

Meredith Kazer:

So hi, everyone. Again, I'm Meredith Kazer, dean of the Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies. I'm the dean and on behalf of our entire faculty, staff, and administration, we are so pleased to welcome you to this orientation session. We're so happy to have you here. I hope that you're enjoying your summer so far, we've had some nice weather. And I understand that we are still in a pandemic and things are all a little bit different, and we're going to talk a lot today about how that's going to affect your first year and how we're getting ready to welcome you here to Fairfield.

So today's goals are to talk a little bit about... We're going to give you some program updates. I know I met many of you when you were here for open house sessions and tours through our school over the last year, but we're going to give you a few updates in terms of where we've been since that point in time. We want to make sure that you leave this session with the confidence that you made the right choice to come to Fairfield and the Marion Peckham Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies. And hopefully, you'll also leave today with all of your questions answered related to your academic experience in your first year planning.

So just a few updates. The Egan School has continued to be a top ranked school of nursing and health studies for the past several years. This past year we were ranked number seven in the 2020 College Factual Best Schools of Nursing out of 518 schools. This puts us at the top 5% of all nursing programs nationwide and number one in the State of Connecticut, we're very proud.

The Egan School now has an official chapter of the American Association of Men in Nursing. We also had top rankings for our master of science in nursing program, which was ranked number 71, and the doctorate in nursing practice program was ranked number 69 by US News and World Report this year. The Helene Fuld Health Trust award, awarded the Egan School \$650,000 for support of our second degree nursing students. And Fairfield was awarded a four-year \$2.64 million grant from the Health Resources Services Administration, particularly to support our graduate nursing students.

Dr. Audrey Beauvais, who you will hear from shortly, her book Leadership and Management Competence in Nursing Practice, was awarded first place by The American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year awards, in the nursing management and leadership category. Dr. Cindy Bautista, who I just got off from Zoom with, was named director at large for the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses.

Dr. Linda Roney, who you will also hear from today, was selected to participate in the pediatric panel for the National Trauma research Action Plan Project, which aims to identify primary research gaps that exist within specific disciplines related to trauma care. And Dr. Jessie Planus, who unfortunately you won't hear from today, but you will definitely meet when you come join us on campus, was accepted into the 2019 National League for Nursing Lead Program, who examine issues related to leadership concepts and organizational systems.

Our 2020 First Year Student Profile, we had 2,165 applicants to our school. We admitted 685 students, which was our lowest admission rate in history of the school. And we had a strong yield, 26% of students that we offered admission to chose to come and join us at the Egan school. We have a total of 178 Egan school students that includes nursing students, social work, and public health students. And we're very excited to welcome this talented group of students who we know will do very, very well in our programs.

So let me talk a little bit about the COVID-19 pandemic that we're all experiencing and what that's going to look like for you next year. I want to assure you that we have been working tirelessly around the clock to ensure a strong academic program for all of our students next year. We are very much weighing the risk for students with COVID-19 and ensuring effective education and healthcare for our students, so that they can be excellent nurses, public health majors, and social workers.

Dr. Beauvais, and Dr. Joyce Shea, who is the associate dean for graduate studies, and I have all met with the board of nursing to ensure that we were able to develop points to ensure that all of our students could continue their academic progression and attend clinical experiences. All of our senior students graduated on time and we're working together with the statewide deans of directors and the board of nursing to ensure clinical experiences for all of our students.

Students are in clinical and internship experiences next year, we will have classroom activities that follow a hyflex model, meaning that sometime we will have students in classes, in labs and in clinical experiences, and we will have some activities that are online. Our faculty are working together with our center of academic excellence to ensure that all of our online courses are delivered in the most up to date pedagogy, to make sure that we have that close student engagement that Fairfield University is known for.

To give you a little example. We went online with our programs about halfway through this past spring semester, and I'm going to just read a quick quote here from one of our nursing students who was... Through remote delivery still had a really amazing experience.

