you meet the eligibility requirements, including a 3.0 GPA (transfer students) or a 3.25 GPA (second degree students), and feel you are a good fit for our program as described in the packet, complete the application as quickly as possible. Recommended deadlines are December 1 for spring (transfers only) and February 15 for fall (transfers and second degrees).
3. If you do not meet eligibility requirements and/or are less certain about your program interest, please consider attending one of our Transfer and Transform programs which offer a special session for all prospective nursing students. Workshop dates are posted online and you may register at www.sjc.edu/visitus.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce Fontana".

Joyce Fontana, Ph.D.
Chair, Division of Nursing

PS – If you are graduating with an associate's degree and an RN license from the CT community college system as of spring 2010 or beyond, inquire instead for our RN to B.S.N. program (anticipated fall 2010).

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Transfer and Second Degree Admission Information Packet**

Preferred Application Deadlines

Spring Semester: December 1 (Transfer Students)
Fall Semester: February 15 (Transfer & Second Bachelor Degree Students)

Please **read the application materials carefully** as they contain important information on procedures and minimum requirements for applications to be reviewed. Students should thoroughly read through this packet for answers to common questions regarding the program and the application process prior to applying.

In order to be considered for admission, the following criteria and application procedure must be met:

Transfer Students

1. A **minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0** (3.25 or better preferred)
2. A grade of **C or better** in each pre-requisite science course (B's or better preferred). *It is recommended that transfer applicants have completed at least one pre-requisite science, but no more than three, in order to best align with the SJC Nursing track for maximum transferability.*
3. No repeated science or nursing courses due to grades of C- or lower
4. Any **pre-requisite science courses** previously taken must be completed within the past eight years
5. Application requirements:
 - a. Completed application for admission submitted online at www.sjc.edu/admissions
 - b. Official high school transcript
 - c. Official transcripts from **ALL** colleges and universities attended
 - d. Nursing application supplement available online at www.sjc.edu/admissions
 - e. Personal statement indicating interest in nursing and strength of academic preparation for success in nursing (strongly recommended, but not required)
 - f. Letter of recommendation (strongly recommended, but not required).
6. Interviews are granted for students who have submitted an application and transcripts and who have the minimum GPA.
7. Admitted students must also complete a criminal background check prior to starting nursing courses

Second Bachelor's Degree students

1. Conferral of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university prior to the start of the program
2. A **minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25** is required
3. A grade of **B or better** in each pre-requisite science course (A's preferred)
4. No repeated science or Nursing courses

5. At least three of the five pre-requisite sciences must be completed prior to the application deadline. Only one pre-requisite, either Microbiology or Biochemistry of the Human Body, may be taken at the start of the nursing sequence concurrently with nursing courses. All **pre-requisite courses** must be completed within the past eight years
6. Application requirements:
 - a. Completed application for admission submitted online at www.sjc.edu/admissions
 - b. Official transcripts from **ALL** colleges and universities attended
 - c. Completion of three of the five required pre-requisite sciences within the last eight years with grades of B or better in each
 - d. Nursing application supplement available online at www.sjc.edu/admissions
 - e. Personal statement indicating interest in nursing and strength of academic preparation for success in nursing
 - f. Letter of recommendation
 - g. Resume of professional experience
7. A campus interview with Nursing faculty may be required (applicants will be notified if so)
8. Admitted students must also complete a criminal background check by the end of their first semester

The following are the required pre-requisite science courses for the nursing program (as listed in the Saint Joseph College Catalog):

BIOL 241* Essentials of Anatomy & Physiology I (4)

This course emphasizes cellular and chemical aspects of physiology, including a study of integumentary, musculoskeletal, nervous systems including sensory systems. Laboratory is required and must be taken concurrently. Prerequisites: BIOL 116 or permission of instructor.

BIOL 242* Essentials of Anatomy & Physiology II (4)

Continuation of BIOL241 Anatomy and Physiology I. Studies include cardiovascular, immune, respiratory, excretory, digestive, endocrine, and reproductive systems. Laboratory is required and must be taken concurrently. Prerequisites: BIOL 241 or permission of instructor.

CHEM 170* Principles of Inorganic and Organic Chemistry (4)

Introduction to the basic principles of chemistry with focus on structure, properties, and reactions of representative inorganic and organic compounds. Special emphasis on applications to health related fields. Three hours lecture, three hours lab a week. Laboratory Fee \$50.

BIOL 222* Microbiology (4)

A general introduction to the field of microbiology. Included topics are: prokaryotic structure, microbial nutrition and control, sterile technique, microbial genetics, basic immune systems, and a survey of selected viruses, fungi, protozoa and bacteria. Clinical and food microbiology are introduced. Two hours lecture, two hours laboratory a week, one semester. Laboratory fee:\$50. Prerequisites: BIOL 110 or 116 two hours lecture, two hours lab a week.

