

Mississippi College School of Nursing plans to begin graduate program

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Mississippi College School of Nursing leaders received the green light to begin a new master's program. The first graduate students would enroll in late August 2019.

The Clinical Nurse Leader program trains professionals to practice across the spectrum of care in today's rapidly



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MC School of Nursing Dean Kimberly Sharp

changing healthcare environment.

At a recent meeting of the state College Board, approval was granted for Mississippi College nursing officials to proceed.

MC School of Nursing Dean Kimberly Sharp expressed her deep appreciation to people playing a part to make it happen.

"I'm thanking everyone who has helped us on this journey and prayed with us for this vital part of our nursing program," Sharp wrote in an email to faculty and staff. "We are very excited for the opportunities that graduate level programming affords the MC School of Nursing."

The Clinical Nursing Leader, she said, "evaluates patient outcomes, assesses cohort risk, and has the decision-making authority to change

care plans when necessary." This is a graduate degree designed for students who have a BSN and a current RN license.

Like any new higher education program at institutions nationwide, the new MSN-CNL degree must undergo a process to gain national accreditation. That could take a few years. Mississippi College School of Nursing undergraduate programs remain nationally accredited. The pass rate of MC nursing students on nationally standardized exams to enter the profession is high. It stands at ninety-four percent.

The approval from the College Board or Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning comes when Mississippi College nursing enrollment is enjoying dramatic increases.

There were 367 MC nursing undergrads in 2014. That number grew to 374 students in 2015, and 407 in 2016. There were 489 nursing students enrolled in 2017 and the number climbed to a record 524 in 2018.

Development of the master's degree has "long been a dream of the faculty and students of MC's School of Nursing," says Graduate Dean Debbie Norris.

Many more nurses will be needed for years to come in the healthcare profession across the U.S. A large percentage of the patients needing care are aging Baby Boomers.

Sharp believes the new master's program will attract nurses.

"I think we should have a strong amount of interest," Sharp said. "But it will take time to get the word out and then get people enrolled."



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Cockcroft Hall on the MC campus is being expanded to accommodate growth in the university's nursing school.

Cleanup hours extended

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Hours of operation for the City of Clinton's Spring Cleanup have been extended to 6 p.m. each day of operation. Public Works officials believe this extra hour will provide residents the extra opportunity to utilize the service.

"Spring cleanup continues to grow in utilization by Clinton residents. Public Works hopes that the additional hours of operation will enable additional residents to participate in the service," said Dexter Shelby, Director of Public Works.

The City of Clinton's annual spring citywide cleanup begins April 6 and will continue through April 13. During the cleanup period, the City of Clinton will have dumpsters available for residents at the old Northside Elementary School location at 1111 Old Vicksburg Road. City workers will be present to receive trash each day between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. The site will be closed on Sundays.

"From boats to refrigerators to pianos, we have seen many types of items be disposed of during the Spring Cleanup. Residents are encouraged to utilize the free service," Shelby added.

Residents utilizing the service are

asked to line up on Longwood Place in the Briars and turn west on Old Vicksburg Road for disposal. Due to the expense of the program, the Public Works Department will limit the service to residents of Clinton only. Residents utilizing the service will be asked to show proof of residency. Accepted forms of identification include a City of Clinton water/garbage bill, a driver's license or state-issued ID card with a Clinton address.

The spring cleanup days are a service to Clinton residents who may have items too large to dispose of on their regularly scheduled garbage collection days. Residents can dispose of yard waste, bulky items and other household debris free of charge.

The spring cleanup period does not include e-waste, such as old computers, printers or keyboards, which can often be partially recycled. A separate time for disposal of e-waste and hazardous materials, such as paint and pesticides, will be offered in the fall.

For more information, call 601-924-2239 or visit www.clintonms.org/garbage.

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