



Graduate Study & Lifelong Learning
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14 April 2005

TO: Virinder K. Moudgil
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

FROM: Ron Sudol
Associate Provost, Academic Affairs and
Chair of Graduate Council

RE: Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree (DNP)

On behalf of the Graduate Council, I am pleased to forward a recommendation that Oakland University implement the Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree program (DNP).

The post-master's DNP will prepare nurses to assume clinical and leadership roles in both academic and a variety of service settings. The program will prepare nurses to function as practitioners at the highest level of nursing practice in at least one area of specialized advanced nursing practice: nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, or clinical nurse specialist. At present there are no other DNP programs in the state of Michigan, however there are three PhD programs in nursing, they are at Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, and Michigan State University.

AACN has proposed that the DNP will become the only graduate clinical degree by 2015. With the anticipated shortage of nursing faculty in the next few years, some of the smaller schools of nursing, with only one or two MSN programs, may not be able to make the transition. Our School of Nursing has a high percentage of PhD prepared faculty and certified clinical faculty, who are qualified to teach at both the MSN and DNP levels. Thus OU is positioned to develop a niche for clinical doctoral education in SE Michigan and the surrounding geographic areas. The School of Nursing does not presently have plans to eliminate its MSN programs in the near future, but has designed the DNP program so that it will be able to make the transition seamlessly.

It should be noted the library report reflects a much larger budget than is normally seen for new programs. The DNP program proposal targets the use of online education technology to market the DNP program to areas outside the tri-county area. Therefore, the library report reflects the substantially higher cost for online journals. However, the School of Nursing cannot convert this program to an online format until it has successfully converted other graduate foundation courses to an online technology. Given the integrated, cohort curriculum design, graduate Council believes the proposed library budget should be reviewed in the context of the entire online nursing curriculum, rather than specific to this proposal. Therefore, the new program proposal budget currently incorporates \$ 5000.00 for additional library support.

The Graduate Council unanimously approved the DNP program proposal on March 30, 2005.

Cc: Linda Thompson, Dean, School of Nursing
Darlene Schott-Baer, Nursing Department
Claire Rammel, Executive Director, Graduate Study & Lifelong Learning

Proposed STVMAJR code
DNP – Nursing Practice (7400)