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University of Miami Nursing Students Exceed National Exam Pass Rates

April 19, 2018 (Coral Gables, Florida) - National exam pass rates and *U.S. News and World Report* rankings continue to rise at the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies (SONHS).

The overall first-time pass rate for SONHS nursing master's students who took the nurse practitioner certification exams in 2017 was 98 percent, the school announced April 12.

This is the school's highest first-time pass rate for the exam to date. Pass rates among the 152 students surpassed the national average by over 10 percent for the adult gerontology acute care, adult gerontology primary care and family nurse practitioner exams, making the accomplishment even more impressive.

SONHS bachelor of nursing (B.S.N.) students also earned first-time pass rates among the highest in the nation on the National Council Licensure Examination (or NCLEX). Their first-time pass rate of 97.22 percent for 2017 well exceeds the national average of 87.11 and the State of Florida average of 73.99.

Underscoring these achievements are the latest *U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate Schools* rankings for 2019. Released in March, the guidebook ranked the SONHS' Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program No. 32 out of 296 evaluated programs. The program rose six spots from No. 38 last year. It tied with Florida Atlantic University as the No.1 nursing master's program in the state. The SONHS master's program has risen nearly 30 spots since its No. 61 ranking for 2015.

The SONHS Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program also rose in the *U.S. News* rankings, from No. 46 for 2018 to No. 42 out of 203 programs for 2019.

The magazine considered 14 criteria in the rankings, including research activity, faculty credentials, peer ratings, student selectivity, reputation and nursing practice participation. SONHS has 338 graduate students.

"Congratulations to our students; to Dr. Johis Ortega, B.S.N. '02, M.S.N. '06, Ph.D. '11, associate dean for graduate programs and global initiatives at SONHS; to Dr. Mary McKay, B.S. '88, D.N.P., associate dean of the B.S.N. programs; to our program directors and to all of the faculty and staff who contributed to the success of our students on these standout passing rates," said SONHS Dean and Professor Cindy L. Munro, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FAAAS. "This is wonderful news, as is the growing recognition in the national rankings for our graduate programs."

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Celebrating its 70th anniversary, the School of Nursing and Health at University of Miami (SONHS) has 46 full-time faculty members, 679 undergraduate and 338 graduate students. Classes, taught by the school's outstanding faculty, take place primarily on the Coral Gables Campus in the school's state-of-the-art M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing and Health Studies and the newly opened five-story Simulation Hospital, as well as at the University of Miami's medical campus in downtown Miami.