

Submitted by: Nancy S. Barrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

ESTABLISHMENT OF A DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve a Doctor of Nursing Practice program in the College of Nursing, effective Spring/Summer Semester 2008.

Background

The College of Nursing currently offers a baccalaureate program, Master's degree programs with clinical specializations (in adult acute care, adult primary care, psychiatric mental health, community health and women, neonates and children) and a Ph.D. program that is research based. The proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a practice-based program.

The DNP is intended to address the complex changes that have occurred and continue to occur in the health care system by preparing nurses with advanced education and skills. Recent interest in the practice-focused doctorate in nursing was spurred by reports of multiple weaknesses in the current health care system. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) determined that the nursing profession was uniquely poised to address many of the problems identified. It asserted that an improved health care system would require advance practice nurses who are able to use the most current evidence to design, evaluate, and continuously improve the context within which health care is provided. In 2002 the AACN Task Force on the Doctorate of Nursing Practice examined the trends in clinical doctoral education in nursing. In October 2004 it endorsed a position statement recommending that the educational requirement for advance practice nurses be elevated from the current master's educational level to the doctoral level by the year 2015. These doctorally-prepared advance practice nurses would have the training to improve patient care and patient safety, strengthen translational research and utilization, improve access to care, and enhance health policy promotion and development.

The DNP program is necessary to ensure that adequate numbers of advance practice nurses are available by 2015. The College of Nursing is distinctively prepared to mount a DNP program. The College has extensive experience in the clinical as well as research training of graduate students. Its PhD program was ranked fifth in the nation in the 2006 Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index, and the graduate program was among the top 30 in the *US News and World Report* ratings. Oakland University has initiated a DNP program, Grand Valley and University of Michigan-Flint are preparing to do so and discussions are on-going at Madonna, U.D.-Mercy and Eastern Michigan. However, these programs lack the quality of faculty and the experience in offering doctoral programs that the WSU College of Nursing has.

Program Description

The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree is a clinically-focused degree that prepares nurses at an advanced level of nursing science to impact the clinical setting as leaders and educators. Its

research centers on translation of research to improve clinical practice and transform health care. The increasing complexity of patient care has been recognized as one of the elements related to errors. The DNP will contribute to improved patient safety by training advanced practice nurses who can identify issues related to errors and implement changes to reduce the errors. It is also anticipated that nationally many DNP holders will become faculty members, thereby increasing universities' capacity to train undergraduate nursing students, alleviating the shortage of practicing RNs and making good patient care more accessible. The proposed WSU program will build on the College's experience with online and distance education programs and will utilize an online, on-job, on-campus model. The College of Nursing faculty possesses the qualifications to make the DNP program one of the best in the state and nation.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet requirements for admission to the Graduate School. They must have a minimal grade point average of 3.0 in the most recent nursing program, no less than a "B" in all pre-requisite courses, completed statistics pre-requisites within ten years of the time of admission, and completed all other pre-requisite courses within six years of the time of admission. Pre-professional coursework taken at any National League for Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accredited college or university is acceptable. International students must meet University and College English language requirements and satisfy all WSU and State Board of Nursing requirements for nurses practicing in Michigan. Two letters of recommendation, a professional goals statement, a resume and a criminal background check are also required. All qualified applicants will be interviewed.

Curriculum Requirements

The curriculum is designed to build upon the knowledge from previous course work, and the proposed program allows flexibility at the point of admission. Some applicants may hold a baccalaureate degree; others may have Master's degrees. Some Master's graduates may have certification in a clinical specialty; others may not. Because the program will accept students with varying levels of previous education and varying certification statuses, three paths to obtain a DNP will be available:

Students who enter the DNP program with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing will follow the Path 1 curriculum, which requires substantive course work in nursing science that develops both a scientist as well as a clinician. Path 1 requires 78-87 credits, depending on the clinical specialty the student selects.

Students who enter with both a Master's degree and a clinical certification will follow the Path 2 curriculum, which builds on the advance practice nurse's master's education. It is the shortest route to the DNP, requiring 40 – 44 credits in nursing science theory, knowledge and research skills.

Students who enter with a Master's degree but without a clinical certification will follow the Path 3 curriculum, which provides training in a clinical specialty and offers the courses required to qualify for the certification exam. The Path 3 curriculum also includes the

advanced nursing science theory, knowledge and research skills that will prepare students for the role of the DNP. (The curriculum for the three paths is at the end of this document.)

