



**OKALOOSA-WALTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PROPOSAL TO OFFER
A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING
January 2003**

Okaloosa-Walton Community College (OWCC) proposes to build upon its existing Associate Degree in Registered Nursing to develop and implement a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (B.S.N.) – a program not currently available in the College’s service district. This site-based baccalaureate program, built on the A.S. to B.S. model, capitalizes on support from the local health care community and the existing expertise, facilities and academic resources of OWCC to help meet the critical state and regional workforce need for nursing graduates. Implementation is targeted for Fall 2004, with an initial class of twenty-four students.

Program need is derived from both workforce and student demand.

- The Florida Office of Workforce Information cites nursing as a critical employment need statewide
- The Florida Hospital Association (FHA) cites Region 2 nursing vacancy and turnover rates of 14.3% and 23.2%, both well above the state rates of 12.5% and 18.6% respectively
- Currently, there are over 50 unfilled nursing positions in Region 2 hospitals with an average time-to-fill of 90 days
- The Chief Executive Officer of the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center has specifically requested the college develop this program and has pledged clinical sites and other resources to assist with the program
- 300 RN’s residing in Region 2 responded to an OWCC survey that they wished to pursue a B.S.N.
- 70% of students currently enrolled in the OWCC Associate Degree Nursing (A.D.N.) Program indicate a desire to pursue a B.S.N.

The curriculum is designed in flexible, non-traditional format and will address high-demand nursing specialties.

- Program content focuses on the two highest-need nursing skill areas identified by the FHA: adult critical care and step-down and telemetry
- Instructional delivery will accommodate working nurses and other non-traditional populations: 60-70% of theory instruction will be offered as distance learning or in blended classes and 20% of the lab instruction will be offered in distance format; clinical experiences will be in hospital settings
- Classes will be available evenings, weekends and in concentrated “mini-terms”
- Prerequisites for program entry will be a valid RN license and completion of an A.D.N. program

The program capitalizes on the financial efficiency of OWCC to offer a cost effective baccalaureate.

- Student fees will be based upon the OWCC student tuition rates, historically among the lowest of all Florida postsecondary public and private institutions
- Program expenditures are benchmarked against the community college cost analysis rather than the higher university cost patterns; each year projected costs are less than or equal to those benchmarks
- Faculty members will observe the more efficient community college workload requirements
- No new renovation or facilities costs are required
- Local hospitals will contribute space and other resources to support the program