

Welcome! ... You are scheduled to start the Distance Learning Re-Entry Nursing Update (online nursing refresher) through Austin Community College on ...

Monday April 28, 2008

We are glad to have you as a student in this unique program designed to assist nurses from around the state of Texas in returning to clinical practice.

Below is important information regarding your successful participation in this course! **Please** read all of this information carefully ...

1) Your Instructor is Alyssa Monacelli, RN, BSN, she has been included in this email, and can be reached by ... amonacel@austincc.edu. Alyssa will be your primary contact for the class once the course has started.

2) You have completed your registration process for the online refresher course. There is **another class** that is offered that provides your clinical experience. You need to be putting together your application for this clinical portion of the class **if** you are planning to do that through Austin Community College. You can find that application at www.austinccc.edu/ce/hpi under the continuing education link on the left hand side of the page. This page also explains the application process. Be sure to contact me if you have any questions concerning this process. You will be eligible to take this class **after the skills days June 14 & 21** and when your application has been completed.

3) If you do not have a current nursing license, make sure that you have contacted the Board of Nurse Examiners (BNE) at (512) 305-6809 to obtain your temporary permit that will allow you to complete the RN supervised clinical preceptorship in your city. This permit will cover a 6 month period, so be sure to coordinate your clinical preceptorship start date with your college as close to the start date of your temporary permit as possible, to allow you the full 6 months to complete the preceptorship. If your preceptorship is not completed within the 6 month temporary permit period, the BNE may require you to wait one year before issuing a second temporary permit. NOTE: the BNE is now stating that the clinical preceptorship needs to be 80 hours in length, and ACC has confirmed with the BNE that ACC's current 72 hour preceptorship, plus the skills lab portion of the course, does meet (and exceeds) the BNE 80 hour requirement. If you are a student at a college other than ACC, that does not provide the skills lab portion, then you need to confirm with your college that they will provide you with the full 80 hours of clinical preceptorship time.

4) We have created a project web site at ... <http://nurserefresher.austincc.edu> ... that contains information about our project, as well as information and documents for use by both you the students, and the community colleges. We suggest you familiarize yourself with the content found in the "Students" area of this web site. The link "Course Information" in this area provides a good overview of information you will need as you begin the course. If you are an LVN, and the BNE may ask for you to provide documentation showing the content of the refresher course you are taking (in order to issue you your temporary permit), you will find both the "Course Outline and Content" and the "Nursing Skills Checklist" in the "Student" area of the project website. You can use these documents as evidence of what you will be reviewing in the course. Many of you may have already seen this sight. You can find this link at www.austincc.edu/ce/hpi under [Continuing Education Courses](#) then Distance Learning.

5) You will receive an email some time after noon on Monday, April 28, 2008 that will provide you with all of the course access information (BlackBoard login and password) you need to begin work in the online course. You will access the course through the project web site (<http://nurserefresher.austincc.edu>) in the "BlackBoard" area of this site. **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE COURSE UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE EMAIL ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.**

6) You will need to purchase the require textbooks for the course, as a good portion of the course relies on readings from these texts. Visit our project website at ... <http://nurserefresher.austincc.edu>. Click on "Students" and then click on the "Recommended Textbooks" link. This will provide you with the information on three required textbooks as well as the book sellers that sell these textbooks. Austin Community College (ACC) has these books available at the Rio Grand book store. (474-2607) You may also find the "Optional Texts" helpful in your study. If you are having trouble finding the books feel free to contact me Elizabeth Huss, at (512) 223-7271.

7) IMPORTANT: Some of the activities in the online course use streaming video. If you do NOT have a high band width internet connection (cable, DSL, etc...), and are using a dial-up connection (56K modem), then you may find it difficult to view all of these videos online. We can provide you with a CD-ROM that contains these video for viewing directly on your home computer. If you know that you will need this CD-ROM, please let me know ... and we will mail you a copy as soon as possible. We have become aware that some of the services to rural areas have a limit on the time you can spend on the computer that is not readily noted on the contract. With this in mind you may want to check your contract and if you have that stipulation, you will also want to order a CD-ROM. This student CD-ROM will not be sent to automatically.

We hope that you find the Distance Learning Re-Entry Nursing Update helpful in your return to clinical nursing practice. Please let your Instructor know if you have any questions as you start this course. You are also welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns prior to the start of the course. Best of luck in your study! It can be lots of fun.

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