DATE: October 22, 2007

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

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

      Patricia B. Howard, RN, PhD
      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.