



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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**MEMORANDUM**

**COLLEGE OF NURSING**

**DATE:** October 22, 2007

**TO:** Heidi M. Anderson, PhD  
Associate Provost of Faculty Affairs  
Chair, Health Care Colleges Council

**FROM:** Jane Kirschling, RN, DNS *JK*  
Dean, College of Nursing

Patricia B. Howard, RN, PhD *PBH*  
Director, MSN and DNP Programs

**SUBJECT: Request for Course Change and New Course**

- **Course Change: NUR 631 Application of Advanced Health Assessment**
- **New Course: NUR 635 Focused Health Assessment**

The graduate faculty of the College of Nursing has approved and submits for your approval a request to (a.) make a change in NUR 631 Application of Advanced Health Assessment and (b.) add a new 1-credit course NUR 635 Focused Health Assessment. Faculty wish to make these changes in order to better facilitate student progression in the MSN program, maximize the distributed learning pedagogy, and better utilize faculty and clinical laboratory resources. In addition, faculty have determined that while 4 credits is essential for health assessment content, it can be better distributed in one 3-credit course and one 1-credit course offered through independent study modules.

As noted on the attached application for a change in the existing course NUR 631, the proposed increase in credits from 2 to 3 will add one (1) credit to the total number of hours in the Public Health Nursing track. The slight increase does not affect the overall degree requirement for the MSN degree.

Effective Date:  
Fall, 2008

**Rationale for Changes in NUR 631: Application of Advanced Health Assessment**

Currently, MSN students are required to take the 2-credit course NUR 514 Advanced Health Assessment offered fall semester only and 2-credit NUR 631 Applications of Advanced Health Assessment offered spring semester only. Combining the content in these two courses into one 3-credit course to be offered each semester (fall and spring) will increase flexibility for students and facilitate student progression in the program. Also, the change will improve utilization of the laboratory and faculty resources because offering it each semester allows for better student enrollment management and a better distribution of student enrollment across the two semesters.

**Rationale for New Course: NUR 635 Focused Health Assessment**

NUR 635 is a 1-credit course of focused health assessment techniques that lends itself to independent study modules offered on Blackboard. This new course is based on a self-directed student learning concept that enhances the distributed learning pedagogy in the College of Nursing.