"As a student nurse tech at the VA hospital in Boston, I recently got moved the ICU in my hospital to help with the COVID-19 crisis. Everything you both taught me in critical care has seriously helped me during this transition. Being familiar with the ventilator, BIS score, A-lines, transducers, et cetera, is helping with my new position so much. All of the nurses were so impressed that I understood these terms and were familiar with them. So I wanted to say again, thank you so much for a great semester." And that's from one of our students who had the remote instruction. And hopefully, we'll reassure you that we're able to engage with students equally online and on ground, which we're planning for the fall. And now, it's my pleasure to turn it over to my colleague, Dr. Audrey Beauvais, associate dean for graduate studies.

Dr. Audrey B.:

Hi everybody, I am Audrey Beauvais, the associate dean of the undergraduate programs at Fairfield University. I want to congratulate you all for getting into our program. It's a very competitive program, and I am sure you were all terrific students in your high school setting and now we can't wait to welcome you here to campus. I want to assure you that if you made it into our program, we expect that you have the qualifications to be successful and to graduate in four years. That said, we do know that it is a big transition to go from high school off to college, there're changes in social life and academics and we'll take a few minutes to talk about that right now.

The first year of college is a time of transition, as I said, and it depends often if you're the first child in your family off to college or the very last in your family, it's different for parents and guardians, and it's different for the students themselves. If it's your first child out of the door, you might be feeling a little anxious, the last child is a little usually, a little bit more adventurous. But regardless, this is a new experience for you and a year that will be filled with transitions for you.

So some of the things that are different than high school in the university setting might be your living arrangements. Now some of you may be commuting, but the majority of you will probably be living in our residence halls. And that's a different setting, you'll be living with other people, you'll have a roommate, they do tend to stay up later, despite perhaps having early classes in the morning, your course schedule will be different.

So in high school, typically you went to school for a block of time, maybe 7:00 AM to two in the afternoon. In college, you might have classes on Monday that start at 8:00 AM, and then you don't have another class until 2:00 PM, how you manage that time makes a difference. Our most successful

students tell us that they manage that by doing their homework in between, rather than going back to the residence halls, to either take a nap or watch Netflix. So managing your time becomes very, very important when you're off in the university setting.

We also encourage you to get involved, get involved in your professional organizations, your student professional organizations. So for nursing students, that's the student nurse association, for public health students, that's the public health club, and then we also have a social work club for the social work students, so I encourage you all to get involved in those activities. I also would encourage you to get involved in at least one extracurricular activity that is of your interest. That way you'll be sure to meet like-minded people outside of your major, that you get to have a bond with.

The other thing that I want to stress as you start your first year and it's a time of transition, is to get to know your supports. You do have a lot of supports here at Fairfield University, we are known for having professors who truly care. However, they often don't reach out to you, you should reach out to them. So get to know them during office hours, just make sure you email them to say hello, so get to know them, ask for help when you need it.

Most of you are coming to us having been straight A students and very strong academically. It can be difficult when you get that first test back and realize maybe you have a B, that is okay, just speak to your professors if you're feeling uncomfortable, but know that you are all right. If you happen to get a C again, that's okay, but I would like you to, at that point, if you do get a C on your very first test, to make sure you email your professor and make an appointment to see them.

The reason I say this is, often in college in your courses, you might have just three exams and a final. And because of that, if you get a C on the first test and you think you've got it, and then you try to take the second test and aren't as successful, now you have two tests under your belt and it's a little bit harder to come up from. So there is no harm in asking, actually our professors prefer that you reach out to them and they can set you on the right track, let you know if your study guides are in line and make sure that you're studying the appropriate material.

Also form study groups. It's a great way to make friends and also to share knowledge and information, utilize your resources. So here at the university, we offer peer tutoring, we also offer classes on time management, note-taking. For those of you who are minority students, we have a program called RISE, it's a very active group. We have mentors through the student nurse association for nursing students, the public health club and the social work club are also a great support system for those disciplines. And for those of you who are males in the nursing program, as dean Kazer mentioned, we have a Men Nursing Club, just chartered and they're doing some great things, we would love to have you involved in that group.

