



John Patrick University of Health and Applied Science  
100 E. Wayne Street St# 140  
South Bend, IN 46601  
<https://jpu.edu/>

April 1, 2026  
Utah Division of Professional Licensing  
c/o Jeff Busjahn, Licensing Administrator

**Re: Letter of Intent to Open a Master of Nursing (MN) - Entry to Practice Program**

Dear Mr. Busjahn and Members of the Utah Board of Nursing:

Pursuant to the Nurse Practice Act, this letter serves as formal notification of John Patrick University of Health and Applied Sciences, located in South Bend, Indiana to establish a new Master of Nursing (MN) Entry-to-Practice (prelicensure) program with physical presence in Utah. The proposed program, a 12-month, 50-credit hour, accelerated master's program, is designed specifically for individuals holding a prior baccalaureate degree in a non-nursing field. This full-time program will prepare graduates for initial licensure as registered nurses and eligibility to sit for the NCLEX-RN examination.

The inaugural cohort is scheduled to begin in September 2026 (Fall semester). We are fully committed to complying with all provisions of the Utah Nurse Practice Act related to nursing education programs, including maintaining qualified faculty with master's degrees or higher and appropriate expertise in their teaching and clinical areas; utilizing a variety of licensed clinical facilities that support course objectives and program outcomes; ensuring adequacy of resources; and maintaining program sustainability. The program will follow the standards of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), and we will apply for accreditation prior to the graduation of the first cohort- Spring 2027 onsite visit.

Following this letter of intent is a program overview including the curriculum, faculty qualifications and credentials, anticipated enrollments, a plan for clinical placements, accreditation status and plans, and the proposed building location.

We respectfully request placement on the next Board agenda- May 21, 2026- to present our program proposal and respond to any questions. We would be pleased to provide any additional documentation or clarification the Board may require in advance.

For questions or to schedule discussions, please contact Dr. Elaine Fisher Interim Dean of Nursing, Chief Nurse Administrator, at 330-936-3657 or [efisher@JPU.edu](mailto:efisher@JPU.edu) . We look forward to collaborating with the Board throughout the approval process.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elaine Fisher*

Elaine Fisher, PhD, RN, CNE<sup>Ret</sup>  
Dean, Chief Nurse Administrator  
[efisher@jpu.edu](mailto:efisher@jpu.edu)  
330.936.3657

*Brent Murphy*

Brent Murphy, DABR  
John Patrick University of Health & Applied Sciences  
Founder & CEO  
[bmurphy@jpu.edu](mailto:bmurphy@jpu.edu)  
888.578.4968



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Master of Nursing Entry-to-Practice Program

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Nursing (MN) program is a hybrid, 12-month, three-semester, 50-credit-hour curriculum designed to prepare graduates for entry-level professional nursing practice at a master's degree level. The program targets second-degree students seeking a condensed pathway.

#### CURRICULUM AND CLINICAL EDUCATION

The competency-based MN curriculum includes 547.5 didactic hrs. and 660 clinical contact hrs. - direct patient care- 510 hrs.; skills & simulation 165 hrs. The total clock hours for the MN program are 1222.5 hours.

The MN program is a hybrid program with synchronous/asynchronous Zoom instruction and direct and indirect clinical practice components. The majority of didactic courses are delivered through synchronous online instruction via Zoom. Bootcamp intensives for skills and simulation experiences and direct patient care, are face-to-face instruction.

The MN Plan of Study divides each semester into two sessions to support focused learning, integrates curricular threads across sessions and semesters to reinforce progression, and delivers all required contact hours within each half-semester (e.g., 15 hours for a 1-credit course- 2 contact hours per week).

Course Number	Course Title	Course Credit Hours
<b>Semester 1 - Session A</b>		
NRSG500	Health & Wellness Promotion Across the Lifespan	1
NRSG501	Professional Nursing Roles & Values	2
NRSG502	Pathophysiology & Pharmacology I	1.5
NRSG503	Nursing Practice: Safety, Skills & Clinical Judgement	3
	<i>Session Credit Hour Total</i>	7.5

<b>Semester 1 - Session B</b>		
NRSG504	Adult & Geriatric Nursing I: Acute & Chronic Conditions	2
NRSG505	Pathophysiology & Pharmacology II	1.5



NRSG506	Health Assessment & Clinical Reasoning	3
NRSG507	Caring for Populations in Ambulatory Care Settings	1
NRSG508	Clinical Judgement Bootcamp I: Safe Practice	2
	<i>Session Credit Hour Total</i>	9.5
	<b>Semester Credit Hour Total</b>	<b>17</b>

Semester 2 - Session A		
NRSG600	Pathophysiology & Pharmacology: Advanced Therapeutics I	1.5
NRSG601	Adult & Geriatric Nursing II: Acute & Chronic Conditions	2
NRSG602	Evidence-Based Practice & Scholarly Inquiry	2
NRSG603	Clinical: Adult & Geriatric Care	2
	<i>Session Credit Hour Total</i>	7.5

