

ACAP
10-11-12
Agenda Item 7.d.

Program Planning Summary

Revised

Master of Science in Nursing

To be offered by the

Mary Black School of Nursing
Of the University of South Carolina Upstate

Thomas Moore, Chancellor
University of South Carolina Upstate

Harris Pastides, President
University of South Carolina

May 2012

Program Planning Summary: Master of Science in Nursing at USC Upstate

Name of Proposed Program:	Master of Science in Nursing
Academic Units Involved:	Nursing
Designation, type, level of degree:	Graduate program, Master of Science in Nursing with specialization as a Clinical Nurse Leader, 38 semester hours
Proposed Date of Implementation:	Fall 2014
CIP Code:	513808
Identification Code:	Program Summary
Delivery Mode:	Blend of traditional and internet

Justification

Program Purposes

The University of South Carolina Upstate (USC Upstate) proposes a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) to be offered through the Mary Black School of Nursing. The degree focus, Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) is in response to the demand for more highly skilled clinical experts at the bedside. The CNL collaborates with the interdisciplinary health care team who focuses on prevention of injury, management of illness, decreasing healthcare costs and promotion of health (American Association of Colleges of Nursing-AACN). The CNL is the front line catalyst who uses evidence-based information to improve clinical and environmental care outcomes and effect change. The CNL functions as part of the interdisciplinary team by communicating, planning and implementing care directly with other health care professionals, such as physicians, pharmacists, social workers, case managers, clinical nurse specialists and nurse practitioners.

Need for Program

USC Upstate is a thriving metropolitan university with a strong relationship with the surrounding cities, their connecting corridors and expanding populations. The University is recognized for its experiential learning, regional partnerships, regional employment opportunities, cultural diversity and dynamic community service. USC Upstate prepares students to contribute as conscientious citizens in a global and knowledge based society. Graduates of the proposed Master's program would assume advocacy roles that focus on nursing leadership and management of clinical outcomes.

CNLs have been embraced by the Veteran's Administration (VA) which plans to implement the CNL role at all VA sites nationwide by 2016, according to Cathy Rick, Chief Nursing Officer at the VA in Washington, DC. Currently about one-third of its facilities employ CNLs. In addition, the rising trend of hospitals seeking Magnet status will increase the demand for clinical experts at the bedside because hospital leaders have found that CNLs are experts in cost-effective resource utilization and streamlining quality care while reducing the incidence of pressure ulcers and hospital acquired pneumonia.

Answering the call of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) for improved communication, collaboration, safety standards and client-centered care, the CNL focuses on the delivery of care to prevent fragmented and discontinuous care. The eighth cause of death in the United States is death by medical errors. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the CNL will coordinate care reducing the fragmentation and ensuring seamless and safe care with reduction in medical errors. The CNL uses strategies to design, implement and evaluate activities to optimize a safe healthcare environment. These strategies will impact risks associated with challenges such as medication errors, falls, hospital acquired infections and readmission related to ineffective discharge planning. South Carolina's population requires leaders who are knowledgeable and competent in caring for a diverse populous and who understand the impact global health and health equity on the residents of South Carolina. The CNL has advanced skills to meet the challenges of working with a multinational population and has the knowledge to address the issues related to ethical dilemmas that may be derived from cultural differences.

The CNL, with a broad based graduate nursing education, assesses risk, designs and implements plans of care and provides oversight of the care delivery and outcomes for individuals, families and/or populations. CNLs do not fill

the traditional role of the nurse managers or other master's prepared specialist nurses. The CNL serves as expert bedside and/or community nurse leaders with excellent problem-solving skills in addressing client health care outcomes. The CNL will identify problems to achieve new knowledge, evaluate and participate in clinical research and implement evidence based care and develop strategies to improve outcomes and.

Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity

In the first cohort, 18 baccalaureate prepared RN students will be accepted with anticipated graduation in two years full time and three years part time. Approximately two hundred students graduate from the USC Upstate baccalaureate nursing program annually, providing a rich source of potential graduate students who currently seek graduate education elsewhere. In addition, there are several baccalaureate programs in the Upstate whose graduates have expressed an interest in this program along with RNs employed in the Upstate healthcare systems. In a survey sent to area hospitals for distribution to their RN staff, of 391 responses 85% expressed an interest in graduate nursing program at USC Upstate.

Assessment of extent to which the proposed program duplicates existing programs in the state

No other university in the state of South Carolina offers a Master of Science in Nursing with a focus on the CNL role. The proposed program is uniquely designed to meet the needs of the population of the Upstate of South Carolina and surrounding area. In addition to the nursing shortage, there is a growing need in the Upstate for practicing nurses prepared at the master's level to assume the roles of faculty, leadership and care provider at the bedside. Nurses in the Upstate who desire to advance their education as a nurse generalist are forced to choose enrollment in out-of- state masters programs. Clemson University offers several specialist masters options primarily using a classroom environment that currently enjoys capacity enrollment. USC Columbia and MUSC offer online specialist masters courses primarily nurse practitioner focused that are not fully utilized. Charleston Southern University offers a master's degree in nursing education. The CNL who graduates from USC Upstate will be able to assure consistency of care using point-of –care strategies of risk anticipation and risk assessment to design, implement and evaluate the effectiveness of those plans of care.

Relation of the proposed program to existing programs at the proposing institution

The USC Upstate CNL program is unique to USC Upstate and the state of South Carolina as a whole.

Relationship of the proposed program to other institutions via inter-institutional cooperation

We anticipate collaborating with USC Aiken in the offering of four of the basic didactic courses. Two courses would be offered by USC Upstate and two by USC Aiken with full transferability for each.

Outline of Curriculum

Theory & Conceptual Foundation for Nursing
Health Promotion & Advanced Health Assessment
Health Care Economics & Delivery Systems
Culture & Health Equity
Nursing Research Methods
Advanced Pathophysiology
Professional Role Development of the Clinical Nurse Leader
Clinical Nurse Leader Practicum I (75 clinical hours)
Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics
Health Care Systems Policy & Politics
Information & Healthcare Technology
Evidence Based Practice Project
Clinical Nurse Leader Practicum II (75 clinical hours)
Data Analysis & Outcome Management
Evidence Based Practice Project

Clinical Nurse Leader Practicum III (300 clinical hours)

Total new costs associated with implementing the proposed program

Faculty: One (1) new tenure track faculty with a terminal degree for the first year at a cost of \$78,000 including fringe benefits (9 month salary). This cost will be covered by internal reallocation of funding and does not necessitate additional funding. An additional tenure-track faculty with a terminal degree will be hired in the second year to support the ongoing graduate program at a cost of \$104,000 including fringe benefits for a 12 month contract (supported through tuition dollars of those enrolled in the program). Initial costs will be absorbed by the current school of nursing structure for marketing and processing applications. As the program grows, revenue from student tuition will fund additional faculty. In addition to the revenue generated from this program, we will offset costs by seeking grant funding.

Equipment and Materials

There will be no new facility costs for this program as the School of Nursing is housed in adequate facilities with spacious offices. Our campus is equipped with technology to support distance learning. An allocation of \$5,000 for additional software, materials and technology equipment are proposed for the first two years of start-up. The School of Nursing has a newly created Joint Center for Nursing Research that will provide a structure for students pursuing research endeavors.