

Nursing Program Scheduling and Cohort Participation Requirements

The Miami Dade College Benjamin Leon School of Nursing utilizes a cohort model for student progression through the Associate in Science in Nursing (ASN) Program. Students admitted to the program progress through the nursing curriculum with their assigned cohort and are expected to participate in all required educational experiences as scheduled by the School of Nursing.

Definition of Cohort Model: A cohort model is an educational structure in which a group of students progresses through the nursing curriculum together in a prescribed sequence of courses. Students are assigned to a cohort upon admission and generally remain with that cohort throughout the program. Course schedules, laboratory experiences, simulation activities, and clinical placements are organized to support cohort progression and ensure compliance with program, accreditation, and regulatory requirements. Because the nursing program utilizes a cohort model, requests to change course sections, laboratory assignments, clinical placements, or cohort membership are generally not permitted and may only be considered under extraordinary circumstances.

All students enrolled in the ASN Program are required to complete the same nursing curriculum and meet all program requirements. Students should be aware of the following scheduling expectations:

- Students may be scheduled for lecture, laboratory, simulation, and clinical learning experiences between three (3) and six (6) days per week, depending on course requirements and semester progression.
- Lecture, laboratory, and simulation experiences may be scheduled Monday through Sunday and may occur during daytime, evening, or weekend hours. Scheduled instructional activities may begin as early as 6:30 a.m. and conclude as late as 11:00 p.m.
- Clinical experiences may begin as early as 6:30 a.m. and may extend for eight (8) to twelve (12) hours, depending on the clinical agency, course requirements, and assigned learning activities.
- Clinical placements may be scheduled on any day of the week, including weekends, holidays, and college-recognized breaks, based on healthcare facility availability and contractual agreements.
- Students may be assigned to clinical agencies throughout Miami-Dade County and surrounding service areas. Students are responsible for securing reliable transportation to all assigned educational activities, including clinical, laboratory, simulation, and community-based learning experiences.
- Clinical placement assignments are governed by clinical agency agreements, accreditation standards, Florida Board of Nursing requirements, and School of Nursing policies.
- Clinical placements, laboratory sections, simulation experiences, and other instructional assignments are determined by the School of Nursing based on program needs, clinical agency availability, faculty resources, student progression requirements, and contractual obligations with healthcare partners.

- Clinical schedules, locations, and assigned learning experiences are subject to change with limited notice based on healthcare agency operational needs, patient census, regulatory requirements, public health concerns, or other unforeseen circumstances.
- Students are expected to maintain flexibility in their schedules and should not assume availability of specific days, times, locations, clinical agencies, faculty members, or learning environments.
- Employment schedules, childcare arrangements, transportation concerns, vacations, personal travel, and other personal commitments are not considered valid reasons for changing assigned course, laboratory, simulation, or clinical schedules.
- Requests for changes to assigned clinical placements, laboratory sections, simulation experiences, course schedules, or cohort assignments are generally not permitted. Exceptions may be considered only under extraordinary circumstances and must comply with College policy, School of Nursing procedures, and clinical agency requirements. Approval of such requests is not guaranteed.
- Students requesting accommodation due to a documented disability, pregnancy, or other legally protected circumstance must work through the appropriate College office and follow established College procedures. Any approved accommodations will be implemented in accordance with applicable laws, College policies, and clinical agency requirements.
- Failure to attend scheduled clinical, laboratory, simulation, or lecture experiences may result in academic consequences, including course failure, in accordance with School of Nursing policies and individual course syllabi.

Enrollment in the Nursing Program constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of the scheduling requirements described above. Students are expected to maintain sufficient flexibility to meet all program requirements and should carefully consider employment, transportation, childcare, and personal obligations prior to accepting admission into the program.