



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Ken Wingate, Chair, and Members, S.C. Commission on Higher Education

FROM: Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Request for Initial License to Recruit SC Residents Into Online Programs: RN to BSN; MSN; and DNP Chamberlain College of Nursing, Downers Grove, IL

Summary

Chamberlain College of Nursing (www.chamberlain.edu) of Downers Grove, Illinois, requests approval to recruit South Carolina residents into online programs leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN degree completion), the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). The request is to begin advertising and recruiting upon approval by the Commission.

Chamberlain College of Nursing (Chamberlain) was founded in 1889 as Deaconess College of Nursing and was acquired by DeVry Inc. in 2005. DeVry Inc. is a private, for-profit entity, and its subsidiaries are private, for-profit institutions. The South Carolina Department of Education licensed DeVry Institute of Technology to recruit in the State beginning in 1973. The Commission assumed the authority for all licensing activities in October 1991. Chamberlain is headquartered in Downers Grove, IL, and has branches in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Virginia, and Texas.

The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC-NCA) has accredited Chamberlain since 1985. HLC accreditation is for the institution's associate's, bachelor's, and master's degree programs. Chamberlain has applied for HLC accreditation for its proposed program leading to the DNP. The institution is authorized by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and is in good standing in all states in which it operates branch campuses. Chamberlain is also approved to recruit in Indiana, Minnesota, and Washington.

Chamberlain is seeking approval to recruit residents into online programs in all states where required because of the newly implemented regulations of the US Department of Education. One regulatory provision is that each institution document compliance with

authorization requirements of each state in which it is not physically located where the institution offers education through distance education or correspondence courses. Therefore, some institutions are seeking approval in several states.

The following information from the U.S. Department of Education shows student loan default rates at Chamberlain:

School	Type	Control	PRGMS		FY2009	FY2008	FY2007
Chamberlain College of Nursing 1221 North Swift Road Addison IL 60101-0000	Master's Degree or Doctor's Degree	Proprietary	Federal Family Education Loans and Federal Direct Loans (FFEL/FDL)	Default Rate	3.3	1.7	2.9
				No. in Default	33	7	8
				No. in Repay	981	400	267
Students enrolled at any time during the year					2,780	1,128	0
Percentage of borrowers entering repayment					35.3	35.5	0

To provide context for the Cohort Default Rate (CDR), USDE includes enrollment data (students enrolled at any time during the year) and a corresponding percentage (borrowers entering repayment divided by that enrollment figure). While there is no direct relationship between the timing of when a borrower entered repayment (October 1 through September 30) and any particular enrollment year, these data are for the academic year ending on the June 30 prior to the beginning of the cohort year (e.g., FY 2009 CDR Year uses 2007-2008 enrollment).

The U. S. Department of Education sanctions a school when the school's three most recent cohort default rates are 25 percent or higher or if a school's current default rate is greater than 40 percent. Except in the event of a successful adjustment or appeal, such a school will lose FFEL, Direct Loan, and Federal Pell Grant program eligibility for the remainder of the fiscal year in which the school is notified of its sanction and for the following two fiscal years. According to Chamberlain officials, an estimate of the median Title IV student loan debt for graduates of the program leading to the BSN degree is \$27,080; median Title IV student loan debt is \$59,587 for graduates of the program leading to the MSN degree. Because the program leading to the DNP degree has not yet been offered, no student loan debt information is available.

The Drusch Professional Library at Chamberlain's St. Louis campus is the flagship library of Chamberlain College of Nursing and supports all locations and programs with materials and resources. Librarians holding master's degrees are available to assist all students who have access at all times to a full array of library electronic resources (i.e., electronic full-text periodical databases, research databases, and eBook collections). Printed books are available to Chamberlain students (including online students) by request and are shipped at no cost to the student. Material not held by the library can be requested via interlibrary loan. Assistance with library resources is available by phone and email Monday through Saturday and online live chat seven days a week. The online chat-based reference service is also staffed by a professional library staff.

The Board of Directors of DeVry Inc. establishes policy decisions and strategic directions for the DeVry Inc. Healthcare Group, which includes Chamberlain. The Board of Directors is responsible for selecting the president of Chamberlain College of Nursing, who reports to the president of the Healthcare Group, and for approving the appointment of senior managers.

Reporting to the president of Chamberlain College of Nursing is the vice president of academic affairs, the vice president of campus operations, and directors of online operations, admissions, marketing, accreditation and professional regulation, student services, director of finance, human resources, growth initiatives, strategic alliances, and group information technology. Deans for each program area (RN to BSN, graduate programs, and pre-licensure programs) report to the senior director of online operations.

Faculty members who teach general education courses in the RN to BSN degree completion program must hold a master's degree with at least 18 graduate hours or a major in the teaching discipline. Faculty members who teach nursing courses in the RN to BSN degree completion program and for the program leading to the MSN must, at minimum, hold a master's degree in nursing, be licensed as a registered nurse, and have at least two years of experience in the content and/or clinical area in which the faculty member will teach. In addition to these qualifications, faculty members teaching courses for the program leading to the DNP degree must hold a DNP, Ph.D., Doctor of Public Health, or equivalent doctoral degree and have knowledge of current advanced nursing practice.