Now, in terms of the parents and guardians, how can you best help your students to be successful? I think one of the best things you can do for them is to help them to be good self-advocates, to empower them, to solve some of their own problems. You may be aware of a concern and want to call us, and which is fine, but just know that we can't respond to you and communicate in the same way. So we have limits on what we can say to you, due to the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act, we call that FERPA, unless your student signs a form that we can speak with you. But I think it's so very important for you to empower your students, to come to us and ask for help when there is a concern, because we will want to speak with them directly.

The other thing you can do if they're calling and they're concerned about fitting in, remind them to join a group or a club. If they call you, and they're concerned about the academics, remind them about the peer support, remind them about seeing their professor. Be patient, be supportive, this is a

time of growth, entrance position, and just know you're listening to them, might be all that they need, so just be an open ear for them.

I also ask you to remind them, if they call you up crying that they got a B, to remind them they're doing a great job. If they call you and say everything's fine, you might want to check in with them and say, well, what was that first grade you've got on that test. And remind them what I said, that if there's a C, remind them to go ask for help. So often students don't want to use their voice and admit that they need help, but we actually see that as a sign of strength and resilience to go ask for help and get the resources that they need, so please, please do that.

I'm going to talk just quickly about the academic planning portion. I'm going to go over a little bit about the Magis Core, about the interprofessional opportunities, and course schedules. So first to talk about our core, and I think you got this in a previous session, so I'm not going to spend a lot of time on it, but it is a part of our Jesuit principles here, it underlines everything we do, it means more. It entails, taking care of the mind, body, and spirit, and it really helps our students come away with a great foundation that makes them well-rounded individuals. And hence, our employers often tell us they like our students because they are well-rounded.

The Magis Core has two tiers, an orientation tier and an exploration tier. So you'll take a number of courses at the orientation level, that's introduction to English, and History, and things like that. And then at the tier two level, you will be able to explore those concepts a little bit deeper. The nice thing about this core, this Magis Core is that we have some signature elements, which I think helps set us apart. One, there will be opportunities and an expectation that you'll take an interdisciplinary course, there'll be an expectation that you have courses with a social justice component, as well as you'll be taking courses that are writing intensive, writing across the curriculum or within in the discipline.

All of your schedules will be created for you. This will help eliminate some of that stress coming into your first year in college, so we will create a schedule for you and you'll have a chance to see that. This is just a sample of what a schedule could look like for a nursing major. As you can see, all nursing majors do have anatomy, and physiology, and a lab, in their very first semester with us. Half of the nursing majors will take chemistry in the fall semester, the other half will take it in the spring semester. And the other courses are flexible as you'll have an opportunity to take those [inaudible 00:15:23].

I want to highlight that nursing, social work, and public health students, all have at first year experience, and that's that FYE that's listed at the top of this slide. FYE is an opportunity for you to get together with a group usually about 25 students, of first year students, and you talk about all the concerns and things that are pertinent to you as a first year student. All those transition issues, how do you register? How do you find the library? How do you order your textbooks? How can you work on your wellness while you're here? All of those concepts... And how can you be good citizens? Where there's another big component of that, of being good citizens. So all students get this experience and we've heard very positive things about it.

For the public health students, here's a sample of what their schedule could look like. Just want to highlight that although anatomy and physiology is listed on this sample with what a schedule could be, typically those public health students don't take it until later, usually in their sophomore year. And let's see. Social work students again, this is a sample of what their schedule could look like. Again, they have the first year experience, the nice thing that they have and they'll talk about it later on in this presentation is a social work essentials course, which introduced you to your discipline right away in that very first semester, which is a nice introduction.

For those of you who, or whenever you take your Math, just so you know, as first year students you are placed in your Math by the chair of the Math department. They take a lot of care to look

through transcripts, they will look at your course from your high school, they'll look at your math background, they'll look at your academic interests and try to place you appropriately in your Math class. If for some reason, when you start the semester, you feel that that class is not the right match for you, maybe it's not challenging enough, maybe it's too challenging, don't worry, we had an add-drop period, that can be adjusted for you.

