

**UNIVERSITY SENATE ROUTING LOG**

**Proposal Title: 2-Year Post-MSN-DNP**

Name/email/phone for proposal contact: Patricia B. Howard, 323-6332, pbhowa00@email.uky.edu

**Instruction:** To facilitate the processing of this proposal please identify the groups or individuals reviewing the proposal, identify a contact person for each entry, provide the consequences of the review (specifically, approval, rejection, no decision and vote outcome, if any) and please attach a copy of any report or memorandum developed with comments on this proposal.

<b>Reviewed by: (Chairs, Directors, Faculty Groups, Faculty Councils, Committees, etc)</b>	<b>Contact person Name (phone/email)</b>	<b>Consequences of Review:</b>	<b>Date of Proposal Review</b>	<b>Review Summary Attached? (yes or no)</b>
DNP Committee	Patricia B. Howard, 323-6332 pbhowa00@email.uky.edu	Approved	March 3, 2008	no
College of Nursing Graduate Faculty	Terry Lennie, 323-6631 talenn2@email.uky.edu	Approved	March 7, 2008	no

**UK**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
**KENTUCKY**  
College of Nursing

Chandler Medical Center  
315 CON Building  
Lexington, KY 40536-0232

859 323-6533  
fax 859 323-1057

[www.mc.uky.edu/Nursing](http://www.mc.uky.edu/Nursing)

**DATE:** March 19, 2009

**TO:** Heidi M. Anderson, PhD  
Chair, Health Care Colleges Council

**FROM:** Jane Kirschling, RN, DNS, *Jane Kirschling*  
Dean  
Patricia B. Howard, RN, PhD, *Pat Howard*  
Director, MSN and DNP Programs

**SUBJECT:** Request for a Program Curriculum Change

- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

The faculty of the College of Nursing recommends for your approval a change in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program. The change that is requested is to offer a 2-year Post-MSN-DNP curriculum plan instead of the current 3-year curriculum plan.

**Effective Date:**

Fall 2008

**Rationale for proposed change:**

In keeping with trends about health care and the educational preparation of health care professionals [Institute of Medicine (IOM), 1999], the College of Nursing was approved by the Medical Center Academic Council and Senate to offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice Program in 1999. Subsequently, a 3-year post-MSN-DNP program was implemented. Since then, important changes relative to the practice doctorate, advanced practice nursing (APN) and DNP education recommendations have occurred [American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), 2004].

Recommendations that are fundamental to the rationale for this proposed Program change are (1) the practice doctorate is the graduate degree recommended for advanced nursing practice preparation; and (2) development of streamlined practice doctorate educational programs. This proposal outlines components of a streamlined 2-year post-MSN-DNP curriculum option to replace the current 3-year DNP curriculum.

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## UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Program: Doctor of Nursing Practice  
 Department/Division: College of Nursing  
 College: Nursing Bulletin pp.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Degree title (Old): Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree title (New) Doctor of Nursing Practice  
 CIP Code: D51.1608  
 Accrediting Agency (if applicable): Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE);  
 American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN);

### PROPOSED CHANGE(S) IN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
1. Number of transfer credits allowed	none	Grad level statistics
2. Residence requirement	one year	no change
3. Language or skills required	none	no change
4. Provision for monitoring progress and termination criteria:	maintain at least 3.0 graduate grade point average (GPA) and monitoring by students' Advisor and Committee.	no change
5. Total credit hours required	54-55 credits beyond the Master's degree (includes 6 residency credits).	40 credits beyond the Master's degree (includes 6 residency credits)

6. Required courses (The current 3-year DNP program and the proposed 2-year DNP program are listed below).

<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
NUR 778 Proseminar in Contemporary Health & Nursing Policy Issues (3cr.)	No change

<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
NUR 900 Process of Nursing Leadership (3cr.)	Not included
NUR 915 Philosophy & Foundations of Evidence-based Practice (3cr.)	Revised Course - NUR 915 Foundations of Evidence Based Practice & Program Planning in Nursing (4cr) [see attached course form & description]
NUR 903 Applied Biostatistics for Outcomes Evaluation (4cr.)	No change
NUR 905 Clinical Program Development & Implementation (3cr.)	Replaced. Some NUR 905 objectives incorporated into new course: NUR 915- Foundations of Evidence Based Practice & Program Planning in Nursing
NUR 907 Foundations for Population-focused Interventions in Clinical Practice (3cr.)	Not included
NUR 904 Epidemiology Applied to the Design and Evaluation of Nursing & Health Services (3cr.)	No change
NUR 906 Evaluation for Improvement of Clinical Practice & Outcomes (3cr.)	Replaced with new course: NUR 919- Strategic Analysis for Quality Improvement In Nursing & Health Care (3cr) [see attached course form & description]
NUR 908 Clinical Practice Model Development (4cr.)	Replaced. Some NUR 908 objectives incorporated into new course: NUR 920- Advanced Nursing Practice in Dynamic Health Care Systems.
NUR 911 Individual & Group Dynamics in Nursing and the Health Care Environment (4cr.)	Not included
NUR 901 Nursing Leadership Through Effective Use of Self (3cr.)	Not included
NUR 902 Nursing Leadership in Health Care Systems (3cr.)	Revised course: same course number, title and credits (3cr) [see attached course form & description].

