

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Indiana University East Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Mobility Option

RECOMMENDATION

The Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Mobility Option meets the Chancellor's standards for undergraduate degree programs. Authorization is recommended through December 31, 2012, to coincide with the institution's next regional accreditation reaffirmation review. Annual progress reports are to be submitted to the Chancellor's staff by December 31, 2009, 2010 and 2011 to provide updates on program viability.

Profile: Indiana University East (IU East), located in Richmond, Indiana, is a co-educational, state supported, not-for-profit university, offering undergraduate and limited master's degrees. The institution was originally established in 1946 as the Eastern Indiana Center—the result of a cooperative arrangement between Indiana University and Earlham College designed to bring degree programs to residents of east central Indiana. Indiana University assumed responsibility for the institution in 1970, and it became Indiana University East (IU East). A new IU East campus was opened in 1975, and today the institution serves approximately 1400 students in its undergraduate and graduate programs.

The Indiana University School of Nursing (IUSON) offers its nursing programs on eight IU campuses—Bloomington, Columbus, Indianapolis, East, Kokomo, Northwest, South Bend, and Southeast. The RN to BSN mobility option was first offered at IU East in 1985. Recently, the Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton, OH initiated a request for the university to offer its RN to BSN mobility option for its employees; the university determined that there was a need for the program in the area and that the program was in alignment with its institutional mission.

Accreditation/Authorization: IU East is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools through 2010. The Indiana State Board of Nursing recognizes the IU East nursing programs, and IU East holds professional accreditation through the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). This is the university's first request to the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents for degree program consideration and approval.

Program Information: The RN to BSN Mobility Option is designed for students who hold associate degrees or diplomas in nursing and who also hold a nursing license (RN). The curriculum includes a total of 124 quarter hours, including 57 quarter hours of general education. The professional curriculum is designed to meet the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice and the American Nurses Association 1998 Standards of Nursing Practice. It also meets the 1998 Expected Competencies of Associate, Baccalaureate, and Advanced Prepared Nurse Providers adopted by the Indiana Deans and Directors and the Indiana organization of Nurse Executives and approved by the Indiana State Nurses Association.

Review Results: The review team noted several strengths in the review, including: the strong support the nursing program receives from the leadership of IU East; the innovative partnership between the university's nursing program and Good Samaritan Hospital; a strong general education curriculum that provides a good foundation upon which to build the nursing courses; a comprehensive and appropriately sequenced professional curriculum; and the use of evidence-based practice and research in the curriculum, which forms a firm foundation for graduate study.

The team requested that the university designate an on-site program coordinator (other than the dean) for the nursing program at the Good Samaritan Hospital, increase the role of the IU East library liaison in the delivery of information literacy instruction at the Dayton site; and forge collaborative scholarly partnerships with senior nursing professors at the main IU campus to enhance the level of scholarship at IU East. The university submitted an acceptable response to these items in the submission of its institutional response.

Recommendation to the Chancellor: The IU East RN to BSN Mobility Option meets the Chancellor's standards for undergraduate degree programs. Authorization is recommended through December 31, 2012, to coincide with the institution's next regional accreditation reaffirmation review. Annual progress reports are to be submitted to the Chancellor's staff by December 31, 2009, 2010 and 2011 to provide updates on program viability.