Applicants to the RN to BSN degree completion program must have earned a diploma or associate's degree in nursing with a 2.0 GPA or higher and hold a current, unrestricted license as a registered nurse. Students who apply for admission into Chamberlain's graduate programs must hold a BSN degree with a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 and hold a current, unrestricted license as a registered nurse. Students must maintain licensure throughout their program. Undergraduate degrees must have been earned from an institution holding accreditation from an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Institution officials project that in 2012 Chamberlain will enroll approximately 50 South Carolina residents in its online programs.

Tuition for the RN to BSN completion program is \$590 per semester-credit hour. The total program cost is \$31,080. Tuition for the program leading to the MSN degree is \$650 per semester-credit hour for a total program cost of \$28,860. Tuition for the program leading to the DNP is \$850 per credit hour for a total program cost of \$32,310. Students in programs requiring a clinical or practicum component may also be responsible for costs related to participating in these activities, such as liability insurance, immunizations, and travel.

RN to BSN

Chamberlain College of Nursing seeks approval to recruit SC residents into its online RN to BSN degree completion program. The program leading to the BSN degree allows a registered nurse with a diploma or associate's degree in nursing to complete online a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. There is no clinical or practicum component for this program, which may be completed in three semesters. The curriculum incorporates liberal arts, applied sciences and nursing coursework in a program that provides the education and skills necessary for a lifetime of personal and professional growth.

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) are the specialized accrediting agencies for nurse education programs. Chamberlain has opted for accreditation through CCNE which has accredited the program leading to the BSN degree since October 2004.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), 2010-2011 Edition*, advancement opportunities may be greater for RNs with a BSN degree or higher. A bachelor's degree or higher is often necessary for administrative positions, research, consulting, and teaching. In addition, a report issued jointly in 2010 by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation called to increase nationally the percentage of nurses holding the BSN degree or higher from 37.6% to 80%. The South Carolina Board of Nursing and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing have echoed the report's recommendations.

The table below shows the courses in the RN to BSN degree completion program. A minimum of 129 semester credit hours (62 in liberal arts courses and 67 in nursing courses) are required in order to graduate from the program.

RN to BSN		
Course Number	Title	Credit Hours
CCAP	Registered nurses with current, active RN licensure in the U.S. or a jurisdiction that is an associate member of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) may be awarded up to 81 transfer credit hours through the Chamberlain College of Nursing Articulation Plan (CCAP). This includes 37 liberal arts and applied sciences credits and 44 nursing credits.	81
ENGL 135	Advanced Composition	4
MATH 114	Algebra for College Students	4
MATH 221	Statistics for Decision-Making	4
ECON 312	Principles of Economics	3
SOCS 350	Cultural Diversity in the Professions	3
One of: HUMN 410, 412, 415, or 417	Contemporary History, Post-1945 History, Vietnam & the 20th-Century Experience, or Emergence of the Modern Era	3
One of: HUMN 303, 421, 422, 424, 427, 428, 448, or 450	Introduction to the Humanities, Studies in Literature, Film & Literature, Science Fiction, Studies in Poetry, Dramatic Literature, Comparative Religions, or 20th-Century Fine Arts	3
NR 305	Health Assessment	4
NR 351	Transitions in Professional Nursing	3
NR 361	RN Information Systems in Healthcare	3
NR 443	RN Community Health Nursing	4
NR 447	RN Collaborative Healthcare	4
NR 449	Evidence-Based Practice	3
NR 451	RN Capstone Course	3
Total		129

Nine public and two private institutions in the state offer a RN to BSN degree completion program, six of which offer the program online.

Master of Science in Nursing

Chamberlain College of Nursing seeks approval to recruit SC residents into its online program leading to the MSN degree. The program is designed to prepare nurses for expanding roles in healthcare and enhance their opportunities for professional advancement. The curriculum provides core courses in nursing theory, research, leadership, professional role development, and informatics in healthcare.

The CCNE has accredited the program leading to the MSN degree at Chamberlain since February 2010.

A master's degree in nursing is required to become an advanced practice nurse. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), 2010-2011 Edition*, advanced practice nurses will be in high demand, particularly in medically underserved areas such as inner cities and rural areas.

The table below shows the courses in the program leading to the MSN with three specialty tracks: Educator, Executive, Healthcare Policy, or Informatics. Students in the Educator, Executive, and Healthcare Policy specialty tracks are required to complete a 100-hour (three semester-credit hour) practicum and students in the Informatics specialty track must complete a 200-hour (six semester-credit hour) practicum. A student may expect to complete the program in two years of full-time study or six semesters.