<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
NUR 909 Dynamics & Realities of Implementing Clinical Practice Models (4cr.)	Not included
NUR 912 Theoretical Foundations of Nursing & Health Care Organizations (3cr.)	Not included
NUR 910 Clinical Residency (3 cr.)	No change
NUR 914 Economic and Financial Aspects of Clinical & Population-based Health Care Delivery Systems (4cr.)	Minor course revision: Same course title; the one credit clinical credit was replaced with a didactic credit; overall credit the same [see attached course form & description]
Cognates (6 credits)	Not included
	<b><u>New Course:</u></b> NUR 917-Technology for Transforming Nursing & Healthcare (3cr) [see attached course form & description]
	<b><u>New Course:</u></b> NUR 918- Protection of Human Subjects (1cr) [see attached course form & description]

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
7. Required distribution of courses within program	NA	NA
8. Minor area or courses outside program required	STA 570 Basic Statistical Analysis is required as a Prereq for NUR 903.	Recommended Graduate level Statistics prior to Program within 5 years.
9. Qualifying examination	none	no change
10. Other requirements not covered above:		

**Current admission criteria:** Applicants to the DNP program must have

- Master's degree in nursing from a nationally accredited program;
- Graduate GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale;

- Satisfactory scores on the Verbal and Quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (minimum scores of 500 on each of these sections is preferred. Analytical Writing scores are evaluated individually.)
- Goal statement (see doctoral program application form)
- Three references (forms provided) and personal interviews;
- Licensure as a registered nurse in the state where clinical will occur (prerequisite to clinical experience)
- Relevant clinical experience;
- Portfolio highlighting past education, clinical experience, scholarly endeavors, and professional and community activities (see DNP Program application procedure insert).

**Proposed admission criteria for the 2-year Post-MSN-DNP Program:** Applicants to the program must possess:

- Master's degree from an accredited school of nursing;
- Graduate GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale;
- Licensure to practice in the state of Kentucky or the state where clinicals will occur;
- Satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)(minimum scores of 500 on the Verbal and Quantitative sections preferred. Analytical Writing Scores are evaluated individually.);
- Three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicants' expertise in nursing or healthcare;
- Evidence of scholarly writing in the written goal statement;
- Interview with DNP faculty
- Clinical practice hours as demonstrated by certification in an advanced practice nursing specialty, or previous graduate level course work (applicants who cannot demonstrate a minimum of 460 clinical clock hours of practice will be expected to complete clinical course work beyond the proposed curriculum).
- Applicants with unique credentials will be considered on an individual basis.

**Awarding of degree:** The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree will be awarded at the completion of the DNP program. Degree requirements are a minimum of 40 credits total, including a minimum of 9 credit hours in laboratory, clinical or residency courses based on a 1:4 credit: clock-hour ratio for a total of 540 clinical and residency clock hours; 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA average on all course work including all nursing (NUR) course work; and a research utilization project during the clinical residency. If a student is not board certified as a nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist and wishes to pursue either of those options to be a direct care advanced practice registered nurse, he or she must meet with the advisor to develop a program of study to meet additional requirements including additional clinical hours to meet the 1000 minimum for the practice doctorate.

## **II. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE(S)**

The College of nursing opened a three year graduate program leading to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in 1999. It was designed to build on a student's master's preparation in nursing and in some instances an associate or bachelor's degree in nursing with a master's degree in a health care or business administration emphasis. Unlike most doctoral programs, which are focused on developing original research, the DNP program emphasizes research utilization for the improvement of clinical care delivery and healthcare systems. Graduates are expected to be experts in designing, implementing, managing, and evaluating healthcare delivery systems. Simultaneously, they will know how to manage the complex balance between quality of care, access, and fiscal responsibilities.

In 1999 when the current post-MSN DNP program opened in the College of Nursing, discussions about the clinical practice doctorate led by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in collaboration with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and various specialty organizations were in early stages. Later, in 2004, the AACN mandated that the clinical doctorate be required for advanced clinical practice nursing by 2015 (AACN, 2007). The rationale for the mandate was based on several factors including the changing complexity of the healthcare environment and the high number of credits in master's degree programs for advanced practice which often approximated the number of credits required in doctoral programs for other healthcare professionals. The mandate also has implications for streamlining nursing education so that the 2015 mandate can be met by individuals with preparation at various levels.

