

## BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

### OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

#### Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

##### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

**This program clearly meets Regents' standards for graduate degree programs. The Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study voted unanimous approval for the new professional doctorate program. There were no serious concerns raised in the review.**

**Request:** Ohio State University College of Nursing seeks approval for a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

**Program Purpose/Mission:** The proposed program will prepare graduates for leadership positions in clinical and governmental organizations, private practices, and schools of nursing. In response to dramatic changes in the health care needs of this country and the global community, the program is in keeping with a recommendation from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing that all advanced practice nursing education evolve to the DNP by 2015. It will provide the highest level of preparation for advanced nursing practice. The AACN position is that a practice-focused doctorate is a necessary alternative to the research-focused Ph.D.; both are needed in a practice discipline, such as nursing. The educational goals for the DPN program are based on the essential competencies for the degree that have been identified by AACN. The program will emphasize the scientific underpinnings for advanced nursing practice, an advanced understanding of organizational and systems leadership for quality improvement, clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence based practice, information systems/technology and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care, health care policy for advocacy in health care, inter-professional collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes, health promotion and risk reduction for individuals and families, and population health for improving the nation's health, and advanced practice nursing. The OSU College of Nursing currently has a well established and productive Ph.D. program in Nursing. The faculty believes that nursing and health care will now be best served by the addition of a program to educate nurses for advanced practice at the doctoral level. Advanced practice nursing refers to clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and certified nurse anesthetists.

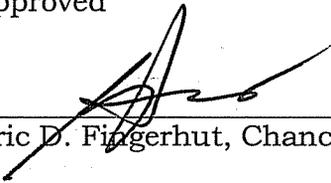
**Enrollments:** The proposed program will transition from the master's to the doctoral level by 2012, at which time larger enrollments would be anticipated commensurate with OSU's current master's program. Within 5 years, it will include post-baccalaureate nurses. The initial cohort will consist of 10 post masters students per year (5 full-time and 5 part-time). It will be the same size or with slightly larger cohorts for the next 3-4 years, then there will be a greater increase.

**Curriculum:** The proposed program will require 148-168 total credit hours (90 CH post-master's, 7 quarters, full-time). The first two years of the program will focus on theoretical course work for advanced practice nursing. Since students in the DNP program already will be registered nurses, advanced clinical practice opportunities will begin in the first summer with a course focused on clinical transitions to the advanced practice nursing role and will continue quarterly throughout the second and third years of the program. Throughout the third year, students will be enrolled in an advanced clinical practice nursing course, titled the *DNP Clinical Immersion*, which will require approximately 30 hours per week of clinical practice in the student's specialty area, and will focus on advanced clinical nursing practice issues. The major components of the curriculum consist of didactic courses (nursing and other disciplines), extensive precepted clinical practica/field experiences (minimum of 500 hours post-MS, 1000 hours post-BSN) and a final written project.

**Faculty, Facilities and Resources:** There currently are 30 full-time doctorally prepared faculty for the program, many with specialty certification and they are active practitioners, and another will be added in the second year. The program will be offered by the College of Nursing and administrated by the Graduate School of the Ohio State University. The program will be phased-in to replace the current masters program, with approximately the same number of students. College resources will be adequate for the teaching and learning needs of the DNP students. The program will be housed in Newton Hall in the Technology Learning Complex (TLC), a state-of-the-science clinical education laboratory facility that combines specialty laboratory features, with virtual reality capability. The short-run costs necessary to accomplish the transition already are incorporated into the budget of the College. In the longer run, the additional costs are those associated with growth in any program, and will be handled by the normal budget process of the University.

**Evidence of Need:** The rationale for this proposed program is based on several trends and events in the practice arena and in nursing and health professions education. Practice trends include the increasing complexity of health care and the resulting requirement for increased knowledge for advanced practice. Education trends include the trend toward practice doctorates in the health professions, the increase in credit requirements at the masters' level in nursing, and the tremendous need for nursing faculty who are well prepared for clinical teaching.

End of Comment Period: May 21, 2008  
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved	
	6/16/08
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date