

Program Planning Summary

Master of Science in Nursing

to be offered by the
Mary Black School of Nursing
of the
University of South Carolina Upstate

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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 and Level of Degree: Graduate program , Master's of Science in Nursing with specialization as a Clinical Nurse Leader, 38 semester hours traditional track, 63 semester hours accelerated master's entry track

Proposed Date of Implementation: Fall 2013

CIP code: 513808

Identification of Program: Program Summary

Delivery Mode: Blend of traditional and internet

Justification

Program Purposes

The University of South Carolina 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 Clinical Nurse Leader is a leader in the interdisciplinary health care team who focuses on lateral integration, prevention of injury, management of illness, decreasing cost of healthcare, and promotion of health (AACN). The traditional RN track will be by distance learning and the accelerated master's entry track will include distance learning and direct student contact on the USC Upstate campus.

Need for program

The USC Upstate is a thriving metropolitan university with 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 activity. 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 and care environment.

According to Cathy Rick, chief nursing officer, CNLs have been embraced by the Veteran's Health Administration, which plans to implement the role at all sites nationwide by 2016. 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 hospitals are finding that CNLs are experts in cost-effective resource utilization and streamlining quality care while avoiding pitfall complications such as 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 CNL will use strategies to design, implement and evaluate activities to optimize a safe health care environment. These strategies will impact risks associated with challenges such as medication errors, falls, hospital acquired infections, and readmission related to ineffective discharge planning

There is no other health care professional academically prepared to fulfill this role in the state of South Carolina. This innovative role provides nursing leadership at the point-of-care in a variety of healthcare settings and educational institutions and within diverse geographical locations throughout the Upstate and beyond.

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 nurse managers or other master's prepared nurses but rather are expert bedside and/or community practitioners who provide leadership and problem-solving skills in addressing client health care outcomes. Other masters in nursing programs do not focus on bedside nursing care and outcomes, but on specialty areas or advanced practice.

The CNL uses evidence-based information to improve clinical and environmental care outcomes and effect change in health care organizations. The CNL functions as part of an interdisciplinary team by communicating, planning, and implementing care directly with other health care professionals, such as physicians, pharmacists, social workers, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse practitioners.

The diversity of South Carolina's population requires health care providers to be knowledgeable and competent in caring for this disparate population and to understand the impact that global health has on the health of South Carolinians. The Clinical Nurse leader will have the skill to recognize the challenges of working with a multinational population and will have the knowledge to address the issues related to cultural competence and ethical dilemmas that may be derived from cultural differences. The CNL realizes that disease and illness have no borders, and will be attuned to global health issues that can impact everyone.

In addition to the nursing shortage, there is a growing need in the Upstate for practicing nurses to be 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 master's 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. No other university in the state of South Carolina offers a Master of Science in Nursing with a focus on the Clinical Nurse Leader role, and no other university in South Carolina offers a master's degree for non-nursing college graduates. The Clinical Nurse Leader 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. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the CNL will coordinate care, reducing the fragmentation and ensuring seamless and safe care. The CNL will evaluate and implement evidence based research to be used in developing strategies to improve outcomes at a point-of-care level and identify problems to achieve new knowledge through participation in clinical research.

Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity

In the first year of the program, 24 RN students and 48 accelerated master's 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 interested in this program, along with RNs employed in Upstate healthcare systems.

Assessment of extent to which the proposed 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 Clinical Nurse Leader. The proposed Master of Science in Nursing with an emphasis on the Clinical Nurse Leader role is uniquely designed to meet the needs of the population of the upstate of South Carolina and surrounding area.

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

At this institution the CNL program is unique. For the accelerated master's program, approximately 30 percent of our applicants to our undergraduate program have a prior baccalaureate degree, a trend seen in nursing programs across South Carolina and the nation and those that qualify would be admitted to the accelerated degree program.

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

We anticipate working closely with other institutions that have baccalaureate nursing programs to facilitate seamless admission and progression into our master's program.

Outline of Curriculum

Research Methods/Evidence Based Practice Process (3)
Theoretical and Conceptual Foundation of the Nurse Leader (2)
Health Care System Policy & Politics (2)
Organization Health Care Delivery (2)
Health Care Finance and Informatics (2)
U.S. and Global Healthcare Ethical Perspectives (2)
Pathophysiology (2)
Pharmacotherapeutics (2)
Advanced Health Assessment (2)
Management of Clinical Outcomes (3)
Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, Disease Prevention (3)
Professional Role Development: Clinical Nurse Leader (3)
Professional Role Development: Clinical Nurse Leader Practicum (10)

Master's CNL for non-nursing college graduates

All of the above listed courses plus:

Patient-centered care I and II (10)
Maternal/child care (5)
Public health nursing (5)
Mental health nursing (5)

Total new costs associated with implementing the proposed program

Faculty: One (1) tenure track faculty with a terminal degree for the first year at a cost of \$78,000 including fringe benefits (9-month salary). An additional tenure-track faculty with a terminal degree will need to 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. There will be no new administrative costs for the program, as it will be administered under the current organizational structure of the USC Upstate School of Nursing.

In addition to the revenue generated from this program, we will offset the cost 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 and with spacious offices. Our campus is equipped with technology to support distance learning. An allocation of \$5,000 for additional computer software, materials and technology enhancement are proposed for the first two years of start-up. The School has a newly created, federally funded, Center for Nursing that will be a rich support to our master's program.