

# Pinning, A Nursing Milestone

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The nursing pin presented to University of South Florida College of Nursing students at the completion of their coursework to celebrate entry into the profession, is part of a cycle of USF Nursing milestones that begins with the new student nurses receiving the professionalism pin upon entry into the program and finishes with the GEMS (Graduates Exemplifying Many Successes) pin presented during USF Homecoming to alumni celebrating their 35th graduation anniversary to recognize the legacy of their nursing careers.

At the USF Nursing Pinning Ceremony featuring the Path of Light, graduating baccalaureate nursing students move through a lighted path, led by their nursing mentors, faculty and alumni, to ceremoniously receive their nursing pin, marking the transition from student to professional nurse.

The tradition of the Path of Light began in December 2009 when nursing alumni and faculty holding lighted candles to signify their pledge taken in the tradition of Florence Nightingale, the "Lady with the Lamp", first led processions of nursing graduates through a lighted pathway formed by nursing alumni and faculty. Since then, the baccalaureate Nursing Pinning Ceremony, featuring the Path of Light, has become one of the College's points of pride.