Graduation Requirements

All coursework must be completed in accordance with Graduate School and College of Nursing regulations governing graduate scholarship and degrees. Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis but must complete requirements within seven years of admission.

Program Administration

Oversight of the proposed program will be vested in the DNP Committee, which is a subset of the College of Nursing Faculty Association, and a Program Director, who is a member of the Committee and also reports to the Dean of the College. The Committee will be responsible for monitoring the program, curriculum and students within the program, and the Program Director will be responsible for all day-to-day aspects of the program. The Associate Dean for Academic and Clinical affairs will be responsible for ensuring that the DNP program is adequately resourced in terms of faculty, as well as physical, technological and support services. The Graduate Office for the College Nursing will also serve the DNP.

Budget and Resource Requirements

The proposed DNP program will be integrated into the existing PhD and Master's programs in the College of Nursing. Ph.D.-prepared clinical faculty will also teach in the DNP program, and some of the courses will be shared with the Ph.D. program. The College has an open faculty position that will be allocated to the DNP program.

Recruiting costs are low because a built in network of nursing alumni already exists, and currently there is little competition at the level of quality of the College of Nursing. Nursing alumni tend to remain in nursing when looking for graduate opportunities, and, to further advance clinically, nurses must look to nursing programs for educational preparation. The College can rely on its already established marketing tools such as the newly designed web site. About 15 students are anticipated initially, though no limit has been set on the number of admissions.

Accreditation

The College of Nursing is currently accredited to provide undergraduate and graduate nursing programs by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and the National League of Nurses (NLN). CCNE is developing an accreditation process for DNP programs that will help assure educational quality and provide public protection. NLN is also discussing the development of an accreditation process for DNP programs.

Approvals

The proposal for the Doctor of Nursing Practice was approved by the Faculty and Dean Barbara Redman of the College of Nursing, and the Graduate Council.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Curriculum

