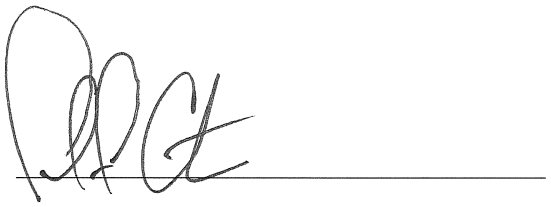
Program Planning Summary

Master of Science in Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

to be offered by

Francis Marion University



Luther F. Carter, President
Francis Marion University

March 31, 2011

I. Name of Proposed Program: Master of Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner
II. Academic Unit: Francis Marion University Department of Nursing
III. Designation, Type, and Level of Degree: New Program Planning Summary, Graduate Program, Master of Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner
IV. Number of Credit Hours in Program: 55
V. Proposed Date of Implementation: January 2013
VI. CIP Code:
VII. Delivery Mode: Traditional
VIII. Program Description: Francis Marion University proposes a Family Nurse Practitioner program at the Master of Science in Nursing level. This program is designed to be completed in two years (24 months) of continuous full-time study. Part-time options will also be available to increase accessibility to adult learners. The curriculum of this MSN degree is designed to educate Family Nurse Practitioners with an advanced level of knowledge, skills, and abilities to serve the healthcare needs of the community in a primary care role. The curriculum is based on *The Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nursing* (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2011) and will meet national accreditation requirements. Upon completion of the curriculum, graduates must pass a national certification examination (either American Academy of Nurse Practitioners or American Nurses Credentialing Center) in order to practice as Family Nurse Practitioners.

IX. Justification of Need: Nurse Practitioners are urgently needed to fill a current 30% shortage of primary-care physicians. To compound the shortage, less than 10% of medical students are choosing primary care upon graduation (*Time*, 2009). The Pee Dee region of South Carolina is severely affected by the shortage of primary care practitioners because of the large number of rural residents in the region, who constitute an already underserved population. Mid-level providers, specifically Nurse Practitioners, are part of the solution to the shortage of primary care practitioners facing the Pee Dee region and the state of South Carolina.

As documented by the 2009 I-95 Corridor Study, poverty and high unemployment rates contribute to serious health problems in the northeastern section of South Carolina. Diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and stroke occur at rates higher than national averages. As already noted, much of northeastern South Carolina is rural, a circumstance that tends to limit access to health care services. The Pee Dee region includes large numbers of poor and minorities who constitute an underserved and medically-needy population. The Nurse Practitioner program will help address the health-care needs of this population.

In 2008, Francis Marion University took the lead in organizing the Pee Dee Health Education Partnership, a consortium composed of FMU, the University of South Carolina, McLeod Health, and Carolinas Hospital System. Approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education in October 2008, the Pee Dee Health Education Partnership provides a framework for new health care degree programs to be offered by FMU and its partners. The MSN/Nurse Practitioner program, which is the top priority identified in the strategic plan of the Pee Dee Health Education Partnership, will be a Francis Marion University degree program. Support for clinical education for the Nurse Practitioner program will come from the two regional medical centers. In addition, through the PDHEP, FMU will have the active cooperation and support of USC.

During the spring of 2008, the FMU Department of Nursing conducted a needs assessment. As part of that assessment, surveys were mailed to baccalaureate-educated nurses within a hundred mile radius of the university. A robust 87% return rate was realized ($N = 244$). Seventy-two percent of the respondents indicated that they intended to pursue additional education, and of those, 63% anticipated entering a graduate program within the near future, with 28% indicating specific interest in a Nurse Practitioner degree.

X. Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity: The program will admit 24 students the first year, 27 students in the second year, and then 30 students per year. It should be noted that more than 70 students graduate annually from the FMU baccalaureate nursing program each year (and the number is growing), and these graduates will become a source of graduate students for the MSN/NP program. Many recent graduates of

the FMU baccalaureate nursing program have already expressed interest in enrolling in the MSN/NP graduate program, once it becomes available.

XI. Assessment of Extent to which the Proposed Program Duplicates Existing Programs in the State. Other FNP programs in the state of South Carolina are offered by Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the University of South Carolina (which offers a primary care NP track equivalent to the FNP). Because of the high level of need in the state, conversations between the President of Francis Marion and the Presidents of MUSC and USC have elicited no concern about FMU beginning a MSN/NP program. In fact, the University of South Carolina is one of the members of the Pee Dee Health Education Partnership, and the PDHEP has made the FMU Nurse Practitioner program its top priority. The FMU MSN/NP program, among other objectives, will prepare Family Nurse Practitioners for rural practice in order to improve health care delivery in the Pee Dee region, which was one of the critical needs cited by the 2009 I-95 Corridor Study.

