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DURHAM, N.H. - Responding to an impending critical shortage of nurses throughout New Hampshire and the nation, the University of New Hampshire will expand the cohort of its Direct Entry Master's in Nursing (DEMN) program from 24 to 32 students, beginning January 2010. In addition, the program - for those who are not registered nurses but hold a bachelor's degree or higher in a field other than nursing - can now be completed in three years in addition to two.

The department of nursing hosts an information session for prospective DEMN students Wednesday, May 13, 2009, from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Memorial Union Building Theatre II at UNH in Durham. For additional information, and to R.S.V.P., go to http://www.hhsonline.com/hhsonline/news.asp?storyid=231

"We're facing a serious shortage of nurses in the next decade, as a significant number of baby boomer nurses retire and the general population ages and needs more care," says Lynette Hamlin, associate professor and chair of the department of nursing. "By increasing the number of nurses we can train in this advanced-degree program, and by providing an additional year to complete the program at a less intensive pace, we hope to attract and graduate nurses who can address the our nation's future health care challenges."

The DEMN program is a 73-credit, full-time course of study, beginning in January of each year. Students are provisionally admitted to the MS program; provision is removed once the registered nurse (RN) license is received. Students graduate as an advanced generalist as a clinical nurse leader (CNL) with a Master's of Science degree. For more information, go to http://www.shhs.unh.edu/nursing/demn.html.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

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