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE REQUIRED CORE COURSES LIST: THREE PATHS		
<p>PATH ONE Entry level: Post-BSN Leads to DNP degree and clinical certification Focus: <u>Clinical specialty certification, Clinical Inquiry, leadership development, and translation of research into practice (Michigan RN license required)</u> PROGRAM TOTAL CREDITS: 78-87</p>	<p>PATH TWO Entry level: Post-master's with clinical specialty Leads to DNP degree Focus: Clinical Inquiry, leadership development, and translation of research into practice (Michigan RN license eligibility required, Specialty Certification) PROGRAM TOTAL CREDITS: 40-44</p>	<p>PATH THREE Entry Level: Post-master's without clinical specialty Leads to DNP degree and clinical certification Focus: Clinical specialty certification, Clinical Inquiry, leadership development, and translation of research into practice (Michigan RN license required) PROGRAM TOTAL CREDITS: 64-73</p>
Nursing Transfer Courses Advisor approved		
THEORY:	THEORY:	THEORY:
NUR 8XXX Foundations of Nursing as a Discipline 3	NUR 8XXX Foundations of Nursing as a Discipline 3	NUR 8XXX Foundations of Nursing as a Discipline 3
NUR8XXX Evidence Based Nursing Practice: Theoretical and Methodological Issues 3	NUR8XXX Evidence Based Nursing Practice: Theoretical and Methodological Issues 3	NUR8XXX Evidence Based Nursing Practice: Theoretical and Methodological Issues 3
Total Credits 6	Total Credits 6	Total Credits 6
DOMAIN OF KNOWLEDGE:	DOMAIN OF KNOWLEDGE:	DOMAIN OF KNOWLEDGE:
NUR 8210 Determinants of Health 3	NUR 8210 Determinants of Health 3	NUR 8210 Determinants of Health 3
NUR 8XXX Advanced professional leadership 3	NUR 8XXX Advanced professional leadership 3	NUR 8XXX Advanced professional leadership 3
NUR 8XXX Informatics in Nursing 3	NUR 8XXX Informatics in Nursing 3	NUR 8XXX Informatics in Nursing 3
NUR 8XXX Conceptual Methodologies in Health Policy Leadership and Ethics 3	NUR 8XXX Conceptual Methodologies in Health Policy Leadership and Ethics 3	NUR 8XXX Conceptual Methodologies in Health Policy Leadership and Ethics 3
2 Elective Cognates Required: NUR 8XXX	2 Elective Cognates Required: NUR 8XXX	2 Elective Cognates Required: NUR 8XXX
6 Benchmarking/Clinical Practice Evaluation Methodologies, NUR8XXX	6 Benchmarking/Clinical Practice Evaluation Methodologies, NUR8XXX	6 Benchmarking/Clinical Practice Evaluation Methodologies, NUR8XXX
Entrepreneurship/Business Practice Management, NUR 8XXX Health Information Technology, NUR 7710 Theoretical Perspectives of Teaching In Nursing, NUR 7720 Educational Program Development and Evaluation in Nursing.	Entrepreneurship/Business Practice Management, NUR 8XXX Health Information Technology, NUR 7710 Theoretical Perspectives of Teaching In Nursing, NUR 7720 Educational Program Development and Evaluation in Nursing.	Entrepreneurship/Business Practice Management, NUR 8XXX Health Information Technology, NUR 7710 Theoretical Perspectives of Teaching In Nursing, NUR 7720 Educational Program Development and Evaluation in Nursing.
Total Credits:18	Total Credits:18	Total Credits:18
RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	RESEARCH AND STATISTICS
NUR 7000 or PSY 5100 Statistics 3	NUR 8610* Applied Statistical Analysis for Health Care Research I 4	NUR 8610* Applied Statistical Analysis for Health Care Research I 4
NUR 8610* Applied Statistical Analysis for Health Care Research 4	FPH 7240 Epidemiology in Aggregate Population. 3	FPH 7240 Epidemiology in Aggregate Population. 3
FPH 7240 Epidemiology in Aggregate Populations 3	NUR 9XXX Clinical Inquiry Practicum I 3-5	NUR 9XXX Clinical Inquiry Practicum I 3-5
NUR 9XXX Clinical Inquiry Practicum I 3-5	NUR 9XXX Clinical Inquiry Practicum II 3-5	NUR 9XXX Clinical Inquiry Practicum II 3-5
NUR 9XXX Clinical Inquiry Practicum II 3-5	NUR 9XXX Scholarly Clinical Inquiry Project 3	NUR 9XXX Scholarly Clinical Inquiry Project 3
NUR 9XXX Scholarly Clinical Inquiry Project 3	Total Credits: 16-20	Total Credits: 16-20
Total Credits: 19-23		
ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING:	ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING	ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING:
PTH 7500 Systemic Pathophysiology or NUR 7205 Pediatric Pathophysiology and development or NUR 7203 Neonatal pathophysiology. 3	None required for this option since already certified.	PTH 7500 Systemic Pathophysiology or NUR 7205 Pediatric Pathophysiology and development or NUR 7203 Neonatal pathophysiology. 3
NUR 7555 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice or NUR 7200 Neonatal Pharmacotherapeutics or PPR 6860 Pediatric Pharmacy 3		NUR 7555 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice or NUR 7200 Neonatal Pharmacotherapeutics or PPR 6860 Pediatric Pharmacy 3
NUR 7030 Advanced Nursing Assessment (for all but Community) 5		NUR 7030 Advanced Nursing Assessment (for all but Community) 5
Minimal 3 Clinical Courses: NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical Course I; NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical Course II; NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical Course III 9		Minimal 3 Clinical Courses: NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical Course I; NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical Course II; NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical Course III 9
Minimal 3 Clinical LAB Courses: NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical I; NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical II; NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical III. 15		Minimal 3 Clinical LAB Courses: NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical I; NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical II; NUR 7XXX APN Specialty Clinical III. 15
Total Credits dependent upon major. Minimal Credits: 30-35		Total Credits dependent upon major. Minimal Credits: 30-35
<p>Clinical Practicum (requirement of 1 yr of residence = six graduate credits in course work, not dissertation, over two successive semesters. S/S optional.) Preliminary Examination* (Plan of Work approved & approximately 30 credits on Plan). (Preliminary Examination passed & Clinical Inquiry Committee approval.) The total DNP program must include thirty credits, excluding Clinical Inquiry Project, in courses open only to graduate students (7000 level or above).</p>		