

New Release

University of Regina and SIAS offer nursing students an acceleration option

March 6, 2013 – SIAS and the University of Regina have introduced an acceleration option that allows students in their collaborative nursing degree program to graduate almost a year ahead of schedule.

“We are very excited to offer our students the opportunity to accelerate through the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and complete the program eight months ahead of schedule,” says Netha Dyck, dean of nursing at SIAS. “The acceleration option will also make the best use of clinical placements that are in high demand across the health care system.” The acceleration option benefits both students and the health care sector, while increasing capacity for clinical placements.

“Students will be able to enter the workforce earlier than anticipated, and graduates will be available in spring and fall instead of once per year,” says David Gregory, dean of the University of Regina Faculty of Nursing. “The SCBScN program will be able to schedule clinical placements more efficiently, as well as provide the health care system with graduates throughout the year.”

Through the acceleration option, up to 84 students can elect to attend classes during a spring/summer term at the end of Years 2 and 3. Those students will complete the program in August of Year 3. Seats designated for the acceleration option will be split evenly between Regina and Saskatoon.

The option will be piloted this summer with the intent of increasing not only the number of seats associated with this option, but also creating additional acceleration options. The goal is to have SCBScN students complete their degree in three, three-and-a-half or four years.

Typically requiring four years of study, the SCBScN program accepts 345 new students each year. Starting in September, eight students will attend classes in Swift Current through a partnership with Cypress Health Region and Great Plains College.

SCBScN students are engaged in service learning and clinical practice during the first year of their program. The SCBScN is practice-focused and student-centered. Recently, the Aboriginal Nursing Student Achievement Program (ANSAP) was established to enhance the recruitment, retention and success of nursing students of Aboriginal ancestry. The SCBScN program also emphasizes Aboriginal health and pedagogy. Students are exposed to simulation learning, as well as nursing informatics and the inclusion of electronic mobile devices (EMDs) at the point of patient care. The SCBScN collaborative affords students the best resources and expertise of SIAST and the University of Regina. It is through the power of partnership that the acceleration option was established.

The two institutions share student education and support responsibilities throughout the four-year program.

For more information visit: www.sasknursingdegree.ca.

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