BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
Doctorate in Nursing Practice

Recommendation

The University of Cincinnati requests approval of a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. The program clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degrees, and the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study (RACGS) voted unanimous approval of the request. There were no serious concerns raised in the review.

Request: The University of Cincinnati requests approval for a new professional doctoral program leading to a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

Program Purpose/Mission: The proposed Doctorate in Nursing Practice builds upon the existing Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs at the university. At the present time, the BSN focuses on generalized professional nursing practice and the MSN focuses on specialized advanced nursing practice (i.e., preparation of clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and nurse anesthetists). The proposed DNP will focus on advanced nursing practice and practice leadership (for those pursuing a BSN to DNP option) and on practice leadership (for those pursuing an MSN to DNP option). The American Association of Colleges of Nurses (AACN) recommends that preparation of advanced practice nurses be moved from the current requirement of a MSN degree to a DNP degree. Once credentialing bodies mandate the degree level change, the university will eliminate the MSN and all students interested in advanced practice nursing will move directly into the DNP program.

Enrollments: The expected enrollment in Year 1 of the proposed DNP program is 8 full-time and 8 part-time students. By Year 5, it is estimated that there will be 18 full-time and 40 part-time students enrolled in the program.

Curriculum: The UC College of Nursing curriculum is based on the competencies identified in the AACN Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (2007). These competencies relate to the advanced practice of nursing, organizational and system leadership, evidence-based practice, information technology, health care policy, inter-professional collaboration, and health promotion and risk reduction for individuals, families and populations. The BSN to DNP option can be completed in 135 credit hours, and the MSN to DNP option can be completed in 70 credit hours.

Faculty, Facilities and Resources: The proposed DNP program will be offered by the College of Nursing and administered by the Graduate School of the University of Cincinnati. The majority of faculty members in the College of Nursing hold the PhD. One faculty member has a DNP and two other faculty members are currently enrolled in DNP programs. The planned increase in faculty positions is 0.5 FTE for Year 1, 1 FTE for Year 2, and another 0.5 FTE for Year 3. Minimal staff increases will be needed to offer the proposed program. Additional student FTEs will generate tuition revenue sufficient to support new courses as the College of Nursing implements the phased integration of the MSN into the proposed DNP. William Cooper Procter Hall is a free-standing university building for undergraduate and graduate nursing education on the campus of the University of Cincinnati's Academic Health Center. The physical facilities of Procter Hall are well suited for the implementation of the proposed DNP. The university's library system provides exceptional support for the proposed program.

Evidence of Need: Numerous reports, such as those from the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Science, and the AACN have emphasized the need for nurses to be prepared at the doctoral level so that they can serve as expert clinicians for patient care delivery in today's complex health care delivery systems. The AACN has proposed a target date of 2015 for the doctoral preparation of advanced practice nurses.

Multiple other health care professions, including pharmacy and physical therapy, have recently joined medicine and dentistry to establish a doctorate as the entry level for practice. The proposed Doctorate in Nursing Practice is not designed for entry level into nursing, but it does constitute a new entry level into the advanced practice of nursing.

The DNP programs currently accepting students in Ohio include Case Western Reserve University, The Ohio State University, and the University of Toledo/Wright State University collaborative program. Another collaborative program between the University of Akron and Kent State University is in the planning phase. As the preparation of advanced practice nursing moves from the master's to the doctoral level, the need for the DNP programs within the state and the nation will be significant; the proposed program ensures that the University of Cincinnati's College of Nursing is ready to meet the need.

End of Comment Period: April 30, 2010
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved:	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	6/12/10 Date

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