

June, 2009

Dear Incoming Fall Accelerated Student,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania! This email should clarify how to register for fall courses, as well as provide you with some resources for your transition to life as an accelerated nursing student here at Penn.

Plan of Study

You should have received, via email, a plan of study from Filomena Circelli. If you have not, please call Filomena at (215) 573-3047. She will discuss options with you specifically related to transfer credits and your elective courses and, if necessary, provide you with an updated plan of study.

Transfer Credit

You are strongly encouraged to submit all transfer credit information to Filomena as soon as possible, as was detailed in the packet you received from her following your BSN admission. Please note that if you are currently taking courses to transfer credits into Penn, you must drop off final official transcripts (in a sealed envelope) to the School of Nursing's Office of Student Information (OSI) in Suite M-24 of Claire M. Fagin Hall. You must submit transfer credit information immediately upon completion of coursework, as this information is necessary to create an accurate plan of study for you. **In addition, if you have recently completed your Bachelor's Degree, we must have a final transcript with your degree posted in order to complete your transfer credit process.**

Registration

You will find information regarding Fall registration at the following link:
<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/students/Pages/FallStartAccelerated.aspx>

Please take the time to review all of this information in detail. Your registration must be done online via Penn-in-Touch. You cannot use Penn-in-Touch unless you have already obtained a PennKey and Password. Before you log in to register, you must have your schedule worked out and ready to enter into the computer, so please refer to your plan of study. **If you have not received a PennKey Setup Code letter or have had other difficulties establishing a PennKey and Password, you must contact pennkey@nursing.upenn.edu.**

Registration for Fall 2009 is ongoing. Be sure to reference the list of required and elective courses for first semester BSN/MSN and 2nd Degree students.

Immunization/CPR/Background Check Policy

To streamline our compliance program, we process immunizations, background checks and drug screenings through a third party: American Data Bank. This allows us to meet the increasing requirements of the clinical agencies while maintaining the highest level of customer service. Immunization/CPR/Background Check information can be found here:

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/students/OSI/Pages/ClinicalCompliance.aspx>

If you have any questions about this process, please contact the OSI at osi@nursing.upenn.edu or 215-898-8127.

Sites

In order to meet the changing health care needs of patients, new clinical sites are currently being opened. The School of Nursing utilizes a variety of clinical sites, some of which are at area hospitals such as HUP and CHOP, and some of which

may require travel to the site via car or public transportation. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the clinical site and for covering the cost of travel. The only exceptions are for selected labor and delivery sites (Nursing 210) and home visits for Nursing in the Community (Nursing 341).

Uniforms and Stethoscopes

Students enrolled in Nursing 104 and 106 for the fall will need to purchase the full nursing uniform for their clinical rotations, along with a stethoscope. Information about purchasing your nursing uniform and stethoscope is located here:

Uniforms:

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/students/OSI/Documents/Freshmen%20Mailing/Uniform%20Letter.pdf>

Stethoscopes:

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/students/OSI/Documents/Stethoscope%20%20Cover%20Letter%20-%20Fall%20Starts.pdf>

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/students/OSI/Documents/AccelReg/Stethoscope-RecommendedPurchases.pdf>

<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/students/OSI/Documents/AccelReg/StethoscopeOrderForm2009.pdf>

Financial Aid

Financial aid packages are in the process of being completed. **Make sure you return all requested paperwork immediately upon receipt.** If you have not received a preliminary financial aid package, either your file just became complete or we are missing documentation. It is imperative that your taxes and any other forms requested by Student Financial Services be submitted right away.

If you have any questions, or to confirm the status of your application, please contact the Nursing Financial Aid Office by telephone, 215-898-8191, or by email, financialaid@nursing.upenn.edu.

Advising

In September, you will be assigned a faculty advisor who will be available throughout each semester to discuss academic and personal concerns, oversee future registration, and provide you with mentoring related to your career goals. Until September, I will serve as your primary academic advisor. You will have the opportunity to meet your faculty advisor during New Student Orientation in September to discuss your specific course roster and curriculum pursuits. You will also be assigned a Peer Advisor who is a second-year accelerated student. Your Peer Advisor serves as another great resource and is available to answer questions about the accelerated program and student life at Penn.

Resources:

We know this is an exciting time for you, but we realize it is also an anxious time, due to the uncertainty that always accompanies new experiences. Because of this, we have included some additional materials on the following websites:

SEPTA Maps (Philadelphia's public transportation system, helpful if you wish to live in/visit Center City):
<http://www.septa.org/maps.html>

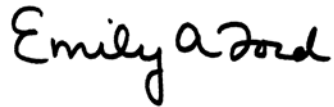
Office of Off-Campus Living:
<http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/offcampusservices/documents/graduate-housing-guide.pdf>

Penn Nursing Office of Technology and Information Systems:
<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/otis/>

We will try to anticipate any special concerns you may have, but if they are overlooked, please share them with us at any time. You can always email advisor@nursing.upenn.edu. We are here to assist you! We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Welcome to Penn Nursing!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily A. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily A. Ford, M.S.Ed.
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