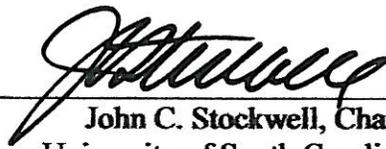


**Program Planning Summary**

**Bachelor of Science in Health Science**

to be offered by the

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



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John C. Stockwell, Chancellor  
University of South Carolina Upstate



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Andrew Sorensen, President  
University of South Carolina

June 17, 2008

**Program Planning Summary for a New Bachelor of Science Degree in Health  
Science  
University of South Carolina Upstate  
March 26, 2008**

**Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2010**

**New 4 Year Program Proposal:**

The University of South Carolina Upstate (USC Upstate) proposes a new Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science to be offered through the Mary Black School of Nursing in cooperation with the George Dean Johnson College of Business and Economics. The proposed program will initially be offered at the Spartanburg Campus with the intention of expanding to the Greenville campus by fall, 2011. The School of Nursing will house the new program on both Spartanburg and Greenville campuses.

The new Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science will build on knowledge learned in other healthcare programs that result in the awarding of the Associate of Science (A.S.) in a variety of health related fields. Such associate degrees include, but are not limited to, *Respiratory Therapy, Radiology Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Dental Hygiene, Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians and others as so deemed appropriate related to admission criteria*. Credit will be given to graduates of a two-year program with an Associate in Arts or Science from an accredited college. The degree candidate will have 45 credits transferred for the degree earned and the additional credit hours will be 15 credits in pre-requisites and 60 credits for the major totaling 120 credit hours.

Specifically the new program is designed to educate allied medical health two year graduates in: principles, concepts and processes of health care systems to include the business and operational management of health care, understanding legal and ethical implications of health care, principles and concepts of national biological and disaster management, application of leadership skills within health care organizations and utilization of educational strategies in the health care environment as well as application of principles of research and inquiry in health care settings. The newly developed degree is designed to prepare graduates to be effective health care leaders in varying management, educational and operational roles.

The completion of the proposed degree will promote advancement and leadership in the inpatient and outpatient sectors of health care. Furthermore, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Science creates a “visionary” health care leader, who not only has practice expertise, but can assess, plan, implement and evaluate the effectiveness of health care implementation strategies to promote health and wellness with citizens from a variety of cultures and backgrounds.

**Justification for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Science:**

Trends in healthcare related to disease management and the growing issues of evidence based practice in education and management demand that colleges and universities review the need for

advanced levels of education for *clinical health care providers* working in direct health care positions. Reviewing the immediate Upstate service market, there are multiple opportunities for high school graduates to earn an associate degree in a health care field, pass a certification exam/boards and enter a health care career. Once receiving the A.S., the student has few options to continue education in the immediate geographic service area. Offering the Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Science will allow allied health and/or other associates graduates from area community and technical institutions such as Spartanburg Community College, Greenville Technical College, Isothermal Technical College, Blue Ridge Technical College, Tri-County Technical College, Piedmont Technical College as well as those providers currently in the workforce the opportunity to attain advanced levels of education, thus providing new leaders and educators to health care organizations.

As the health care industry continues to grow in both inpatient and outpatient sectors, professional health care providers need to advance their educational options. As a metropolitan university, USC Upstate continues to meet the present needs and plan for the future needs of the surrounding population by forging affiliations and agreements with community leaders to promote and advance knowledge workers and economic development. One of the persistent issues facing the region is the critical needs for highly educated professionals in health care. During the last few years the geographic area has experienced a substantial increase in population size; an increased aging population, a growing emphasis on a healthcare team approach to management of acute and chronic diseases; all coupled with a growing shortage of well educated health care providers.

Lifestyles and instructional strategies require the university to create new degrees to support the current and growing health care workforce and facilitate the current and future allied health care professionals' attainable and flexible options for degree advancement. Increasing job demands and family responsibilities require flexible and creative instructional strategies. The collaborative program will offer a curriculum geared to the working health care professional with a mix of evening, online, hybrid and weekend classes. The traditional classroom instructional methodology will be limited in this program, moving the university to meeting the needs of the "X and Y generation" learners.

The average allied associate degrees previously mentioned are in excess of 300+ each year. The potential for capturing these students to continue their education for an additional two years is infinite. Using an aggressive marketing campaign, the university can anticipate a minimum of 25–30 graduates in the first class of the program.

### **Anticipated program demand and productivity**

As previously noted, the demand in the first year of the program will be 30 students with 24-30 graduates available for new or advanced employment opportunities by the completion of the program. Based on the expanded health care needs of the community, state and governmental agencies, as well as non-profit organizations, educational institutions, health research institutions, large health care institutions like Health Maintenance Organizations, hospitals, community health clinics and agencies, are seeking well educated health providers to fill critical faculty needs and to fill managerial positions that require advanced education. Currently over

400 freshman students enter USC Upstate with aspirations to attain a degree in a health related field and over 300 students annually graduate with associate degrees in allied health fields from Spartanburg Community College, Greenville Technical College, Isothermal Technical College, Blue Ridge Technical College, Tri-County Technical College, and Piedmont Technical College. There are no programs in the upstate area of South Carolina area that offer a baccalaureate degree in health sciences. There is a growing demand for health education and many students must seek other fields that do not meet their career goals due to lack of access of related program offerings, or attend out of state programs. This program offers another alternative degree in the health care setting. Completion of this program also prepares the student for graduate study.

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

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Health Science is uniquely designed to meet the needs of the population of the upstate of South Carolina and surrounding area. There are varying levels of baccalaureate degrees in health fields in South Carolina. However, the Medical University of South Carolina and Clemson University offer health science programs targeted to similar populations. US Columbia is developing an undergraduate program that focuses more narrowly on public health. The proposed degree program will allow the student to continue working during the additional two years of study to earn their baccalaureate degree.

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

The Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science will be administered by the School of Nursing in collaboration with the George Dean Johnson College of Business Administration and Economics Offering of existing courses, as well as the potential development of new elective courses that support the proposed major will result from the cooperative efforts from partnering schools and departments of USC Upstate.

#### **Total new costs associated with implementing the proposed degree major**

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.

There will be no new facility costs for the Bachelor of Science in Health Science as it will be offered in the new Health Education Complex at flexible times and with the use of classroom and distance learning instructional strategies.

There will be no new personnel costs for the first year of the program as current faculty in the School of Nursing and the College of Business Administration and Economics are experts in the fields. The majority of the courses proposed for the program will be taught by existing academic units. One new faculty position will be needed in the second year in the School of Nursing at a cost of \$75,000.

No additional library resources are necessary. The additional allocation of \$5,000 for computer software, materials and technology enhancement are proposed for each successive year.