SPECIAL REPORT

of the

ACADEMIC PRIORITIES, GRADUATE AND
PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCILS

concerning a

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING STUDIES (MSNS)

Presented at the
747th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 9, 2015

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL

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GRADUATE COUNCIL


PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL

At its meeting on February 12, 2015, the Academic Priorities Council voted to endorse a proposal for an alternative set of degree requirements for the Master of Science degree in the College of Nursing.

**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

The Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee (ASCC) of the Graduate Council met on December 3, 2014 and reviewed the proposal for the Master of Science in Nursing Studies, submitted as proposal #1237 on the Course and Curriculum Management System.

On Wednesday, December 10, 2014, the Graduate Council approved the Master of Science in Nursing Studies.

**PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL**

This new concentration would be titled Master of Science in Nursing Studies. This proposal has clear goals allowing it to recognize and provide competent prepared nurses for generalist roles in nursing. The degree is to be awarded when students in the PhD or DNP program complete 30 graduate credits. It requires seven core nursing courses (19 credits), one additional course from College of Nursing and up to three courses from other schools and colleges on campus. This new program does not require additional or new resources as it is a concentration offered to students already matriculated in DNP or PhD program.

At its meeting on December 17, 2014, this proposal was approved by the Program and Budget Council.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Master of Science in Nursing Studies (MSNS), as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 15-041.
Proposal Development

A. Briefly describe the Proposal.

The College of Nursing proposes to offer a new specialization in our already existing master’s degree program. The concentration would be titled Master of Science in Nursing Studies (MSNS). The degree would be awarded when students in the PhD or DNP program had completed 30 graduate credits including the requirements outlined below.

B. Provide a brief overview of the process for developing the Proposal.

The demand for nurses in the workplace is increasing at a faster rate than nurses are entering the workforce. To meet the increasing shortage of nurses, enrollment in baccalaureate nursing programs has increased steadily over the past several years. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) reported a 5.1% increase in enrollment in undergraduate programs in 2011 (http://www.aacn.nche.edu/media-relations/fact-sheets/nursing-shortage). However growth in nursing programs is constrained by a shortage of nursing faculty. According to AACN, nursing schools across the country 75,857 qualified applicants to nursing programs due in part to lack of faculty. Currently there is an insufficient pool of qualified applicants for faculty positions. In 2012, AACN reported that there were at least 1,100 vacant faculty positions in schools of nursing across the country. In addition, large numbers of nursing faculty are nearing retirement age, with an insufficient number of master’s and doctorally-prepared nurses to enter academia.

At the College of Nursing we have begun to address this shortage by admitting post baccalaureate students to our PhD and DNP programs. As these programs currently exist, the student enters after completing a bachelor’s degree and exits at the doctorate. There is no mechanism for these students to obtain a Master’s degree en route to the PhD, DNP or as an exit to the program. If students do not obtain the terminal degree, they are left with many graduate credits but no degree.

The MSNS is targeted at two groups of students. First, post bachelor’s students who are admitted to our PhD and DNP programs but are unable to complete the program. Second, post bachelor’s students in our PhD and DNP programs who choose to complete the requirements of the MSNS en route to completing the doctorate. “Candidates for the doctoral or master’s/docotral degree may apply for the master’s degree when they have fulfilled normal requirements in their Department/School for the master’s degree.” (graduate bulletin)

Purpose and Goals

Describe the proposal’s purpose and the particular knowledge and skills to be acquired.

Program Goals:
• Recognize students who do not already have a Master’s Degree who have completed 30 graduate credits.
• Provide competent master’s prepared nurses for generalist roles in nursing.
• Provide MS prepared nurses whose practice is grounded in advanced pharmacology, pathophysiology, and physical assessment, as well as nursing theory and research.

The MSNS consists of a flexible ten-course (31 credit) program of study focused on nursing and related fields. The program is comprised of existing courses offered in blended classrooms, using synchronous and asynchronous web based learning. Some courses may be offered in intensive weekend or summer courses. “The Statute of Limitations (total time period in which to earn the master’s degree) is three calendar years from acceptance into the program,” (graduate bulletin)
Resources

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

This program requires no additional resources, as students will already be matriculated in a DNP or PhD program.

Curriculum

Provide a curriculum outline showing degree program requirements, requirements of any existing concentrations, requirements of proposed concentration, and how they relate. You may include this outline and any additional documents as attachments below.

“A minimum of 30 graduate credits, a minimum of 21 credits must be in the major field, unless a higher number is required by the student’s program” (graduate bulletin). The MSNS will consist of seven core nursing courses (19 credits): health statistics, nursing research, nursing theory, advanced pathophysiology, advanced health and physical assessment class and clinical, and advanced pharmacology. To complete the 31-credit program, students will take at least 1 additional 3 credit course from the College of Nursing, and up to 3 courses (9 credits) from the College of Nursing and other schools and colleges across the University.

Required courses:

- NURSING 603: Theoretical Components of Nursing Science (3 credits): Major approaches to theory development in the profession. Analysis of nursing theory and theories from related disciplines, to develop conceptual models for clinical practice.
- NURSING 614 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (3 credits): Classroom and laboratory practice and case-based approaches to health assessment and differential diagnosis of common health problems for diverse groups provide the context for advanced health assessment and clinical reasoning.
- NURSING 698A Practicum for Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (1 credit): This first supervised clinical practicum affords graduate students the opportunity to practice health assessment at the highest level for diverse clients with varied needs while collaborating with an interdisciplinary team.
- NURSING 615: Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credits): Concepts and theories related to disorders of physiological processes which result in health alterations in the child and the adult. Alterations in normal body functions leading to disease and discomfort of the individual presented within an organizing framework. Clinical inferences from concepts and theories of pathophysiology and pharmacology presented in relation to clinical nursing practice in primary care
- NURSING 619: Advanced Pharmacology (3 credits): This course reviews in depth the principles of pharmacology for classes of drugs commonly used in various health care practices. The most pertinent drug classes for nursing practice are included in this course.
- NURSING 630 Research Methods in Nursing (3 credits): Relationship between research and theory development and clinical practice in nursing. Includes research design, methods of data collection, and a variety of analytical procedures for interpreting results.
- NURSING 697IS: Introduction to Statistics for Health Research (3 credits): This course focuses on introductory statistical techniques frequently used in health sciences research, use of analytic software, and database creation and management.
- 12 additional credits at least 3 of which must be from the College of Nursing. The remaining 9 credits must meet the conditions for graduate credit as outlined in the graduate bulletin.