Master of Science in Nursing		
Course Number	Title	Credit Hours
Core Courses		
IS 566	Informatics & Application Systems in Healthcare	3
NR 500	Foundational Concepts & Applications	3
NR 501	Theoretical Basis for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NR 504	Leadership & Nursing Practice: Role Development	3
NR 505	Advanced Research Methods: Evidence-Based Practice	3
NR 506	Healthcare Policy	3
NR 660	Capstone	3
Educator Specialty Track		
ED 521, 522, 523, and 524	Theoretical Foundations of Teaching & Learning, Instructional Methods, Assessment & Evaluation Techniques in Education, Curriculum Development	12
Executive Specialty Track		
GM 530, 550, and 591, HR 587	Organizational Decision-Making, Managerial Communication, Leadership & Organizational Behavior, Managing Organizational Change	12
Informatics Specialty Track		
NI 541, 542, 543	Practice of Nursing Informatics, Managing Data & Information, Information Workflow in Healthcare	9
Healthcare Policy Specialty Track		
NR 551, NR 552, NR 553, NR 554, NR 650	Healthcare Systems, Politics, & Policy, Economics of Healthcare Policy, Global Health, The Nurse Leader & Healthcare Policy	12
ED 620, EX 630, or NI 640 and NI 641 or NR 650	Practicum	3-6
Total		36

In addition, the table below shows the courses in the program leading to the MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) track. Forty-eight semester-credit hours are required to complete the program. Students in the FNP track are required to complete two laboratory and four practicum courses for a total of 550 practice hours. A student may expect to complete the program in three years of full-time study or eight semesters.

Master of Science in Nursing, FNP Track		
Course Number	Title	Credit Hours
Core Courses		
NR-500	Foundational Concepts & Applications	3
NR-501	Theoretical Basis for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NR-504	Leadership & Nursing Practice: Role Development	3
NR-505	Advanced Research Methods: Evidence-Based Practice	3
NR-506	Healthcare Policy	3
IS-566	Informatics & Application Systems in Healthcare	3
Family Nurse Practitioner Track Courses		
NR-503	Population Health, Epidemiology, & Statistical Principles	3
NR-507	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NR-508	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NR-509	Advanced Physical Assessment	3
NR-510	Role of the Advanced Practice Nurse	3
NR-511	Differential Diagnosis and Primary Care	3
NR-601	Primary Care of the Maturing and Aged Family	3
NR-602	Primary Care of the Childbearing and Childrearing Family	3
NR-603	Advanced Clinical Diagnosis and Practice across the Lifespan	3
Capstone Course and credits		
NR-661	APN Capstone/Practicum	3
Total		48

Chamberlain has applied for approval of the MSN, FNP track with the Illinois Board of Education (IBHE). Once IBHE approval has been earned, the institution will submit an application for accreditation with HLC and CCNE. The institution will begin recruiting South Carolina residents into this program after IBHE approval and appropriate accreditations have been achieved.

Three public and two private institutions offer programs leading to the MSN degree, four of which offer the program online.

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Chamberlain College of Nursing seeks approval to recruit SC residents into its online program leading to the DNP degree. The program prepares graduates to design, implement, and evaluate improvements in care for individuals, families, and populations. DNP graduates will be prepared to lead teams of intra- and inter-professional colleagues; care for vulnerable,

culturally-diverse populations; and assume the role of a transformational leader to enhance patient-driven care, make evidence-based practice change, and be mentors to other nurses aspiring to lead and change healthcare in the 21st century.

Chamberlain received in 2011 approval from IBHE to offer the program leading to the DNP and has applied for HLC accreditation. Once the program is accredited by HLC, the institution will submit an application for accreditation with CCNE. The institution will begin recruiting South Carolina residents into this program after HLC and CCNE accreditation have been attained.

The IOM/The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation report states that additional doctorally prepared nurses are needed to address projected nurse faculty and primary care shortages, to advance nursing science, and to assume leadership roles of all kinds. At the national level, at least 24,147 additional nurses must earn a doctorate by 2020 to achieve the percentages called for in the report.

The table below shows the courses in the program leading to the DNP. A minimum of 30 semester credit hours are required to earn the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Students may expect to complete one or two courses per semester over a total of five semesters.

Doctor of Nursing Practice		
Course Number	Title	Credit Hours
NR-700	Scientific Underpinnings	3
NR-708	Health Policy	3
NR-701	Applications of Analytic Methods	3
NR-702	DNP Project Practicum I	3
NR-703	Applied Organizational & Leadership Concepts	3
IS-705	DNP Project Practicum II	3
NR-704	Concepts in Population Health Outcomes	3
NR-707	DNP Project Practicum III	3
NR-706	Healthcare Informatics and Information Systems	3
NR-709	DNP Capstone Practicum IV	3
Total		30

USC-Columbia and MUSC offer online programs leading to the DNP.

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends favorably to the Commission initial licensure for five years to Chamberlain College of Nursing to recruit South Carolina residents into online programs leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN degree completion) and the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). The request is to begin advertising and recruiting upon approval by the Commission. Further, the Committee recommends that the Commission authorize the Commission staff to license Chamberlain College of Nursing to recruit South Carolina residents into online programs leading to the Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner track (MSN, FNP) and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) once the programs have received HLC and CCNE accreditation.