

BACKGROUND

OHIO UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/REQUEST

This program clearly meets Regents' standards for baccalaureate degrees. No concerns were identified in the review.

Request: Ohio University requests approval for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Ohio University currently offers three degree options for students interested in nursing: an associate degree for individuals seeking initial licensure as an RN; an RN to BSN option for individuals who have already completed an associate degree and seek the bachelor's degree completion; and a master's program in nursing. This request will provide students with the traditional BSN option and accommodate the needs of students who are interested in completing a nursing degree on the main campus. The proposed program will be directed by the School of Nursing in the College of Health and Human Services.

Program Purpose/Mission: The Bachelor of Nursing is designed to prepare students interested in the field with the knowledge and skills to practice as a registered nurse (RN) following the completion of National Council Licensing Exam or NCLEX-RN. Graduates of the program will be prepared for entry level positions in a variety of clinical areas (e.g., medical-surgical, pediatrics, obstetrics, mental health/psychiatric, and community health). Baccalaureate recipients will also have the foundation for graduate work in nursing.

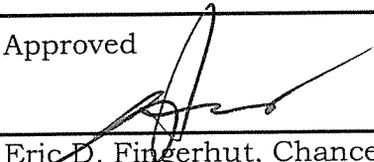
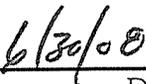
Curriculum: The curriculum of the proposed baccalaureate degree provides a foundation in general education, emphasizing science prerequisites and related major requirements. Students complete 119 credits in nursing theory and practice for a total program of 190-197 credits. Students will initially enroll as pre-nursing and are reviewed for admissions in June of the freshman year. The sophomore year begins the first year in the program. Ohio University anticipates the first enrollments in the pre-BSN major in fall of 2009.

Evidence of Need: The need for nursing professionals is well documented. The challenge of sufficient capacity to expand nursing is also clearly documented and often attributed to the lack of lab seats or clinical sites to meet program requirements. Several associate degree options are currently available to students in the region, including programs at Ohio University's regional campuses, Hocking College, and University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College. The proposed program would provide a traditional BSN program within the Appalachian Region served by the University and would provide additional program content beyond that required for the licensing exam. The closest Ohio program of this type is located in the central Ohio area, approximately 75 miles from the campus or in the Cincinnati region.

Professional Accreditation: The proposed program must be approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN), following program completion by the first class of admitted students. Ohio University will seek professional accreditation by the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). CCNE already accredits OU's baccalaureate-level completion program and MSN program. The associate degree program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

Faculty and Resource Needs: The proposed program will need additional faculty and administrative resources during the initial year and in future years of the program. Ohio University is also planning for increased lab needs as well as the need for clinical instructors as the program matures. The estimated enrollment for this program is approximately 100 students per year, drawn from current university students as well as future admissions.

End of Comment Period: June 18, 2008
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved	
	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date