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## UNH And NH Community Technical College Offer Dual Admission Program For Nursing Students

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DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire and New Hampshire Community Technical College, Manchester/Stratham (NHCTC-M/S) have signed a dual admission agreement for students majoring in nursing.

The new partnership allows students admitted to the community technical college associate degree program in nursing to be conditionally admitted to the Bachelor of Science program for registered nurses (RN Baccalaureate Program) at UNH in Durham.

This is the first such dual admissions program linking a N.H. Community Technical College with a unit of the University System of New Hampshire.

“The dual admission agreement is an exciting and innovative response to the nursing shortage that exists in New Hampshire, and throughout the nation,” says James McCarthy, dean of UNH’s School of Health and Human Services. “By reaching out to students who are earning their associates degrees at the community technical college, and giving them the opportunity to transfer directly into our RN Baccalaureate Program, UNH is making an important contribution to efforts to bring more highly skilled nurses to New Hampshire.”

Last year, there were 455 graduates from RN programs in the state. Of these, 346 (76 percent) were associate degree graduates and 106 (24 percent) were baccalaureate degree graduates.

“Studies have shown that nurses who complete a bachelor’s degree have better problem solving skills and more effective communication skills, says Lynette Ament, chair of the UNH Department of Nursing. “In addition, a study by Aiken et al showed that as the proportion of hospital RNs educated at the baccalaureate level or higher increases the risk of patient mortality decreases. As a result of this landmark study, hospitals and educators are beginning to examine the impact of basic nursing preparation on quality of care and patient outcomes.”

The UNH/NHCTC program differs from most tech/BSN agreements in that is a 3+1 program. Students spend three years at the technical college completing the nursing curriculum, in addition to UNH general education requirements.

During the summer after the third year students can sit for the NCLEX Registered Nurse exam. Some may choose to work as nurses and complete the BSN program at UNH part-time during the fourth year, or they may enroll full time.

For more information, contact Susan Fetzer, UNH associate professor of nursing, at 603-641-4140, Lynette Ament, chair of the UNH Department of Nursing at 603-862-2390.