

Welcome and Greetings from the College of Nursing

Office of Advancement!

On behalf of our Nursing Alumni Council and the more than 10,000 Gator Nurses worldwide, we would like to congratulate you on your acceptance to the University Of Florida College Of Nursing. You are joining a group of nurses unparalleled in their commitment to nursing education, patient care and research. As current students, you are the future alumni of our College, and our Nursing Alumni Council and Office of Advancement hope to stay closely connected to all of you while you are in your nursing program and after you graduate.

Our Nursing Alumni Council and Office of Advancement offer students leadership and scholarship opportunities and hosts events dedicated to serving our students and connecting them with alumni and friends of the College. Here are a few examples:

The Nursing Alumni Council Book Awards: These book awards assist incoming ABSN/BSN students in purchasing their nursing textbooks. The selection process is based upon those who best demonstrate a commitment to nursing and community involvement conveyed via your application, as well as your GPA. All students are eligible, provided that they have current FAFSA form on file. These are typically awarded in the fall of each year to incoming BSN students. **Applications will be sent to you soon, with a summer deadline to apply. Book Award recipients will be notified the fall. Please note – due to the timing of award decisions, this may function more as a reimbursement to the awardees.**



Gator Nurse Ambassador Program: The Gator Nurse Ambassador Program (GNAP) consists of student volunteers whose primary role is to assist the College of Nursing (CON), the Office of Advancement and the Office of Student Affairs in representing the College. These include hosting current and potential donors and prominent leaders in health care who visit the CON, conducting Campus/College tours, writing donor thank you cards and working on special events. There are GPA requirements and an interview process to be selected. Those selected will be asked to complete a minimum of working 2 events per semester. **Applications are typically sent to you in late June, with a late July deadline. Interviews will be conducted by early fall.**

Mentorship/Career Networking Program: College of Nursing alumni mentors assist current students and recent Gator Nurse graduates with exploring career options and providing networking leads and general advice. Alumni mentors provide advice based on a particular city/region, hospital/institution or nursing-related career field. A “meet-and-greet” event typically takes place in the fall that allows students to meet and interact with nurse mentors from various specialties.



College of Nursing Career Fair: Held every winter, the College of Nursing Office of Advancement hosts hospitals and health care organizations seeking to recruit Gator Nurses for employment. Based on the excellent employment performance of our graduates as well as high attendance at the career fair, we regularly get a good turnout of employers from across Florida and the Southeast. Tentatively, the next Career Fair will be held in February of 2021.



College of Nursing Pinning Ceremony: The Pinning Ceremony is a very special event for our BSN graduates and their families, our faculty, and our Alumni Council, who hosts this event. Held preceding commencement, our graduating students participate in this event where they are officially pinned with the College of Nursing pin, signaling their entrance as a professional nurse and alumna of the College of Nursing. Please take note that the cost of the pins start at around \$50 each, for which you are responsible. Details and ordering information will be emailed to you in your final semester.

College of Nursing White Coat Ceremony: The White Coat Ceremony is hosted by the Office of Student Affairs, and takes place at the beginning of the BSN students' nursing studies. The timing of this ceremony for your class may be different, due to the current global healthcare crisis.



During the ceremony, students are cloaked with official College of Nursing white coats to ensure a foundation and commitment to providing patient-centered care throughout their professional development. In order to continue this relatively new tradition and provide a white coat to every nursing student, the Office of Advancement collects donations from alumni, friends, faculty and staff to "sponsor a nursing student."

Of note financially:

- *There will be a cost during your last semester for your Nursing Pin – starts around \$50*
- *You should purchase some "thank you" notecards by mid-late July; when you are the recipient of a scholarship or a sponsored white coat, you will be required to submit a personal thank you to your donor/sponsor*

We are excited that you are here and hope you enjoy your incredible journey as a student at the College of Nursing! Our Alumni Council and our office hope to connect with many of you over the course of your program. Should you have any questions or need more information on our programs, please feel free to contact our office. Go Gator Nurses!

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