

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Bryan Schrepel 913-758-6165

E-mail: SchrepelB@stmary.edu



University of Saint Mary Guardian Angel Nursing Department Receives Kansas State Board of Nursing Approval

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— The University of Saint Mary Guardian Angel Nursing Department received confirmation that its Bachelor of Science degree in nursing has been approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN). With the approval, the university can officially admit students to the department. Approximately 40-45 students are expected to be admitted before the program opens in the fall of 2006.

For Karen Fernengel, Ph.D., RN, dean of the Guardian Angel Nursing Department, the entire process took an extremely long time, but it was well worth it. “We worked very hard to ensure the process was done correctly,” Fernengel said. “Now that we’ve been approved, we have a lot of exciting things on our horizon. It’s an exciting time for the University of Saint Mary.”

Ferenengel said she’s received more than 300 inquires about USM’s newest program.

In all, the nursing degree will include 56 nursing-specific credit hour courses plus 39 credit hours in nursing supporting courses such as Biology, Anatomy & Physiology and Chemistry. Students must also complete USM’s general education requirements as well. In all, the Bachelor of Science in nursing degree will compile approximately 128 credit hours.

The degree also has 690 total hours of clinical study built in as well. Clinical study hours are times students spend in hospitals learning actual clinical skills. USM has already partnered with St. John Hospital, Providence Medical Center, Cushing Memorial Hospital, the Veterans Administration Hospital, Munson Army Clinic and Shawnee Mission Medical Center for clinical hours.

So what does the new degree program mean for the university? As Fernengel put it, the new degree is a return to the original mission of Saint Mary, with a new flair of course.

“The program returns the university to its original mission, which I think it wonderful,” Fernengel said. “The mission of this school was to educated teachers and nurses, so this fits perfectly. In addition to that, the degree program adds new life to the University of Saint Mary. We’ll bring in about 90 students annually. I think that adds greater diversity, a new student population base that the University of Saint Mary has not seen for some time.”

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