October 3, 2013

Thank you for your interest in the Accelerated Second Bachelor’s Degree Program in Nursing. 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 the University of Saint Joseph as you move into the next phase of your education. As you learn more about the University 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.

The Accelerated Second Degree (ASD) Program is designed for individuals who have previously earned a bachelor's degree in any discipline and are now interested in pursuing a second bachelor's degree in Nursing. Students benefit by studying in the University’s state-of-the-art facilities alongside highly qualified Nursing faculty. The program begins at the end of May, and students complete all Nursing courses over 15 months (two summers and one full academic year—May to August). Admission to the program is highly competitive. **Complete applications are due by December 1, 2013, for the 2014 ASD program and will only be reviewed for candidates with a minimum 3.0 cumulative college GPA and specific science course requirements.** If after reviewing the information contained in this packet you believe you meet the admission criteria, we encourage you to apply online as soon as possible at [www.usj.edu/asd-nursing](http://www.usj.edu/asd-nursing).

We hope that the contents of this packet will provide you with the information you need to understand the application process and requirements. We encourage you to read through the contents, especially the Frequently Asked Questions section.

If you have any additional questions about the program after carefully reviewing this packet, please contact the Office of Admissions at 860.231.5216 or admissions@usj.edu. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Mimi Snyder, RN, MSN
Director, Accelerated Second Degree Program
Accelerated Second Bachelor’s Degree Program in Nursing (ASD)
Information Packet

Application Deadline: December 1

Please **read the application materials carefully** as they contain important information on procedures and minimum requirements for applications to be reviewed. Students are encouraged to thoroughly read through the Frequently Asked Questions section included in this packet for answers to common questions regarding the program and the application process.

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

1. Conferral of a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university prior to the start of the program.
2. A **cumulative GPA of 3.0**.
3. A grade of **C or better** in each pre-requisite science course.
4. All **pre-requisite courses** completed within the past eight years and prior to the start of the program in May*.
5. Admitted students must also complete a criminal background check and drug screen prior to beginning Nursing courses.

The following are the required pre-requisite science courses (as listed in the University of Saint Joseph 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 301* 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

Important Application Information

Application Deadline: December 1

Application Requirements by December 1:

☐ Completed application for admission submitted online at usj.edu/asd-nursing.
☐ Official transcripts from ALL colleges and universities attended.
☐ Completion of pre-requisite sciences within the last eight years with grades of C or better in each.
☐ Essay: 1 to 2 pages on the following topic: “What made you want to switch careers into nursing?” Essay will be examined for clarity of thought, grammar, and spelling.
☐ Resume.
☐ Letter of recommendation.
☐ Students with pre-requisite courses in progress at the time of application must submit mid-semester grades.
☐ A campus interview with Nursing faculty may be required (applicants will be notified if so).
☐ Admitted students must complete a criminal background check and drug screen.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Accelerated Second 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 accelerated program is competitive. We encourage all students who meet admission criteria to apply as soon as possible, but admission is not guaranteed. The best candidates are selected for the available spaces.

2) What if I do not have all of the prerequisite sciences completed. May I still apply for the accelerated program? Students wishing to begin the Nursing sequence should have all pre-requisite sciences completed prior to the start of the program. Students with a record of strong academic achievement may be considered for admission into the University to complete remaining pre-requisite sciences prior to beginning the Nursing program.

3) What if I don't meet admission criteria? All students are welcome to apply; however, the program is selective and competitive, and we expect students who meet the admission criteria outlined above to be in the best position to be considered for admission.

4) I am working towards my first bachelor’s degree and expect to graduate in May. May I still apply for the accelerated program? Strong students who meet the admission criteria and have pre-requisite courses completed may be accepted pending bachelor’s degree conferral. Admission is contingent upon successful completion of any in progress course work and conferral of a bachelor’s degree. Students may not start the Accelerated Second Degree program in May if their degree is not conferred prior to the start of the program.

5) I am currently taking pre-requisite courses. What do I need to provide? Students with courses in progress should submit mid-semester grades at the time of application. Official final grades are due prior to the start of the program. Admission is contingent upon successful completion of any in progress course work.

6) 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 the U.S. course/degree equivalency. An evaluation can be obtained through World Education Service www.wes.org, or another NACES (www.naces.org) member institution. An official copy of the evaluation must be submitted with a student’s application in a sealed envelope.

7) I am currently an International student studying in the United States on a student visa. May I apply to the program? International students should visit http://admissions.usj.edu for additional application and admission requirements for International students. Typically, International students cannot be admitted into the ASD program as it is not a full-time program.