XII. Relationship of the Proposed Program to Existing Programs at the Proposing Institution. The proposed program will run simultaneously with other programs in the Department of Nursing. Out of the six core courses for the FNP program, one course (EDUC 611) is from another discipline (Education) and can adequately meet the learning outcomes. Advanced Pathophysiology and Advanced Pharmacology may be taught by faculty in the Biology Department. Health Systems and Risk Management may be taught by the Graduate Business Faculty. The FNP Curriculum (55 credits; 630 practicum hours) will include the following courses:

XIII. Full time Nurse Practitioner Curriculum

Semester	Course	Credits
Spring	APRN 508 Health Policy and Leadership (3) EDUC 611 Solving Instructional Problems Using Technology (3) APRN 504 Advanced Pathophysiology (3)	3 3 3 = 9
Late Spring Term	APRN 501 Theory, Knowledge Development, APN Role (3)	3
Summer Session I	APRN 502 Biostatistics (3)	3
Summer Session II	APRN 506 Advanced Physical Assessment & Health Promotion (4:3-3) (45 hrs)	4
Fall	APRN 505 Advanced Pharmacology (3) APRN 503 Advanced Research and EBP (3) APRN 601 Primary Care of Adults (5:2-9) (135 hours)	3 3 5 = 11
Spring	APRN 509 Health Systems and Risk Management (3) APRN 507 Population and Epidemiology (3) APRN 602 Primary Care of Infants, Children & Adolescents (4:2-6)(90 hrs)	3 3 4 = 10
Summer Session I	APRN 603 Primary Care of Women (2:1-3) (45 hours)	2
Summer Session II	APRN 604 Primary Care of Geriatric Patients (2:2-3) (45 hours)	2
Fall	APRN 607 Clinical Decision-making and Ethics (3) APRN 605 Internship I (4:1-9) (135 hours) APRN 606 Internship II (4:1-9) (135 hours)	3 4 4 = 11
	Total	**55**

(Lecture hours = 1:1, practicum hours = 3:1) Conferences can only be applied to 10% of practicum hours.

XIV. Relationship of the Proposed Program to Other Institutions via Inter-institutional Cooperation.

A. Nurse practitioners are regulated and licensed by State Boards of Nursing and regulated by two professional organizations: the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The SC State Board of Nursing regulations for an APRN are as follows:

1. Has met all qualifications for licensure as a registered nurse;

2. Holds current specialty certification by a board-approved credentialing organization;
3. Has earned a master's degree from an accredited college or university;
4. Has paid the board all applicable fees; and
5. Has declared specialty area of nursing practice and the specialty title to be used must be the title which is granted by the board-approved credentialing organization (http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/forms/RNtoAPRN.pdf)

B. The Francis Marion University Department of Nursing will work closely with other higher education institutions that offer the baccalaureate degree in nursing in order to facilitate admission into the Master's program at FMU.

C. Through the Pee Dee Health Education Partnership, approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, Francis Marion University will have the active cooperation and support of the University of South Carolina, McLeod Health, and Carolinas Hospital for the proposed Nurse Practitioner program.

XV. Total New Costs Associated with Implementing the New Program

A. **Personnel Budget:** 1. One NP program director (tenure eligible faculty member) with a terminal degree at a cost of $90,000, plus $30,600 in benefits. 2. Two additional tenure track NP faculty members with terminal degrees at a cost of $75,000 each ($150,000 in salaries) plus $51,000 in benefits. 3. Adjunct (clinical) faculty at a cost of $40,000 per year. 4. Existing faculty will also teach selected courses in the MSN/NP program. 5. The program will be administered under the organizational structure of the FMU Department of Nursing. Estimated personnel total = $361,600.

B. **Equipment and materials:** The annual operating budget to cover other costs is projected at $70,000 per year.

C. **Facilities:** The FMU Department of Nursing is housed in the Lee Nursing Building, completed in 2006, which will provide adequate facilities for the program. Looking to the future, FMU is confident of obtaining private funding from a local foundation and from one other donor for a new Health Sciences building to be located in downtown Florence that will provide additional facilities and more than meet the needs of the proposed MSN/NP program.

D. **Revenue:** The cost of the program will be met by tuition revenue. In addition, FMU will seek funding from private donors that will provide supplemental financial support for the program.

References:

AACN (2011). *Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing.*

Koeniger-Donohue, R. (2010). "The future of nursing and health care: Through the looking glass 2030." *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*, *22* (2010), 233–235.

Moore, T. and Lawrence, S. *Creating Greater Opportunity in South Carolina's I-95 Corridor: A Human Needs Assessment* (Dec. 2009).

Pee Dee Health Education Partnership. "Twenty-First Century Health Care Solutions for the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina." PDHEP Strategic Plan, 2009.