

## Framingham State University MSN Program Testimonials



### **Susan Miller, MSN, RN, CNE - Nurse Educator Cohort '16**

Attending the MSN educator track at Framingham State instilled me with the confidence needed to pursue and obtain my current position as a nurse educator in an undergraduate nursing program. The FSU program prepared me for current trends in nursing education including the ability to apply creative classroom strategies, utilize innovative teaching technology, and promote critical thinking in students. The hybrid design of the program provided the ability to present several presentations to classmates, as well as the opportunity to learn about navigating online learning. Attending the in-person sessions allowed me to lean on and bond with other nurses from a variety of specialties and range of experience. These connections remain strong after graduation, and continue to be a wonderful source of networking. I feel truly respected by both colleagues and students, and I believe this is the result of the thorough preparation I received at Framingham State. Obtaining my MSN at Framingham State has renewed my love for nursing, provided a new and fulfilling career path, and given me the ability to have a meaningful impact the future of the nursing profession.



### **Teri Cooper, MSN, RN - Nurse Educator Cohort '16**

After over 20 years of clinical nursing, it became increasingly clear that I had a strong desire to teach, but the thought of going back to school was daunting. After withdrawing from an online MSN program that failed to provide the support and networking required for a successful transition to teaching, I happened upon Framingham State University's website. Framingham State University's MSN nursing educator program provided the skills and confidence I needed to fully transition to the role of academic nurse educator in less than two years. The flexibility of the hybrid program allowed me to work and care for my family while attending school. The once per week face-to-face connection within the program created a community of nurse peers who shared best practices and provided unparalleled encouragement throughout the educational experience. FSU's faculty advisor and professors fostered valuable networking opportunities within the professional nursing education community. The nationally recognized technology program, comprehensive curriculum development courses, and integrative practicum experiences allowed many within the cohort to obtain clinical faculty

positions prior to graduation. I feel fully equipped to begin my new journey as a novice nurse educator within an ADN program, and to expand my role as a nurse educator abroad on the medical mission field. Check out one of the informational sessions; the program is doable, supportive, and highly respected within both nursing academic and staff education communities!



**Peter Russo MSN, RN, CN IV Nursing Leadership Cohort '18  
Clinical Advisor for Neurosurgery, Ortho-Trauma,  
Podiatry, Spine, Maxillo Facial and ENT  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center**

I never imagined going back to school after 20 plus years. A good friend of mine convinced me it was the best career move for me at the time. With much hesitation and uncertainty, I applied. I interviewed and began my postgraduate degree. I jumped in head first pushing myself in every class. With the support of my professors, classmates, and family, I worked diligently through each class successfully graduating in a fairly short period of time.

While enrolled in the Nursing Leadership Cohort of the MSN program at Framingham State University, I accepted a middle management position at my current place of employment in the operating room. It has opened doors for me that I never knew existed!

With the knowledge learned from my classes, I was able to utilize different concepts and techniques directly into my work environment. My staff appeared surprised and happy to be challenged with new ideas. This directly relates to the modules learned in the curriculum combined with our cohort's discussions on these topics. It was reassuring to hear other nurses and nursing leaders having some of the same challenges and how they addressed those challenges.

I have highly recommended Framingham State University Master of Science in Nursing program to many of my colleagues and friends. This academic experience has been one of the best moves I have done for my career!



**Dennis Doherty, MSN, RN - Nurse Educator Cohort '14  
Boston Children's Hospital**

Within months of graduating from the Framingham State University (FSU) Master of Science in Nursing Program (Education concentration), I found myself accepting a position in Nursing Professional Development. From the day, I took on this

new role it was apparent that the academic preparation I received at FSU set me up for success. Whether I am developing workshops for staff, evaluating the outcomes of our professional development programs, mentoring an expert nurse in evidence-based practice, or using cutting edge technology and creative teaching strategies to engage newly-licensed nurses, not a day goes by where the knowledge, skills, and attitudes I gained from the weekly interactions with the FSU nursing faculty and my fellow students impacts my professional development practice. The program's face-to-face/online hybrid model offered flexibility for a working father of two while connecting me with nursing colleagues who share my passion for nursing education and have become the foundation of my professional network.



**Robin Sharkey, MSN, RN - Leadership Cohort '16**

The graduate program at Framingham State University (FSU) is excellent on many levels. It is a hybrid program where the student is required to attend class one evening per week which works very well when balancing work and school. I had researched many programs before deciding on FSU. It had the key elements to fit in with a career, it is affordable, and is a supportive environment for the student. This was important to me as I had not been a student for 10 years. The FSU MSN with a Leadership concentration is designed to give the student an immediate network of colleagues in different areas of nursing and we all examine and learn the most current trends in nursing through the program and each other. I am a student who has over 20 years of nursing experience but not having been a student for 10 years made me a bit apprehensive about the hybrid online format. One of the first classes was a technology class that I initially viewed as a hurdle, but in reality it became a class I looked forward to and enjoyed. The information is so current and state of art and it has given me such a renewed enthusiasm for my profession. To have my years of experience now being combined with education on the most current trends in nursing is preparing me well for the next step in my career. Through the graduate classes at FSU I have a new perspective on nursing leadership and it has benefited me both personally and professionally.



**Jean McGinty, RN, MSN, CNOR Nurse Educator Cohort '14**

FSU's MSN program offered me hybrid classes where I attended the university just one day-a-week. As fascinating as the course work was (most especially the technology course), my cohorts became an integral part of my education, both in person and on the discussion boards. My 2014 graduating class showed

the diversity of today's nursing: We were inner-city teaching hospital nurses and community nurses, including home, school, and public health nurses, who came together to brainstorm about policies and procedures, share narratives and pearls of wisdom learned at the forefront of our changing healthcare. This is collaborative learning, and each of us had a role to play and feedback to share which was invaluable to the total educational experience. The two practicums in the last year brought us real time into the future positions that are now arrayed before our paths, ready to be attained for we have been led to the well of knowledge and skills, and we have drunk deep, refilling our lamps in the spirit of Florence Nightingale. With this attitude, we will teach the current and the next generation of nurses, encouraging all to step up and lean in.