Dear Entering Nursing Student,

Welcome to the Washington State University College of Nursing! What a tremendous accomplishment to have gained acceptance to this program! You should feel very proud of yourself. You will find your experience here to be challenging, exciting, and highly rewarding.

My name is David Mishin and I am the Student Nurse Leaders (SNL) President. At the College of Nursing, students are represented by SNL. The other officers and I are here to support you during your time at Washington State University and assist you in your journey towards your Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Student Nurse Leaders is a very active organization, which hosts numerous social events to assist in acquainting and familiarizing yourself with your classmates as well as other students on campus. We also serve as a student voice on the Spokane campus. We achieve our goals and missions through the support of all students. Become an active member on campus by participating in our events and organization. While you are enrolled at the College of Nursing, here are a few things to consider:

1. Your opinion is important to us, and without it we will not succeed in properly representing you. Please feel free to contact us via e-mail or Facebook with any suggestions or comments.
2. Get involved! Our student government functions through representations from all classes. We hold elections for class officers’ positions later this semester. The positions available are: President, Director at Large, and Secretary/Treasurer. More information on these positions will follow but now is the time to consider serving in a leadership capacity to represent your class.
3. We plan fun and exciting free social event for students throughout the semester and would love for your ideas and suggestions of what would you like to do!
4. In gaining acceptance to the WSU College of Nursing you are all members of the Student Nurse Leaders organization. A onetime mandatory membership fee is associated with joining and being a member. Dues must be submitted before you begin classes. Fill out the attached form along with a check or cash for $40 and return it to the address provided below. This is a onetime payment and will cover your costs for attending events throughout your entire time at the College of Nursing. This amount could be paid over the course of the two years with $10 each semester paid by the first day of class. We thank you for your support and without it these events and organization would not be possible. These dues also help support STEPS tutoring program and other resources SNL sponsors.
5. We also offer volunteer opportunities, trips to Olympia for nursing legislative conventions, host international nursing students, and work hard towards improving the campus and nursing field.

August will be here before you know it, so now I would like to highlight how Student Nurse Leadership is here to support you and to offer some “tasks to be completed” in order to assist your transition to the College of Nursing.

Whether you are coming from the west side of Washington, currently live in Spokane, or are moving in from outside the state, here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. **Housing:** The WSU Spokane campus does not have on-campus housing. SNL has created a Facebook group “Spokane Roommate Search! (WSU College of Nursing Version).” Simple type this into the search bar on Facebook. This group can help facilitate your search for a place to live and connect you with other current and incoming Spokane campus students who are looking for roommates. Additional, the Student Affairs Housing Survey Results offers a listing of some of Spokane’s apartments and houses as well as other helpful resources. [https://spokane.wsu.edu/studentlife/housing/](https://spokane.wsu.edu/studentlife/housing/)

2. **Transportation:** You will probably need a car. Because of our schedules at the CON, it is often difficult to rely on public transportation and carpooling with other students. Spokane Transit Authority bus services may not operate early enough in the morning to meet the requirements of 6:00 AM clinical starts or late enough for some students leaving evening clinical sites at 10:00 PM. Until you get into a routine and have a little bit more sense of how your schedule works, having a reliable car will probably by your only option. A few weeks after classes begin, you may be able to start carpooling or taking the bus regularly if you choose to.

3. **Concurrent Employment:** Nursing school is very time consuming and you will have clinicals at different hours. This makes it hard to hold a job. However, if you are like myself and have to work, try and take the first semester off or work just a few hours a week – working is completely doable but not recommended.

4. **Computers and Printers:** Instructors all use “Blackboard” Learning Management System, a supporting website, to deliver course related Power Point and Word documents, announcements, readings, quizzes, and access to previous lectures. It is mandatory to have access to Blackboard and a reliable Internet connection. Most students find the use of a laptop a must. You will also need to access email, online journals and online skills modules. Most coursework requires printing; although not needed, you may consider purchasing a printer. However, the computer lab in the nursing building which is open Monday- Friday, and the
library in the Academic Center have printers available for you to use with your cougar card, which is open 7 days a week.

5. **Books, Scrubs, and Supplies:** Books may be purchased from “The Bookie” bookstore located across the street from school (410 E. Spokane Falls Boulevard) as well as online. The list of books needed for your classes are listed online at the Bookie website. If you need help with which books to purchases, professors will go over this on the first day or you may ask upper class students for advice. Most of the books are also available for checkout in the library.

Scrubs are required for clinical. There is a link provided under uniforms of places you can purchase. Gently used scrubs may be available for purchase at Orientation for a greatly reduced price by the senior class, but limited quantities are available. You must purchase the official WSU scrubs and it is recommended to buy two sets of scrubs. Also, since you will be on your feet for hours at a time, sturdy, closed-toed comfortable shoes will be needed. Athletic shoes, such as Nike or Adidas are discouraged because they are not fluid-resistant. Leather or other fluid resistant materials are recommended.

Along with all of the other supplies, you will need to purchase a stethoscope. There are several different options ranging from $30-200. Check out the New Student Page under equipment for information on stethoscopes.

For your first semester, be prepared to spend around $800-$900 on books, scrubs, supplies, and required online modules.

6. **Student Ambassadors and Student Mentors:** Student Ambassadors are available to answer questions and assist you. Student Ambassadors were the students from your interviews who gave tours and answered questions. Student Ambassadors also run a Mentoring program, which you have all been signed up for. It is completely optional for you to use them but they are available and are a great resource.

7. **Your Facebook Class Group:** Be sure and add “Fall 17 Entry: WSU College of Nursing.” This group will allow you to meet and connect with some of your fellow peers and also post questions, comments and share resources. It has been very successful with other classes and I strongly encourage you to join the group if you are currently on Facebook.

Finally, welcome again to our program and family. The faculty members, staff, and students are truly supportive and approachable. Every member at the CON wants you to be successful in your courses and is all happy to help you in any way they can. Feel free to contact me directly through email (david.mishin@wsu.edu) or messaging on Facebook if you have any questions at all now or throughout the year.
On behalf of the other SNL officers, we are here to assist and serve you!

We are excited for all of you, have a great winter and please let know of any questions, comments, or concerns you may have!

Sincerely,

David Mishin
SNL President
daavid.mishin@wsu.edu