CHEM 240* Biochemistry of the Human Body (4)

Descriptive approach to the chemistry of the human body. Study of the structures and properties of the major classes of biomolecules, enzyme catalysis, metabolism and chemical aspects of genetics included. Three hours lecture, three hours laboratory a week. Laboratory fee \$50. Prerequisites: CHEM 170 or equivalent

Additional Required Courses that may be accepted in transfer or taken as part of the program after a student has been accepted:

NUTR 380 Nutrition for Nursing Practice (3)

Study of all the nutrients, carbohydrates, protein, lipids, vitamins and minerals, including functions and requirements, and the changing nutritional needs in various stages of the life cycle. Discussion of dietary treatment of specific disease states. Prerequisite: CHEM 170 and BIOL 116. Co-requisite: CHEM 240

PSYC 238 Human Development Across the Lifespan (3)

Development of the human being throughout the life span from conception to old age. Considering the life cycle as a whole, reviews the physical, cognitive and psychosocial dimensions of each stage of human life. Prerequisite: PSYC 100

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Bachelor's Degree in Nursing

Application & Admission Questions

- 1) **I meet the minimum criteria for acceptance into the program. Am I guaranteed admission?** Admission into the Nursing program is competitive. We encourage all students, particularly those who meet preferred admission criteria, to apply, but admission is not guaranteed. The best candidates are selected for a limited number of spaces.
- 2) **If I am accepted am I guaranteed a seat in the Nursing program?** For students accepted into the College for Nursing, formal admission into the Nursing Department is assumed provided you meet departmental admission policies. Upon admission, students will be notified of the Nursing track for which they are being offered a seat.
- 3) **How long will it take me to complete the program?** For transfer nursing students, the program requires 3 to 4 years of full-time study. Second degree students may complete the program in 2.5 or 3 years.
- 4) **What if I do not have all of the prerequisite sciences completed. Can I still apply?** Transfer students who do not have all of the pre-requisite sciences completed may apply. It is recommended that transfer applicants have completed at least one pre-requisite science, but no more than 3, in order to best align with the Nursing track for maximum transferability. For second degree students, at least three of the five pre-requisite sciences must be completed prior to the application deadline.
- 5) **What if I don't meet admission criteria?** Spaces are sufficiently limited and admission competitive making it unlikely that an applicant without the minimum or preferred criteria will be considered a viable candidate.
- 6) **What if I don't meet the admission criteria for nursing: Can I be considered for another major?** Students interested in the nursing program must indicate this on their admission application. Transfer applicants who meet the College's overall transfer admission criteria but do not meet the nursing criteria may be offered admission into another major provided that they make their request in writing and with the understanding that it is unlikely that they will be able to pursue nursing at a later date. This option is only recommended for students who are seriously interested in an alternative major.

- 7) **What if I have been unsuccessful in another school's nursing program – can I still apply?** Students are encouraged to apply if they meet the admission criteria. Please see minimum GPA, science/nursing course grade requirements, and the repeat policy.
- 8) **I am working towards my first bachelor's degree and expect to graduate in May. Can I still apply for a second bachelor's degree?** Strong students who meet the admission criteria and have pre-requisite courses completed may apply pending bachelor degree conferral. Admission is contingent upon successful completion of any in progress course work, and final transcript evidencing conferral of bachelor degree. Students may not register for classes if their degree is not conferred prior to the start of the program.
- 9) **I am currently taking pre-requisite courses. What do I need to provide?** Students with courses in progress must submit a transcript of in progress coursework and must submit a final official transcript as soon as grades are posted and prior to the start of classes. Admission is contingent upon successful completion of any in progress course work.
- 10) **What if I attended school outside the United States?** Students who have attended college outside of the United States need to submit an official evaluation of International credit that states what the U.S. equivalency is. An evaluation can be obtained through World Education Service www.wes.org, Education Credential Evaluators www.ece.org, or another NACES (www.naces.org) approved credential evaluation service and an official copy in a sealed envelope must be submitted together with a student's application.
- 11) **I am currently an International student studying in the United States on a student visa. Can I apply to the program?** International students should visit www.sjc.edu/admissions for additional application and admission requirements for International students. Because the course schedule does not require consistent full-time status for second bachelor's degree students, International students are not admitted to the second degree nursing program.
- 12) **I have a copy of my transcript but it is opened. Will this be accepted?** In order for a transcript to be considered official, it must be submitted to Saint Joseph College in a sealed envelope and must bear the official seal of the college or university. Unofficial, faxed, or opened transcripts are not accepted.
- 13) **Who is eligible to apply to SJC for Nursing?** Women and men graduating with an associate's degree and an RN license from the CT community college system as of spring 2010 or beyond may inquire instead for our RN to B.S.N. program (anticipated fall 2010). Otherwise, women interested in transferring for the B.S.N. program may apply as transfer students, and women with a first bachelor's degree in another field from a regionally accredited college may apply as second bachelor's degree candidates for nursing using the Women's College application.
- 14) **Who makes the admission decision?** Admission decisions are made by the Nursing Admissions Committee, but the process is centralized in the Office of Admissions.
- 15) **Where do I send my admission application and transcripts?** Please apply online at www.sjc.edu/admissions and then mail the rest of your application materials to:

Saint Joseph College
Office of Admissions
1678 Asylum Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

Pre-Requisite Course Questions

- 16) **I took my pre-requisite courses at a Connecticut community college. How do I know if they will be accepted?** Saint Joseph College has an articulation agreement with Connecticut's community colleges. To find out which courses are accepted in transfer from these institutions, please visit www.sjc.edu/articulation.
- 17) **My science pre-requisite courses were taken over 8 years ago. Must these be retaken?** Biology and Chemistry courses that are more than 8 years old are not accepted in transfer toward nursing program pre-requisite requirements. Applicants would need to retake these courses.
- 18) **I took one of the required sciences but did not take the lab. Will this meet the pre-requisite?** Pre-requisite sciences are only accepted to meet the requirement if they are taken with a lab.
- 19) **I took an undergraduate class that has a different name from a pre-requisite you require, but I think it covered similar material. Will this meet the requirement?** In most cases the course will not be the same, or the course may partially meet a requirement. Students are encouraged to carefully read the course descriptions prior to applying. Applicants may submit a detailed course description or course syllabus with their application for our credit evaluators to review. For example, in CHEM 170 at Saint Joseph College, both organic and inorganic chemistry are taught. Sometimes a student's chemistry course may be accepted in transfer to partially meet that requirement, if they have only taken organic chemistry.
- 20) **I received a pass/fail grade on a pre-requisite course. Can this count?** In most cases, courses must be graded to be accepted in transfer, unless the institution has a notation that a P is equivalent to a minimum specified grade.
- 21) **Can graduate level courses count towards my Second Bachelor's Degree pre-requisite courses?** Pre-requisite courses must be at the undergraduate level unless approved by the Chair of the Nursing Department.
- 22) **I am not sure if the science courses I have taken meet the pre-requisite courses. How can I find out?** If you have taken your courses at a Connecticut community college, this information can be found online at www.sjc.edu/articulation. If you attended a different college or university, meet the requirements for the program and are accepted, a formal credit evaluation will be done. Unofficial transfer credit evaluations are done at Transfer and Transform events throughout the year. Visit www.sjc.edu/visitus for more information.
- 23) **Can I take my science prerequisites at Saint Joseph College?** Students who have not taken all of the science pre-requisites and who are interested in taking them here at Saint Joseph College as a non-matriculated student should contact the Office of Admissions at 860.231.5216. Non-matriculated students may register for courses on a space available basis only after currently matriculated students have had the opportunity to register. Please note financial aid is only available for matriculated students.

Nursing Program Questions

- 24) **With what health care facilities does SJC have clinical placements for students?** All major hospitals in Hartford and surrounding areas.
- 25) **Can I work full-time or part-time during the Nursing Program?** Most Nursing courses are offered during the daytime and due to the rigors of the program, students may only be able to work part-time.
- 26) **What is the cost of the program?** Program cost depends on the number of credits a student takes per semester. Please see the SJC website for information on current tuition and fees: <http://www.sjc.edu/tuition>. Please note there is a difference in cost for Nursing students who attend part-time (6 credits per semester), $\frac{3}{4}$ time (9-11.5 credits per semester) and full-time (12 credits or more per semester).
- 27) **Is financial aid available?** Yes, for matriculated students taking at least 6 credits per semester. Students interested in applying for financial aid should submit their FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The Saint Joseph College school code is 001409.
- 28) **What if I am accepted and my GPA falls below the minimum and/or I receive a grade lower than a C in a required course?** Once in the Nursing program, students must maintain an overall GPA in accordance with the Nursing progression policy at all times throughout the program. In addition, students must earn a C or better in all sciences and Nursing courses to continue to progress. If a student earns below a C in any of the required courses, one repeat is permitted. Students must repeat the course before they can progress. No more than one science or Nursing course may be repeated.
- 29) **Are students required to take an exit exam in order to graduate from the Nursing program?** Yes, the Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) exam.
- 30) **What score is a passing score for the HESI exam?** 850.
- 31) **What is SJC's pass rate for the NCLEX exam?** The SJC class of 2009 pass rate on this exam averaged 92%, higher than the national average of 89% and the Connecticut pass rate average of 90%.

I have read through the packet and determined that I meet the minimum admission criteria to apply as a candidate for the nursing program at Saint Joseph College. [Click here to inquire or apply online.](#)