Language placement. You should all be taking a language placement test that is, and the scores on that test will determine where you will be placed in that particular language. The only exception to that is for Latin and Greek, they don't have a language placement test for that, so they do that by your background. If you would like to study a new language, you are certainly welcomed to do that, and you would take that at the introductory level. If you are interested in changing to a new language, you can just send an email to our assistant dean in the Egan school who is Suzanne Chaplik. And if you look on our website and look under the faculty on the Egan school, you will see she's the only assistant dean. Or actually that's not true, I think we have a new assistant dean for graduate program, she's the only one for undergrad programs, so you'll have a chance to email her, you'll see her name.

The next, Study Abroad. So all students at Fairfield University have an opportunity to study abroad. So in any program, you have an opportunity to study abroad during the winter intercession, during spring break, over the summer. In fact, the social work program is coming up with a really nice opportunity in the summer to study in Greece, which I think you will enjoy if you're in that program. The public health and the social work programs are exploring opportunities for semester long experiences, those have not been solidified yet, but we're actively working on that. For the nursing program, you do have an opportunity to study an entire semester abroad, and that happens in the second semester of the junior year. The two opportunities there are to study in Ireland or to study in Australia, great programs.

And we also have some short-term experiences too, in nursing. So in your senior year, you can do a mission trip over the spring break, which actually counts for your clinical in your public health course, so that's a nice opportunity. In the past we've gone to Nicaragua, that program has been stopped at this point in time due to political unrest in that country, and safety of our students is of utmost importance, so we're no longer going there. Going forward, we'll be going to Puerto Rico for that experience in the [inaudible 00:19:43], that is an opportunity for you in your senior year.

There's one other abroad experience which is from nursing majors, that a donor, a former board of trustee member and our Egan advisor, the Bernadinos have donated money for two nursing students in their junior year to attend an experience called the Lord's pilgrimage. In where they take a charter flight over, with sick individuals near the end of life, and a medical team goes over and they work on spiritual healing. And it's a really... It's that opportunity to take those Jesuit ideals, mind, body, and spirit, and that healing process, it's a wonderful opportunity and the donors pay for all expenses [inaudible 00:20:27].

Can you choose a minor? Absolutely. However, I just want to stress, it is possible to choose a minor, you do not need to decide what your minor is in your first year. You have so many other things to do right now, you are transitioning into college, really by your sophomore year you can start thinking about it more seriously, but just keep your mind open, that there is an opportunity to minor. The minors range from 15 to 18 credits, they take just five to six courses. I graduated from Fairfield in nursing major, and I minored in psychology, it was really easy to do. Some people for nursing majors, they might pick a public health minor, there's lots of opportunities. Some of them are listed here, but the list is endless, so feel free to pick a minor, but again, don't feel pressured to do it in your first year.

AP credits and college credits. Many of you we know have excelled in high school and have taken AP and college credits, please contact the college board to verify that they're going to send those

scores to Fairfield, that usually happens in mid July. Once we see those test scores, it will be determined if you'll be able to get credit for those, you have to score a four or a five. You aren't able to get AP credit for any of those tier one courses, but they will be accepted as elective, and we can accept AP credits for tier two.

Change of Major. So as you get started, if you're deciding gee, my major might not be a fit for me, don't worry, you can change majors if you so desire. And we'd like to keep you happy in a major that is a good fit for you. We also have a career center that can help you determine what major would be right for you. I just want to highlight there is one exception, no students can transfer into nursing in their first year, if they weren't admitted into the program.

All right. I've been doing a lot of talking and now I would really like to introduce you to our program directors. We have three wonderful program directors. And to start us off, we are going to talk about public health, we have the director of the public health program, Kim Doughty.