Following extensive curriculum evaluation, faculty in the College of Nursing determined that the best plan for meeting the practice doctorate mandate would be to phase in various entry points beginning with the 2-year proposed program for post-MSN applicants in the fall of 2008. Ongoing curricular work will result in BSN and other entry levels such as the AD or second degree applicant later. This plan is in keeping with the AACN (2004, p.15) recommendation:

*A transition period be planned to provide nurses with master's degrees, who wish to obtain the practice doctoral degree, a mechanism to earn a practice doctorate in a relatively streamlined fashion with credit given for previous graduate study and practice experience. The transition mechanism should provide multiple points of entry, standardized validation of competencies, and be time limited.*

The proposed 2-year post-MSN to DNP option is similar in overall length, credits and clinical requirements to those available at our benchmark institutions. Today, few programs are three years in length. Moreover, when the current program was designed, there was no requirement for a specific number of clinical hours whereas today, the total number of hours (for the BSN-DNP) is 1000. The proposed program includes 540 hours of clinical or residency related hours. The proposed option will likely attract highly motivated and bright women and men in our field who desire to be expert practitioners who can facilitate collaborative practice patterns designed to transform healthcare systems in ways recommended by scientific discoveries and research that uncovered serious problems in the current system. They will also be better prepared to assist in transformational research and finding ways to sustain evidence-based practices in wide variety of settings. It will also address the shortage of clinically prepared nursing faculty. Examples of institutions with similar options include: Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, Medical College of Georgia, Purdue University, Saint Louis University, Vanderbilt University and the Universities of Connecticut, Florida, Illinois at Chicago, Maryland, Minnesota, Utah, Virginia and Washington.

The rationale for the course changes is that extensive curriculum evaluation resulted in discovery of content overlap and gaps. In addition, as curriculum changes and course development was implemented, proposed changes and content were cross-walked with recommendations of *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice* (AACN, 2006) to assure consistency with the foundation recommended for core knowledge for the practice doctorate. Faculty members expect that students can master the course content and successfully complete residency in the proposed time frame. In sum, the proposed 2-year post-MSN-DNP builds on the rigor and credibility of the current 3-year program, takes into account that future planning must incorporate entry at the baccalaureate level, and incorporates content recommended for practice doctorate programs in the DNP Essentials document (AACN, 2006).

The sample plan below illustrates a full-time curriculum plan for students in the 2-Year Post-MSN-DNP option. Part-time plans will also be offered. Attachment 1 depicts the Post-MSN-DNP option according to new course development, revised courses and courses that will remain the same.

Sample Full Time Curriculum, MSN-DNP Option

**Fall, Year One**

NUR 915 Foundations of Evidence Based Practice & Program Planning in Nursing	4cr
NUR 902 Nursing Leadership in Healthcare Systems	3cr
NUR 778 Proseminar in Contemporary Health & Nursing Policy Issues	3cr

Total 10cr

**Spring, Year One**

NUR 903 Applied Biostatistics for Outcomes Evaluation	4cr
NUR 904 Epidemiology Applied to the Design and Eval. of Nursing & Health Services	3cr
NUR 916 Evaluation for Improvement of Clinical Practice & Outcomes	3cr

Total 10cr

**Summer, Year One**

NUR 917 Technology for Transforming Nursing & Healthcare	3cr
NUR 918 Protection of Human Subjects	1cr

Total 4cr

**Fall, Year Two**

NUR 914 Econ & Fin Aspects of Clinical & Population-based HC Systems	4cr
NUR 919 Strategic Analysis for Quality Improvements in Nursing & Healthcare	3cr
NUR 920 Adv Nursing Practice in Dynamic Healthcare Systems	3cr

Total 10cr

**Spring, Year Two**

NUR 910 Residency	3cr
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**Summer, Year Two**

NUR 910 Residency	3cr
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**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

**Proposed Post-MSN--DNP Option for Admission Fall 2008**

Year 1	Year 2
<u>Fall</u>	<u>Fall</u>
NUR 902 Nursing Leadership in Healthcare Systems + 3	NUR 914-Economic/Financial Aspects of Clinical & Population Based HC Delivery Systems + 4
NUR 778 Proseminar in Contemporary Health & Nsg Policy Issues 3	NUR XXX (919) Strategic Analysis for Quality Improvement In Nsg & Healthcare‡ 3
NUR 915 Foundations of Evidence Based Practice and Program Planning in Nursing+ $\frac{4}{10}$	NUR XXX (920) Advanced Nursing Practice in Dynamic Health Care Systems‡ $\frac{3 (1/2)}{10}$
(*Statistics)	
<u>Spring</u>	<u>Spring</u>
NUR 903 Applied Biostatistics For Outcome Evaluation 4	NUR 910 Residency 3
NUR 904 Epidemiology Applied to The Design & Eval of Nsg & Health Services 3	<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 3
NUR XXX (916) Evaluation for Improvement of Clinical Practice & Outcomes‡ $\frac{3}{10}$	
<u>Summer</u>	<u>Summer</u>
NUR XXX (917) Technology for Transforming Nursing & Healthcare‡ 3(2/1)	NUR 910 Residency 3
NUR XXX (918) Protection of Human Subjects ‡ $\frac{1}{4}$	<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 3
* <u>Statistics Pre-req. or fall, year 1</u>	<b>Credits = 40</b> <b>Clinical Hrs = 540 (based on 1:4 ratio)</b>

## Legend:

New course = red (‡)

Revised course = green (+)