Semester 2 - Session B		
NRSG604	Behavioral Health Nursing: Promoting Mental Wellness	2
NRSG605	Clinical: Mental Health & Wellness	0.5
NRSG606	Pathophysiology & Pharmacology: Advanced Therapeutics II	1.5
NRSG607	Public Health: Promoting Community Wellness	2
NRSG608	Clinical: Community Health & Wellness	1
NRSG609	Clinical Judgement Bootcamp II: Application & Integration	2
	<i>Session Credit Hour Total</i>	9
	<b>Semester Credit Hour Total</b>	<b>16.5</b>



Semester 3 - Session A		
NRSG610	Capstone Seminar I: Integrating Evidence & Clinical Judgement	1
NRSG611	Reproductive & Women's Health Across the Lifespan	2
NRSG612	Nursing Care of Children & Adolescents	2
NRSG613	Clinical: Women's Health, Maternal & Pediatric Care	1
NRSG614	Leadership, Management & Policy in Healthcare Systems	2
	<i>Session Credit Hour Total</i>	8

Semester 3 - Session B		
NRSG615	Capstone Seminar II: Transition to Professional Practice	1
NRSG616	Care for Critically Ill & Medically Complex Patients	3
NRSG617	Clinical: Advanced Practice Integration	1.5
NRSG618	Health Systems, Informatics & Interprofessional Collaboration	1
NRSG619	Clinical Judgment Bootcamp III: Transition to Practice	2
	<i>Session Credit Hour Total</i>	8.5
	<b>Semester Credit Hour Total</b>	<b>16.5</b>
	<b>Total Program Credit Hours</b>	<b>50</b>

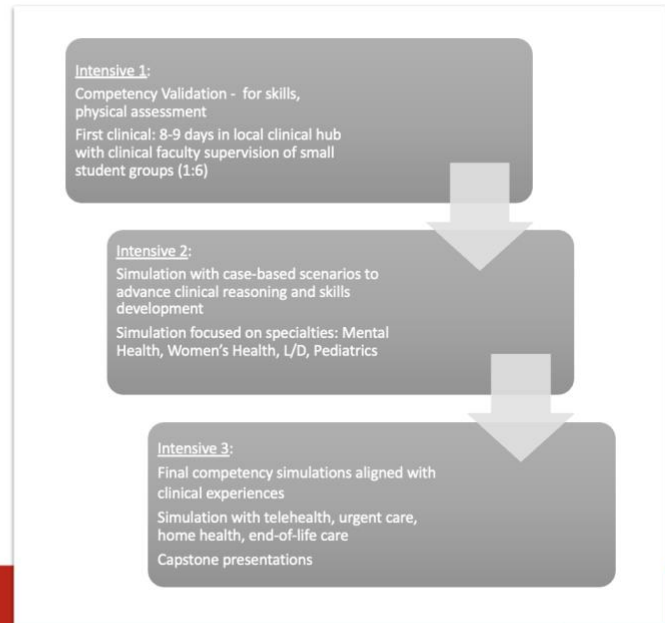
Clinical experiences progress from instructor-facilitated rotations to precepted placements under the supervision of qualified clinical site faculty. Precepted placements are coordinated by a Clinical Placement Coordinator and are designed to place students in communities where they live and intend to practice following graduation. All clinical experiences occur in approved healthcare facilities, e.g., acute care hospitals, long-term care settings, clinics, and community health agencies. Students have opportunities to participate in faculty-led immersion experiences in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the South Georgia Farmworker Program. The program is currently developing additional partnerships with tribal communities. Immersion experiences support student learning and the development of cultural competence in diverse and underserved populations.



Three intensive clinical bootcamps provide concentrated competency development in *Safe Practice, Clinical Application and Integration, and Transition to Professional Practice*. The diagram below, *Bootcamps*, outlines the three (3) required onsite intensive bootcamp experiences supporting clinical competency.

## Boot Camp Intensives Supporting Clinical Competency

- Onsite Bootcamp Intensives at JPU:
  - Face-to-face
  - Led by expert clinicians
  - Competency-focused preparation confirms readiness to enter clinicals and practice
- Optional Immersions in Global & Community-Based Care
  - Farmworker programs, global sites, Alaska & Tribal opportunities



## FACULTY QUALIFICATIONS

The program will be led by a qualified dean and chief nurse administrator and supported by full-time and part-time faculty who meet or exceed CCNE qualifications. All faculty hold active, unencumbered RN licenses, master's or doctoral degrees in nursing, and demonstrate relevant clinical and teaching experience. Faculty bring expertise in distance education, competency-based instruction, and evidence-based approaches to student success. Additional faculty positions have been budgeted to ensure that faculty-to-student ratios do not exceed 1:8 for direct clinical instruction and 1:10 for precepted clinical experiences. The faculty team is as follows.