Dr. Kim Doughty:

Thank you, Dr. Beauvais. Hi everyone, my name is Dr. Kim Doughty, and I'm the director of the public health program. So public health is a relatively new and growing program at the Egan school. We just graduated our first cohort this spring, and we will have approximately 50 public health majors in this coming academic year. I'd like to welcome all of you who are coming to Fairfield as public health majors. I am excited for you to be part of our program and hopefully to discover a love of public health. This is a field that used to be obscure for a lot of undergraduate students, but that's not so much the case anymore. Some of the things you're hearing about on the news right now, are things you're going to learn about in your courses, particularly in epidemiology, which is the study of epidemics.

Epidemiology is a big part of public health, but there's so much more to it than that, and there's something for everyone in this field. I hope you will each find your own passion and your niche over the next few years. I also want to invite those of you who are nursing or social work majors to take some public health courses and maybe consider a minor, because these three areas of study overlap quite a bit and compliment each other really well.

Go to the next slide. Thank you. We currently have three full time faculty who teach in the department. In addition to me, there is Dr. Jessie Planas, who is a nursing professor, but she also teaches some courses in public health, usually our internship seminar. And there's Dr. Jen Ruwisch, who teaches our public health disease and injury, epidemiology, biostatistics, and leadership courses. For at least the fall semester, you will all have me as an advisor, so I will get to meet with each of you individually during the semester.

You can go to the next slide, thanks. In your first two semesters, you will primarily focus on your Magis Core requirements and the Math, Biology and Chemistry prerequisites previously mentioned. Although again, those Biology courses, you're more likely to take in your sophomore year. But you'll also take your first public health course this year, whether it's in the fall or the spring will depend on how your schedule works out. Over the course of the program, you'll take nine courses within the public health department, plus several courses in other departments, and three electives, which can be in any department, as long as they're on our list of approved public health electives. We've structured the curriculum, so that you should have some flexibility to study abroad in the spring of your third year, if you'd like to do that. In your final year, you'll complete an internship and a capstone project, and these experiences will ensure that you graduate with some real hands on and practical experience.

Finally, I want to encourage any student who is interested in public health, even if it's not your major, to consider joining our public health club, it's open to students of any major. In the past, the

student run group has organized a beach cleanup, they've used Instagram to encourage students to choose healthy meals in the dining hall, and they've helped to promote the health and wellness activities on our campus. I'm sure they're going to come up with some great ideas for events and activities in this post COVID era. So keep the public health club in mind when you're thinking about extracurriculars, I know they'd love to have some new members.

I look forward to meeting many of you and seeing you in class very soon. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions at all. And now I'll hand it over to Dr. Oliver, to talk about social work.

Dr. Kim Oliver:

Good afternoon everyone, and welcome. And welcome especially to our BSW students. The BSW students have a special place in my heart because my undergraduate degree was a bachelor in social work as well. And I think undergraduate social workers make for a very unique kind of social worker because when you choose when you're that young, it shows a certain amount of passion for the field.

Can we go to the next slide, please? Your social work faculty is myself Dr. Kim Oliver, and I am the director of the program, Joshua Neitlich is the director of field education and also an instructor, and Dr. Tanika Eaves Simpson is another one of the social work professors and she teaches social policy and research.

This is just to give you a sense, in your first year you will be doing the Magis Core as all first year students are, so this is kind of a typical schedule, focused, mostly on core classes. One of the things that's different about our social work program is that you will have experiences in social work through all four years, many programs don't start social worker courses until the junior year. Your course, social work essentials, one and two are in the fall and the spring semester, and those are core courses where we help orientate, take you to the field and really set you up nicely for what it is that you're going to learn in your social work program.

So just some program highlights. It's a four-year social work experience with an emphasis on relationships. So what does that mean? Really good social work has to do with relationship, a healing relationship, if you can't make a relationship, how are you going to heal? And so we want to start off by building community and making relationships with you and helping you to connect to make relationships with each other. We have multiple opportunities for you to do, community engaged learning within the curriculum, so that you will be able to work with clients in the field and be of service before you do your final field work, up before graduation.

