

News Release

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Jacksonville University Offers Online RN-to-BSN Degree Program *Online program offers nurses career advancement and greater earnings potential*

TAMPA, Florida – While the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics projects that employment for registered nurses (RNs) will grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2008, the national demand for RNs is at an all time high with an anticipated shortfall of over 1,000,000 bachelor's prepared RNs by the end of the decade.

The Jacksonville University Online RN-to-BSN Degree Program (www.RNtoBSN.com) now makes it possible for nurses to earn their Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing entirely online through its partnership with the University Alliance, a Bisk Education Network. The online RN-to-BSN program will sharpen nurses' critical thinking skills, provide them the conceptual and theory base necessary to good decision-making, introduce nursing research and strengthen their liberal arts background. The BSN nurse graduate is prepared to practice in all healthcare settings and thus has the greatest employment flexibility of any RN.

Recent nursing surveys show that:

- RNs need flexible educational programs and improved access for them to earn their BSN degree.
- An estimated 98.6% of RN-to-BSN graduates had jobs waiting upon graduation.
- That at least two-thirds of the basic nurse force will hold bachelor's or master's degrees in nursing by 2010.

“Technological advances have increased opportunities to improve the quality of, and access to, a nursing education as the supply of quality nurses is well below the national need,” said Nathan M. Bisk, Chairman and Founder of Bisk Education. “The University Alliance and Jacksonville University now offer RNs an accredited online BSN degree program that is a more convenient and flexible alternative to traditional classroom studies.”

The online RN-to-BSN program is offered through Jacksonville University's School of Nursing, a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLN), the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and holds preliminary approval by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

“Our online students receive the same quality education and degree as a campus based student,” said Dr. Linda Miller, Director of the Jacksonville University School of Nursing. “Our faculty includes award-winning professionals who not only facilitate professional development, but also contribute to each student's personal growth. The faculty is very active in research, practice and community service and are excellent role models.”

The online RN-to-BSN program features online “classrooms” that are designed with the very latest technology to give students the “digital tools” they need to enhance their educational experience. These tools include on-demand video streamed lectures that allow students to view the lectures as many times as they need; an asynchronous online bulletin board that permits students and faculty to interact on key topics and chat rooms that are used by instructors to host “virtual” office hours where students can collaborate real-time with faculty members.

The University Alliance gives adult professionals the opportunity to continue their careers while they pursue higher education— working at their own pace without disrupting their busy schedules and family commitments. Students set their own hours and attend class in the comfort of their home or work, whenever it is convenient for them. No classroom attendance is required.

Additional information is available on the Jacksonville University RN-to-BSN Degree Program website at www.RNtoBSN.com/pr Enrollment is now underway for the summer session. Interested students can call toll-free at 1-866-RNtoBSN (866-768-6276) or email at info@RNtoBSN.com.

About Jacksonville University:

Founded in 1934, Jacksonville University is a private, independent institution that offers 33 majors and confers seven Bachelor’s degrees and four Master’s degrees. Because of its commitment to education as a process, which respects individuality and puts emphasis on leadership development, the University envisions itself as a premier academic institution of independent higher learning. According to the annual Newsweek College 2001 Catalog, Jacksonville University is among the “hidden treasures” in American higher education, and was selected as one of the “terrific schools that aren’t as well known as they should be.” Additionally, the Jacksonville University School of Nursing recently ranked #1 among BSN programs in Florida based on national licensure exam scores.

About the University Alliance:

In 1996, Bisk Education, Inc. introduced its University Alliance division, now the nation’s leading exclusive e-Learning provider of online Associate’s, Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees and certificate programs through regionally accredited universities and colleges with over 33,000 enrollments. The University Alliance (www.universityalliance.com) works with regionally accredited and nationally recognized colleges and universities – such as Saint Leo University, Regis University and Jacksonville University – to provide students accredited associate’s bachelor’s and master’s degree programs online. The degrees offered (AA, BA, BS, MBA) include business, criminology, information technology, liberal arts and nursing.

For more information, please contact Steve Valley at 1-800-874-7877 Ext. 523, or stevev@bisk.com.