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## UNH, NH Community Technical Colleges At Claremont And Nashua Sign Dual Admission Agreement For Nursing Students

Contact: [Beth Potier](#)

603-862-1566

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March 6, 2006

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DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire and New Hampshire Community Technical Colleges (NHCTC) at Nashua and Claremont have signed a dual admission agreement for students majoring in nursing, smoothing the path for students enrolled in NHCTC's associate degree programs in nursing to complete a bachelor of science degree at UNH.

The partnerships, which follow a similar agreement made in spring 2005 between UNH and NHCTC at Manchester/Stratham, aim to address the statewide and national shortage of nurses by streamlining the progression from associate's degree to bachelor's degree.

Called articulation agreements, the partnerships allow students admitted to the NHCTC-Nashua and Claremont's associate degree programs in nursing to be conditionally admitted to the bachelor's program for registered nurses (RN Baccalaureate Program) at UNH in Durham. The standard UNH requirement of a transfer admission application and application fee is waived by this agreement.

"As health care moves to advanced practice and prevention, nurses with bachelor's degrees are in increased demand," said Lynette Ament, chair of the UNH Department of Nursing. "These agreements with Claremont and Nashua are important in the effort to assist nurses with associate's degrees who want to earn their baccalaureate degrees."

To progress from NHCTC to UNH, NHCTC-Nashua or Claremont students must complete an associate's degree in nursing with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 and obtain grades of C or better in each NHCTC nursing courses and in UNH RNBP prerequisite courses. In addition, students must pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and be licensed as a registered nurse in New Hampshire within four months.

"I am very excited that we have been able to partner with the UNH Nursing Department to engage more associate degree graduates in a baccalaureate program. We desperately need more BSN- and masters-prepared nurses to meet the challenge of a growing nursing shortage in clinical practice and nursing education," said Susan Henderson, interim president of NHCTC-Claremont.

"This is a very encouraging enterprise for our students. We tell them how important it is to move on to their bachelor's -- now the bachelor's degree will be part of the discussion right at the beginning," said Jeanne Hayes, chair of the nursing department at NHCTC-Nashua.

Aimed at working nurses, UNH's RNBP provides flexibility in course schedules and locations. It is competency-based, recognizing the value of the practicing nurse.

For more information, contact Susan Fetzer, UNH associate professor of nursing, at 603-641-4140; Lynette Ament, chair of the UNH Department of Nursing at 603-862-2390; Arlene

Halsted, chair of the NHCTC-Claremont Nursing Department at 603-542-7744; or Jeanne Hayes, chair of the NHCTC-Nashua Nursing Department at 603-882-6923.