

Florida Nursing Students' Association

Official Application for Constituency Status 2008

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED ANNUALLY. PLEASE NOTE CHANGES. BRING TO THE ANNUAL CONVENTION
Florida Nursing Students' Association, P.O. Box 566985, Orlando, FL 32853-6985

PLEASE NOTE: Membership Applications must be received by September 29, 2008 to count toward delegate representation. Your Official Application for Constituency Status must be submitted during Delegate Credentialing or it can be mailed or faxed to FNSA postmarked no later than November 10, 2008.

What is an FNSA Constituent?

An FNSA constituent is any school chapter in a state-approved program preparing students for licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN) that meets the annual constituency requirements detailed below. FNSA constituents qualify for prizes and awards issued by FNSA. If you have any questions, please contact the FNSA Executive Board.

How to Become an FNSA Constituent

This application must be submitted annually and can be submitted at the Annual House of Delegates meeting. For those school chapters unable to send a representative to the Annual House of Delegates meeting, the application may be sent to FNSA postmarked no later than 10 working days after the close of the House of Delegates meeting of the same year.

Chapter Association (Please spell out completely)

School Address (and campus if needed)

Chapter President / Email address

Board member responsible for Bylaws updates / Title / Email address

Month of next anticipated Chapter Election

Elected chapter presidents are responsible for signing and submitting this application. State officers cannot sign applications for chapters unless the officer is also the elected chapter president. Applications signed by faculty will be returned for appropriate signature. By signing this application the Chapter President agrees that he or she understands that:

1. This application in itself does not fulfill the requirements for NSNA or FNSA constituency status;
2. Chapter Bylaws have been reviewed, submitted, and comply with the Areas of Conformity below;
3. This Application is valid only for one year and must be submitted annually by the deadline;

Chapter President's Signature

Areas of Conformity

ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

Section 1. The purpose of

(Use chapter initials) is:

- (a) To aid in the preparation of nursing students for the assumption of professional responsibilities.
- (b) To aid in the development of the whole person and that person's responsibility for the healthcare of people in all walks of life.
- (c) To provide programs representative of fundamental and current professional interest and concerns.

Section 2. The function of

(Use chapter initials) shall include the following:

- (a) To provide a professional organization at a state level of nursing students and to encourage participation in meetings and activities of the association.
- (b) To promote collaborative relationships with ANA, NLN, The International Council of Nurses, and their constituents, as well as with other nursing and related health organizations.
- (c) To stimulate interest in and an understanding of the program of FLN and FNA.
- (d) To serve as a channel of communication between the nursing students' organization and the various state and district units of the graduate professional nurses' organization.
- (e) To participate as an active constituent of the National Student Nurses' Association, Inc., through duly elected representatives.
- (f) To promote and encourage participation in community affairs and activities toward improved health care and the resolution of related social issues.
- (g) To speak for nursing students to the public, institutions, and governmental bodies, and to influence health care, nursing education and practice through appropriate legislative activities.
- (h) To promote and encourage students' participation in interdisciplinary activities.
- (i) To have direct input into standards of nursing education and influence the educational process.
- (j) To promote and encourage recruitment efforts, participation in student activities, and educational opportunities regardless of persons' race, color, creed, sex, lifestyle, national origin, age or economic status.

ARTICLE III CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS

Section 1. School Nursing Students' Associations may upon request and by a majority vote of this association, be recognized as constituents of FNSA, provided they have met the following criteria:

