**VBSN Student Contract**

Congratulations on your acceptance into this prestigious program! Davenport University would like to thank you for your service and sacrifice as a military medic/corpsman. The unique training and experiences you have will serve you well on your journey to becoming a registered nurse. Davenport University wants to empower our veteran medics to be successful in every aspect moving forward. This means mapping out the challenges and rewards you will experience while you work towards your degree.

**Directions:** Please read each section carefully, initial, and then sign this document.  **Time Management Expectations:**

Davenport University understands that students have multiple demands on their time. Your ability to manage different tasks and time constraints is crucial to overall success. You may have a significant other, children, and/or employment that require your attention. We encourage you to communicate with your family and friends about the journey you are about to begin. A support system that understands your program and the time it will require will only help ease your transition. You will find that being a nurse requires balancing time demands between your patients, co-workers, and physician staff. If you have any concerns about your ability to manage your obligations please connect with your advisor and faculty.

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**Academic Expectations:**

Academic success is often about dedicating yourself to the task at hand. The expectation is that you complete all program requirements on time and satisfactorily. This means being present and accounted for during all classroom/lab/clinical activities. All assignments should be submitted on time and completed to the best of your ability. If you are experiencing difficulty or have a special circumstance, the expectation is that you seek help *immediately*. A proactive approach can reduce your stress levels and provide more options to help you get back on track. Being a nurse means maintaining your standards and delivering quality care—no matter the challenges you face. Davenport University staff and faculty are here to see you succeed!

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**Character Expectations:**

The military is an institution that requires members to adhere to the highest standards. Davenport University is no different in this respect. Many students, faculty, and community members may have had little to no contact with the military. They may have certain expectations or preconceived notions about who you are. Your duty is to continue to be a shining example of the core values you were exposed to while in the military. Regardless of your actual military status (Active Duty, Guard/Reserve, IRR, Veteran), you are a VBSN ambassador and your actions reflect accordingly. Be mindful of this when you make choices inside and outside of the academic environment. Being a nurse will require you to maintain an outwardly appearance of professionalism that inspires confidence in the care you provide.

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**Emotional Hygiene Expectations:**

Davenport University understands that many veterans are experiencing an immense amount of change. Often you are tasked with finding housing, securing employment, and settling into a different lifestyle. The transition from military duty to civilian life can be complicated by the fact that you may be experiencing signs or symptoms associated with PTSD. This is perfectly normal. You are having a *normal* reaction to an abnormal situation and we are here to help! The VBSN program staff are all veterans who understand that the hardest step can be the initial one: admitting that you need help and asking for it. Your duty is to recognize any issues, communicate them to the VBSN staff, and be an active participant in resolving them. Being a nurse means recognizing not only the immediate physical problems, but understanding the emotional and mental challenges that can arise.

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**Additional Insight:**

Davenport University classrooms are a lot like the military: a diverse cross-section of society. Your experience and training give you a unique perspective on not only delivering care, but the world in general. Be mindful of the fact that not every individual has the same worldview as you. All students, regardless of their path, have earned their place in the nursing program and deserve respect.

You may find that your previous experience lends to being a natural leader and mentor in this program. Many younger nursing students will notice that you are “squared away” and that you are driven to adapt to the rigors of this program. We hope that you

embrace this role in your own way! Davenport University feels that VBSN students are a cut above and are excellent role models for other students.

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**Specific Program Requirements:**

All VBSN students will be actively engaged by their academic advisor. You will be periodically meeting to update on your progress and to discuss any issues you might be experiencing. You may meet more often as time and necessity dictates.

The final condition of VBSN participation is in the “*Battle Buddy*” program. This will partner you with a mentor that can assist with acclimating to the stresses of being a nursing student. Your “*Battle Buddy*” will be a student who is preferably in their second year of the program who can share their experiences, struggles, and success with you. We encourage all “Battle Buddy” partners to exchange phone and email contact information.

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***I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, understand the above conditions for VBSN program participation. Failure to show continued commitment to the above conditions may result in my removal from the VBSN program. I also understand that by signing this contract that I have committed to success in completing my degree program.***

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**VBSN Student Signature Date**

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**VBSN Academic Advisor Date**