A summary of program faculty is provided in the table below.

List Faculty Names (Alphabetical Order)	Degree or Diploma Earned (M.S. in Mathematics)	# Years of Working Experience in Specialty	# Years Teaching at Your School	# Years Teaching at Other	Check one:	
					Full-time	Part-time
Coombe, Ashley	PhD, RN	33	0	18	X	
Csaky, Wanda	DNP, MSN, FNP-BC	31	0	12	X	
Fisher, Elaine Interim Dean Chief Nurse Administrator	PhD, MSN, BSN	47	0	40	X	
Haynes-Ferere, Angela	DNP, MSN, FNP-BC, MPH, FAAN, FAANP	15	0	15	X	
Horigan, Ann	PhD, RN, AGACNP	26	0	17	X	
Swanson, Susan	DNP, MS, BSN	47	0	8		X
Tanner, Tamara	EdD, MSN, RN, CPN	30	0	7	X	
Todd, Julianne	PhD, RN	9	0	7	X	
Womack, Deanna	DNP, APRN, CNM	40	0	20	X	

## ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

The program will enroll qualified residents of Utah and other states consistent with clinical placement capacity. Initial enrollment is projected at 30-35 students per cohort beginning Fall 2026, with potential expansion to accommodate additional cohorts each semester (Spring, Summer) based on demonstrated outcomes - approximately 100 students Year 1.

## CLINICALS

The program will utilize licensed healthcare facilities to provide clinical learning experiences that meet course objectives, program outcomes, and regulatory requirements. Clinical placements will be arranged to ensure students complete required clinical experiences in medical-surgical, pediatrics, obstetrics, psychiatric-mental health, and community health across the lifespan, in a variety of settings including hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, and community agencies. The program will enter into formal affiliation agreements with all clinical agencies, and executed agreements will be in place prior to any student clinical placement.



Students may also participate in faculty-supervised national and international immersion experiences in community and population health settings. These experiences may count toward clinical hours, where appropriate and in accordance with regulatory requirements, and provide opportunities to work with diverse and underserved populations across the lifespan while promoting the development of cultural competence and population health perspectives. Clinical placements are selected to ensure all required clinical learning experiences and program outcomes are achieved.

## **PLANS FOR SECURING CLINICAL AFFILIATION AGREEMENTS**

JPU currently maintains affiliation agreements with healthcare facilities that support its radiation programs and is working to add nursing addenda to these agreements. The University has also identified additional healthcare facilities capable of supporting required clinical experiences in medical-surgical, obstetrics, pediatrics, psychiatric-mental health, and community health, and meetings are in progress to establish new affiliation agreements. For precepted clinical experiences, once a student is accepted for admission, the University will begin securing affiliation agreements with clinical sites located within approximately 50-75 miles of the student's residence.

## **ACCREDITATION PLAN**

Upon Board approval, the program will pursue accreditation with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Preliminary discussions with CCNE have confirmed the proposed accreditation timeline, with an anticipated onsite accreditation visit scheduled for Spring 2027.

## **BUILDING LOCATION**

JPU is currently exploring options for a physical site to establish an administrative and instructional presence in Utah. The approved Utah physical site will function as the administrative and instructional support location for the program. The site will provide faculty office space, meeting and conference space, classroom space for seminars and intensive sessions, IT support, secure storage for student records, audiovisual equipment to support distance education, and access to student support services. Simulation and skill learning experiences will be conducted at JPU-approved simulation facilities that provide the equipment and resources necessary to meet program learning outcomes and regulatory requirements.

A list of simulation equipment planned for purchase to support program implementation is available on request as well as, supporting purchase orders and procurement documentation upon request to demonstrate program readiness.

## **WORKFORCE IMPACT**

Utah faces a documented nursing shortage with unfilled RN positions statewide. This accelerated program addresses workforce needs by providing an efficient pathway for career-change students with prior baccalaureate degrees to enter professional nursing practice.



## **EXPECTED PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

The program model is adapted from an established 12-month accelerated program with documented success, educating more than 1,000 students. Outcomes demonstrate successful program completion rates of 93%, strong student satisfaction metrics, licensure readiness with NCLEX-RN first-time pass rates ranging from 97-100%, 3-month post-graduation employment rates of 98%, and workforce alignment, including greater than 60% of graduates accepting employment at precepted clinical sites.

John Patrick University will monitor and evaluate program effectiveness through structured outcome dashboards addressing: 1) NCLEX-RN first-time pass rates at or above national averages; 2) timely program completion rates consistent with accelerated program norms; 3) graduate employment in professional nursing roles; and 4) employer satisfaction with graduate preparation. Outcome data will be reported to the Board in accordance with regulatory requirements.

John Patrick University and the School of Nursing are committed to developing a high-quality nursing program that supports Utah's healthcare workforce needs while maintaining rigorous standards for graduate competency and patient safety, and welcomes the Board's guidance throughout the approval process.