As we continue to find our way through this pandemic our academic departments continue to move forward in support of our students.

DMS is continuing to work with clinical sites to return our students to externship. Recently we have had several students return to clinicals and have had positive feedback from other clinical sites who indicate they may open back up in July. While students await their sites, they are either participating in simulations or, with the campus now open for labs, are coming in for live scanning in preparation for their return to clinicals. Students have expressed and shown their desire to return by manifesting their continued dedication and commitment to their studies and scanning practice.

ARDMS and ARRT are beginning to catch up on continuing education exams. It is easy to forget that many of our students have taken drastic measures and driving as far as northern California or Las Vegas to test sooner.

Students have expressed and shown their desire to return by manifesting their open for labs, are coming in for live scanning in preparation for their return to clinicals.

While students continue to practice their scanning and studying while waiting to take their certification exams. Mr. Dhillon highly recommends that DMS graduates continue to move forward in support of our students.

ARMS is continuing to work with clinical sites to return our students to clinicals.

We are still having to deal with several challenges. For instance, many of our externship sites that suspended our students from practicing at their clinics during the pandemic surge are now slowly starting to accept them back, and our clinical coordinators are working frantically to get our students placed once again.

Although the applications are now being processed, testing centers are still quite behind and not able to accommodate testing until as far out as November. Some graduates have taken drastic measures and driving as far as northern California or Las Vegas to test sooner.

It is crucial that graduates continue to practice their scanning and studying while waiting to take their certification exams. Mr. Dhillon highly recommends that DMS graduates continue to move forward in support of our students.

As the pandemic continues, we at Casa Loma College are not yet back to our regular operations, however we continue to provide high standard education while implementing and following the local and state COVID-19 precautionary guidelines. From social distancing, specifying ingress and egress procedures to providing personal protective equipment - from social distancing, specifying ingress and egress procedures to providing personal protective equipment - from social distancing, specifying ingress and egress procedures to providing personal protective equipment - from social distancing, specifying ingress and egress procedures to providing personal protective equipment. Additionally, many externship sites that suspended our students from practicing at their clinics during the pandemic surge are now slowly starting to accept them back, and our clinical coordinators are working frantically to get our students placed once again.

We are extremely proud of all our faculty and students who accomplished this so quickly! We had to face some challenges converting to online learning – from clarity on schedules, attendance, assessment – to students’ finding it incredibly difficult to concentrate and participate in exclusively online classes while facing the challenges of a more distracting home-based setting. On the other hand, campus administrative functions had to comply with the required state regulations regarding the COVID-19 imposed guidelines. However, through all these challenges we have maintained our goal which is to preserve the integrity and quality of our programs, as well as, to maintain the academic rigor and to ensure student learning outcomes are met, while supporting our students and reducing any anxiety they may feel.

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We are still having to deal with several challenges. For instance, many of our student’s graduation dates have been delayed due to their inability to complete their internships and externships as initially scheduled. Or, the disappointment of not being able to have a graduation ceremony to celebrate the student’s success. Not to mention the delay in the ability of our graduates to sit for their certification examinations due to the closure of testing sites. And, last but not least, an unpredictable job market. The future is uncertain. Yet, we must remember this current reality is not permanent. “There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear.” — W.K.

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Casa Loma College was well positioned to transitioning to exclusive online classes as we had already a considerable online presence; however, getting all residential faculty and students prepared to teach and learn via Moodle, Zoom and Teams was no small feat.

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Learning to Fall So You Can Fly

Stop resisting the inevitable and prepare yourself properly.

-Karl Allen-Hammer, Ph.D.

Our lives have abruptly and drastically shifted. For some, this can mean the ground is actively shifting beneath your feet, and you are having to alter your positioning to avoid falling. Or you may get a much-needed respite from the demands of an over-scheduled, stretched-too-thin lifestyle, but you may also be beginning to feel the stickiness of inactivity.

We are in the midst of a significant transition, which means uncertainty and change are afoot. Unfortunately, many of us prefer sameness to the unknown, so we fall back on reactive patterns of resistance rather than optimally respond to change. If you are scared, angry, confused, touchy, or jumpy, you are in reactive patterns of resistance. Reactive patterns commonly fall into two categories, rigidity, or collapse. Excessive rigidity is like a glass, and any hard hit will shatter that glass into a million tiny pieces. Excessive collapse is like warm jelly that slides right off a slanted surface to the next lowest ground and stays there. Whether rigid or collapse, a flexible spine is absent.

Change, when it happens upon us and provoked outside of our intentions, can feel like being blind sighted. Depending on your orientation towards such experiences, change activates resistance and struggle, or anticipation, and readiness.

When drastic change is imposed upon us, as it is now, maintaining balance simply is not enough. Maintaining balance can leave you sorely ill-positioned when this transition settles us into our new baseline of normal. Why? Because you would miss out on developing the skill and agility that comes with learning to master the experience of becoming wildly awake and present in your life.

When the ground moves beneath you, you’ve got to learn new ways to navigate your terrain. Learning to fall, being in dynamic stability, and using flow state consciousness are ways of meeting change as a conscientious participant in this adventure we call change.

To continue this article and learn more about “learning to fall” visit our Casa Loma College News/Blog.

Stand Out with Your BSN

The primary goals of nursing education remain the same: nurses must be prepared to meet diverse patients’ needs; function as leaders; and advance science that benefits patients and the capacity of health professionals to deliver safe, quality patient care. At the same time, nursing education needs to be transformed in several ways to prepare nursing graduates to work collaboratively and effectively with other health professionals in a complex and evolving health care system in a variety of settings.

There is a need for a greater number of nurses to enter the workforce with a baccalaureate degree or to progress to this degree early in their career. BSN education is not a solution for all that is expected of nurses in the future, it does, however, relative to other educational pathways, introduce students to a wider range of competencies in such arenas as health policy and health care financing, leadership, quality improvement, and systems thinking. BSN graduates reported significantly higher levels of preparation in evidence-based practice, research skills, and assessment of gaps in areas such as teamwork, collaboration, and practice—other important competencies for a future nursing workforce.

Care within the hospital setting continues to grow more complex, and nurses must make critical decisions associated with care for sicker, frailer patients. Care in this setting depends on sophisticated, life-saving technology coupled with complex information management systems that require skills in analysis and synthesis. Nurses are being called upon to coordinate care among a variety of clinics and community agencies; to help patients manage chronic illnesses, thereby preventing acute care episodes and disease progression; and to use a variety of technological tools to improve the quality and effectiveness of care. A more educated nursing workforce is better equipped to meet these demands. Health care organizations are now requiring more BSN-prepared nurses for entry-level positions. Absent a nursing shortage, nurses holding a baccalaureate degree are usually the preferred new-graduate hires in acute care settings.

In community and public health settings, the BSN has long been the preferred minimum requirement for nurses, given the competencies, knowledge of community-based interventions, and skills that are needed in these settings. The U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force require all active duty RNs to have a baccalaureate degree to practice.

In summary, an increase in the percentage of nurses with a BSN is imperative as the scope of what this public needs from nurses grows, expectations surrounding quality heighten, and the settings where nurses are needed proliferate and become more complex.

Casa Loma College is delighted to announce its premier Registered Nurse to BSN cohort that will start in September 2020. To show our appreciation for the commitment and dedication of nurses during the current pandemic, we are offering an incredible First Line Worker Scholarship worth $8,700! Applications are now being accepted. Visit https://casalomacollege.edu/bachelor-of-science-in-nursing/ for more information—we have a seat saved for you!

-portions of this article were adapted from NCBI Transforming Education