

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 31, 2003

TO: Dr. James Holsinger, Jr.
Senior Vice President and Chancellor, Medical Center
Chair, Academic Council for the Medical Center
Deans, Department Chairs, Members of the University Senate

FROM: Dr. Carolyn A. Williams
Dean, College of Nursing

SUBJECT: Change in progression requirements for the MSN degree program

The faculty of the College of Nursing have approved and submit for your approval a change in the progression requirements for the MSN degree program. Graduate faculty would like to add the following to the current progression requirements for the MSN degree program:

- A minimum of 3.0 GPA in all graduate nursing courses is required for graduation, in addition to a cumulative 3.0 graduate GPA over all graduate courses.

Effective Date: Fall, 2003

Rationale for proposal:

Current progression requirements for the MSN degree program include the following:

- A minimum 3.0 cumulative graduate GPA;
- A minimum of a grade of B or better in all graduate nursing courses with a clinical component is required for progression to the next clinical course and for graduation.

Although together these requirements ensure a level of academic excellence within the program, faculty note they do not address the issues that result when students have a large number of graduate credits outside of nursing. It is possible in situations such as these for students to have earned a 3.0 cumulative graduate GPA, but fail to achieve at a high level in those MSN courses without a clinical component. Such courses are most often core courses within the MSN program. Faculty believe that it is critical for MSN students to earn a grade of B or better in all graduate nursing courses (both core and clinical) in order to possess the level of expertise needed by advanced practice nurses for board certification and for quality practice. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.