



Pasco-Hernando State College

BSN Program Essay Requirements and Grading Rubric

As part of the admission process, you will be asked to provide an essay on the topic of the Philosophy of Nursing Education and Clinical Practice. Specifically, your essay should address your own personal philosophy of nursing education and how it affects your clinical practice now and potentially how it will influence your clinical practice in the future.

Your essay should:

- Describe your philosophy of nursing education with an applicable example of how it facilitates professional practice.
- State your professional goals as they apply to clinical practice.
- Analyze your responsibility and accountability in the online learning environment.
- Demonstrate your ability to provide scholarly work.

Essay format:

- Maximum of two typed double-spaced pages (8x11) with one-inch margins
- Times New Roman 12 point font
- Left sided notation prior to starting your essay will include the following in single space:
 - Date (Month, Day and Year)
 - Name of Student
 - To: Nursing Admission Committee
- Before you begin your essay, please note the title "Philosophy of Nursing Education and Clinical Practice" in the center of the page.
- Please see example template

Your essay will be reviewed by the RN to BSN Program Director and evaluated based on an established grading rubric. A copy of the grading rubrics is also provided so that you are aware of the criteria that are being evaluated. This essay will help to provide evidence of your ability to communicate effectively through written words. Language, grammar and expression of ideas will be reviewed for clarity and creativity. Attention will be placed on formatting requirements as being indicative of the ability to follow directions. If there is evidence of plagiarism noted on the submitted essay, it will not be graded and the applicant will not be accepted to the program.



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Essay Template Example

February 23, 2014

Potential Student, RN

To: Nursing Admission Committee

Philosophy of Nursing Education and Clinical Practice

Indent each paragraph..... (Begin double spacing for body of paper)



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Essay Grading Rubric

Criteria	Highly Competent (3)	Average Ability (2)	Needs Development (1)	Does not meet established criteria (0)	Category Score
Grammar, Spelling and Mechanics	Writing represents consistent command of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation. No more than 1 minor error present which does not distract from the integrity/meaning of the essay	Writing reflects understanding of grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation. Contains 2 to 3 errors but these errors do not distract from the integrity/meaning of the essay.	Numerous errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation that affect the integrity/meaning of the essay.		
Formatting Structure	Follows all established formatting requirements. Essay is presented in an organized framework: introduction, body and conclusion.	Inconsistent approach to formatting with one or two errors noted. Organizational structure of the essay is not well defined.	Multiple errors noted in formatting affecting the integrity of the essay. Organizational structure cannot be determined based on representative work.		
Language and Expression of style	Exhibits mature writing style using appropriate language and a creative style.	Language and style are consistent within the essay but does not demonstrate a fluid structure.	Inconsistent use of language and expression of style leading the reader to become disengaged.		
Thesis statements	Provides well thought out thesis statements relative to the main two themes: Philosophy of Nursing Education & Clinical Practice	Thesis statements are clearly defined but show diminished depth in terms of application.	Thesis statements are not clearly defined and/or not appropriately stated to support further inquiry.		



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Criteria	Highly Competent (3)	Average Ability (2)	Needs Development (1)	Does not meet established criteria (0)	Category Score
Content reflective of thesis statement with supportive documentation	Provides well developed ideas based on original work with appropriate examples that illustrate key concepts in the essay.	Ideas are presented but often not well supported. Some original work noted but relies more on supportive materials to present key concepts.	Minimal evidence of original ideas resulting in a poorly defined analysis.		
Develops conclusions based on supported data	Conclusion provides the reader with a relevant closure of the topic demonstrating a comprehensive analysis of the subject.	Conclusion is evident but does little to create continued interest as it restates the original thesis without any additional analysis of the subject.	Conclusion is not present and/or does not address provided thesis statements.		
Submission of Essay with Application					2

Totals:

Criteria Category	Score
Highly Competent	20
Average Ability	14
Needs Development	8
Does not meet established criteria	2

Scoring can range from 2 to 20 based on meeting individual criterion measurements. As long as an essay is submitted with the application, even if it does not meet any of the established criteria, two points will be awarded. If there is evidence of plagiarism, the essay will not be graded and the applicant will not be accepted to the program.