8) 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 the University of Saint Joseph in a sealed envelope, and the transcript must bear the official seal of the college or university. Unofficial or opened transcripts are not accepted.
9) **May I request an interview?** At this time, interviews are conducted only if requested by the Director of the Accelerated Second Degree program. Students who would like questions answered prior to acceptance are welcome to attend one of our many information sessions throughout the year. For a current list of upcoming events, please visit www.usj.edu/visit.

10) **Who makes the admission decision?** Admission decisions are made by the Director of the Accelerated Second Degree Program in consultation with Associate Dean/Chair of Nursing, but the admissions process is centralized in the Office of Admissions.

11) **Is the ASD program at USJ co-ed?** Yes. The ASD program is an adult degree program and admits women and men.

12) **Where do I send my admission application, transcripts, and application materials?** Please apply online at www.usj.edu/asd-nursing and have the rest of your application materials and official transcripts sent to:

   University of Saint Joseph  
   Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
   Attention: Accelerated Second Degree in Nursing Program  
   1678 Asylum Avenue  
   West Hartford, CT 06117

**Pre-Requisite Course Questions**

13) **I took my pre-requisite courses at a Connecticut community college. How do I know if they will be accepted?** The University of Saint Joseph has course equivalencies with Connecticut’s community colleges posted online. To find out which courses are accepted in transfer from these institutions, please visit www.usj.edu/articulation.

14) **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 prior to applying.

15) **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.

16) **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 the University of Saint Joseph, 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 inorganic chemistry.

17) **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.
18) **May 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 ASD Program Director.

19) **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.usj.edu/articulation](http://www.usj.edu/articulation). If you attended a different college or university and are accepted, a formal credit evaluation will be done. If you have any questions, in the meantime, contact the Office of Admissions at 860.231.5216 or attend an information session: www.usj.edu/visit.

20) **May I take my science prerequisites at the University of Saint Joseph?** Students who have not taken all of the science pre-requisites and who are interested in taking them at the University of Saint Joseph should contact the Office of Admissions at 860.231.5216.

**ASD Program Questions**

21) **How many credits is the program?** The ASD Nursing curriculum consists of 53 credits. This does not include any pre-requisite sciences or non-nursing courses.

22) **Am I required to complete general education requirements?** Students with a previous bachelor’s degree are expected to have completed their general education requirements at their bachelor degree granting institution. Students admitted for the ASD program are required to complete only the Nursing major requirements, and two additional courses required for the major if not already taken elsewhere: “Nutrition for Nursing Practice” and “Human Development Across the Lifespan” (see course descriptions above).

23) **What is the Nursing course sequence for the Accelerated Second Degree program?** A sample current nursing sequence, subject to change, is as follows (number of credits is in parenthesis):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer A1 7 weeks:</th>
<th>NURS 201 (3) Foundations of Professional Nursing</th>
<th>NURS 220 (4) Health Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 226 (3) Pathophysiology and Pharmacology I</td>
<td>NURS 228 (3) Pathophysiology and Pharmacology II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 15 weeks:</td>
<td>NURS 321 (7) Clinical and Theoretical Nursing Across the Lifespan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURS 322 (3) Nursing Research</td>
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<td>NURS 413 (4) Nursing in the Community Across the Lifespan I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 15 weeks:</td>
<td>NURS 323 (6) Clinical and Theoretical Nursing Across the Lifespan</td>
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<td>NURS 410 (2) Public Health Nursing</td>
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<td>NURS 426 (2) Professional Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer B1 7 weeks:</td>
<td>NURS 414 (8) Clinical and Theoretical Nursing Across the Lifespan II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer B2 7 weeks:</td>
<td>NURS 418 (8) Management of Complex Health Problems</td>
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24) **With what health care facilities does USJ have clinical placements for students?**  
All major hospitals in Hartford and surrounding areas.

25) **May I work full-time or part-time during the Accelerated Second Degree Program?**  
The accelerated program is a fast-paced program, and it is unlikely that you can work full-time. You may be able to work part-time, especially during the first summer.

26) **What is the cost of the program?** The direct cost (tuition and fees) for the 2014 ASD program is $38,544. This amount includes only the 53 credit nursing curriculum and does not include any pre-requisite or non-nursing courses, books, or other expenses.

27) **Is financial aid available?** Yes, for matriculated students. Students interested in applying for financial aid should submit their FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The University of Saint Joseph 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 ASD 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 Kaplan Comprehensive Exam.

30) **What is the USJ pass rate for the NCLEX exam?** University of Saint Joseph students historically achieve strong results on the NCLEX exam, typically higher than the state and national averages.