



BSN Collaborative Pathway in Western Maryland

Frostburg State University

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Background and Goals

- The BSN Collaborative Pathway was developed as a retention strategy for Frostburg State University (FSU) Pre-Nursing students to complete a 4-year nursing program and graduate with a BSN degree.
- The need came from students entering FSU as either – pre-nursing majors or changing their major to nursing after starting. An increasing number of students began requesting a full program at FSU so they did not have to transfer, they wanted to stay involved with sports and activities at FSU.
- FSU and Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) collaborated to provide this unique dual enrollment opportunity that would increase the number of BSN prepared nurses in Maryland without program duplication in Western Maryland.
- Pre-requisites and graduation requirements are taken on campus at FSU. Then students apply to ACM.
- Once accepted into ACM’s nursing program, students begin 4 semesters of dual enrollment. During this phase, students will attend ACM in-person 4-5 days a week for their basic nursing education, fundamentals, and skills.
- Each semester, students will simultaneously take bachelor’s-level nursing courses (FSU’s RN-BSN program), online, through FSU.
- At the completion of their 4 semesters, students will graduate at ACM with their ASN and take their NCLEX-RN.
- Students then have one final semester at FSU

Curriculum Overview

Pre-Nursing Phase <i>Timeframe 3-4 Semesters</i>	Student completes all pre-requisite and general education requirements at FSU
Dual-Enrollment Phase <i>Timeframe: 4 Semesters</i>	Student is accepted into dual enrollment pathway between FSU and ACM. Registered for 9-10 credits at ACM and 3-6 credits at FSU online
Final Phase <i>Timeframe: 1 Semester</i>	Once student receives RN licensure completes final 8-12 credits at FSU online.

Results

97	Applicants
68	Accepted
38	In progress
21	Declined Acceptance/ Dismissed/ Changed Majors
9	Graduates

Opportunities & Challenges

- College Experience-** Unlike other dual enrollment options the student starts at the FSU, so they are part of the culture the entire four years. They can be active in clubs, sports, and on campus organizations.
- Mentoring-** During the pre-requisite curriculum students explore nursing through special speakers, advising, and events so they are better equipped when entering a nursing program. This also includes HESI test study sessions, support and assistance with the application process, and 1:1 face-to-face advising.
- Job Shadowing-** During the pre-requisite curriculum students can job shadow twice or more per semester on a nursing unit of their choice at the local health system.
- ORIE 101 Pathways to Becoming a Nurse-** First-year students who are placed into this ORIE get a jump start on exploring nursing through activities and guest presentations, understanding their course requirements, and an in-depth look into the services and amenities that will help them be successful.

- Two Locations-** Students must travel to ACM from FSU 5 days a week for pre-licensure classes, including simulations and skills labs. This can also cause transportation dilemmas for some students since public transportation is limited in FSU/ACM’s rural settings.
- Separate start times-** ACM starts their semesters approximately 2 weeks before FSU. This can cause confusion with moving to FSU early, before campus is fully open and operating.
- Financial Aid-** due to government regulations, financial aid can only be hosted by one school. Students must fill out extra paperwork and use their refunds from FSU to pay ACM, which are not typically dispersed until FSU’s semester begins.
- ACM Capacity-** ACM can accommodate 40 students in the Fall and 30 in the Spring. This includes not only FSU students, but those who are applying from the community. With FSU’s growing Pre-Nursing Program, ensuring seats for qualified applicants is difficult.