- (a) The chapter consists of a minimum of fifteen (15) members or the total school enrollment if less than fifteen (15).
- (b) The dues of these members have been remitted to NSNA.
- (c) Any school chapter or state association whose membership is composed of active or associate NSNA members and has submitted the Official Application for NSNA Constituency Status (the application) containing the areas of conformity, and upon meeting such other policies as the Board of Directors may determine, shall be recognized as a constituent. The application must be submitted annually and can be submitted at the Annual Convention site during the delegate credentialing process for the Annual House of Delegates meeting. For those school and state associations unable to send representatives to the Annual House of Delegates meeting, the application may be sent to the NSNA on a date postmarked no later than ten (10) working days after the close of the House of Delegates meeting of the same year.
- (d) The chapter has submitted an Official Application for FNSA status. The FNSA application must be submitted annually, 2 weeks prior to FNSA's Annual Convention and can be submitted at the Annual Convention site during the delegates credentialing process for the Annual House of Delegates meeting. For those schools unable to attend the FNSA State Convention, the application may be sent to the FNSA's First Vice President no later than ten (10) working days after the House of Delegates meeting of the same year.
- (e) When an organization establishes constituency for the first time, a copy of chapter bylaws must be submitted with the FNSA Official Constituency form to the FNSA First Vice President. Each school chapter is responsible for creating and maintaining their own bylaws which are in compliance with State and National bylaws.

Section 2. Boundaries of local Nursing Students' Associations shall be clearly defined and recorded by the Executive Board of the association. These boundaries shall be individual school associations.

Section 3. A constituent association not complying with these bylaws may be removed from membership in FNSA by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board, provided due notice has been given to the constituent association at least two months before the vote is taken.

Section 4. FNSA is an entity separate and apart from NSNA in its administration of activities, with NSNA exercising no supervision or control over these immediate daily and regular activities. NSNA will not be held liable for any loss, damages, or injuries sustained by third parties as a result of the negligence or acts of FNSA, or the members thereof. In the event any legal proceeding is brought against NSNA as a result of such acts of omission or commission by FNSA, said state association will indemnify and hold harmless the NSNA from any liability.

Section 5. School chapters are entities separate and apart from FNSA in their administration or activities, with FNSA exercising no supervision or control over these immediate daily and regular activities. FNSA will not be held liable for any loss, damages, or injuries sustained by third parties as a result of the negligence or acts of school chapters or the members thereof. In the event any legal proceeding is brought against FNSA as a result of such acts of omission or commission by school chapter, said school chapter will indemnify and hold harmless the FNSA from any liability.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members of the constituent associations shall constitute the membership of the FNSA.

Section 2. Members of the constituent association shall be:

- (a) Active members:
 1. Students enrolled in state-approved programs leading to licensure as a registered nurse.
 2. Registered nurses enrolled in programs leading to baccalaureate degrees with a major in nursing.
 3. Active members shall have all the privileges of membership.
- (b) Associate members:
 1. Pre-nursing students, including registered nurses enrolled in college or university programs designed as a preparation for entrance into a program leading to an associate degree, diploma or baccalaureate degree in nursing.
 2. Associate members shall have all the privileges of membership except the right to hold the offices of President and First Vice President at the state level and the offices of the President and Vice President at the national level.
 3. Pre-nursing students must be currently enrolled in or have completed nine credit hours of nursing prerequisites, must be actively taking nursing prerequisites, and must be identified as such by the Dean/Director of the state approved school they are planning to or are attending.
- (c) Individual members:
 1. Individual membership shall be open at the state and national level to any eligible student when membership in a constituent association is not available. Individual members shall have the privileges of membership as prescribed in Article IV, Section 2, items 1 and 2, depending upon that person's status.

Section 3. Categories of non-constituent membership shall be:

- (a) Sustaining members:
 1. Sustaining membership shall be open at the state level to any individual or organization interested in furthering the development and growth of the FNSA. Sustaining members shall receive *Hotline* and other information from the FNSA Corresponding Secretary but shall have none of the obligations or privileges of membership.
- (b) Honorary members:
 1. Honorary lifetime membership may be conferred by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the House of Delegates with recommendation of the Executive Board upon persons who have rendered distinguished service or valuable assistance to FNSA. Honorary members shall have none of the obligations or privileges of membership.

Section 4. Active and individual membership may be extended six months beyond completion of a student's program in nursing. Active, associate, individual, and sustaining membership shall be renewed annually.

Section 5. Every member that is in good standing in FNSA is a member of the National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.