The Egan school has been interprofessional learning environments, so you will be in classes at times with nursing students and public health students. And it's good to know that your social work faculty and the Egan faculty are all practicing professionals in their fields. So we bring the educational piece to you, but we are all also practicing professionals and we can teach you from that vantage point as well.

We also offer simulation and virtual reality learning opportunities for you. And finally in your senior year, you'll have a 450 hour field experience. Fieldwork is the signature pedagogy of social work education, it is the most important part of your education. And I promise by the time you get there, you will be ready to work with clients under the supervision of an experienced social worker with a lot of support from your social work faculty.

A good thing to know about a BSW program is that, social work students who qualify can go onto what we call advanced standing in the MSW program, so you can get a master's in social work in one additional year, in our graduate school of education and allied professionals.

In recommendations for first year students, actively participate in social work essentials one and two. Don't be a stranger, all the faculty at Egan have an open door policy. If you're in the building, come stop by, if we're not there, just let [inaudible 00:30:27] know that you came by and we'll get in touch and we'll get together, so really don't be a stranger.

Use the support of your academic advisor, that's very important. We have a newly formed social work club that was just formed at the end of last semester that we're really excited about, so please join the social work club.

Connect with your social work peers and not just first year students, we want to help you build community and be engaged with students in all four years, to make the best out of your experience with us.

Check and respond to your emails in a timely manner. We will be reaching out with to you at various times, but also it's just one of the professional practices that we all have to learn is that, if a client's looking for you, they need to talk to you now, not in three days, so check your email.

I look forward to meeting all of you. At the first week of school, I encourage everyone to get in touch with me, I like to meet all students as soon as they come into the program. And so I will see you in the fall. Thank you.

Linda Roney:

My name is Dr. Linda Roney, and I'm thrilled to be the director of the undergraduate nursing program at Egan. So I had the pleasure of meeting most of you during our open house presentations over the past couple of years while you were in high school. We walked through the halls of our beautiful Egan building, and I took a lot of photos with your phones of you and our comfort dog, Dakota. I loved shaking your hands, I loved answering your questions, and meeting your families. So congratulations because a lot's happened since we last saw each other. Congratulations on your graduation from high school and all of your amazing achievements that you continued with despite being home. All of us here at Egan and Fairfield are in awe of all of your accomplishments, your determination, and your strength.

Today, I am happy to welcome our Egan nursing students, and we cannot wait to welcome you into the profession, in so many different ways over the next four years in the nursing program. So on behalf of our undergraduate nursing program, faculty, and staff, and of course our current students, I'm officially thrilled to welcome you to the Egan School of Nursing as a first year student. You're officially have stack, there is so much ahead of you and your next four years. And this summer, if you haven't already been welcomed, you will be welcomed by one of our current nursing students, who serve as your mentor.

By next week, you'll receive an email letter from myself, assistant dean Chaplik, and associate dean Beauvais, for some more detailed information that you'll need for fall. Like all of the some of panel today, members of the student, nurses association, our new alumni, so the class of 2020 and their parents wanted to personally welcome you to Egan. So in the coming weeks, I'll be sharing videos with you of their messages of advice and reflections on being a student. And yes, to the families, parents reflections as their children finished the nursing program.

At the end of the summer, you'll hear from your academic nursing advisor, and I encourage you to meet with them during the first few weeks of classes this fall. As mentioned earlier, the university will register you for the classes that you'll need to take in the fall, but you'll also have the opportunity to meet with faculty and program administrators in August, if you have any questions about it.

Families, I would just like to personally thank you for trusting us to educate your students. We've been all working very hard as the dean said, to get ready for your welcome, and we look forward



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to welcoming you and your students to campus. I've had many parents again, reach out and want to offer their congratulations to you, both of our current and our alumni. So the interest of time, so that we can answer your questions, I'm keeping it short. But if you have any questions, please reach out to me at any time or to any of us on the panel. So until you come to campus, please know how excited all of us are that you're here and congrats to all the students entering Egan as nursing, social work, and public health students. We can't wait to see you soon.