

# ASACR 7

Office of the President  
April 25, 2025

Members, Board of Trustees:

## ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION: COLLEGE OF NURSING

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a bachelor of science degree in Surgical First Assistant in the College of Nursing.

Background: The proposed bachelor's degree in Surgical First Assistant (SFA) will provide students who are interested in healthcare a pathway to a bachelor's degree in a health care field with robust experiences in a variety of surgical specialties. Graduates will enter the workforce with an opportunity for a competitive rate of pay while improving health and increasing access to Kentuckians for needed surgical services through workforce development.

SFAs are governed by the medical licensure board. Graduates will be eligible to sit for the national surgical first assistant exam. The program is highly specialized and will be the only SFA program at the Baccalaureate level in the state of Kentucky.

SFA graduates will help significantly with workforce needs in the expansion of surgical services that serve all Kentuckians.

The proposed bachelor's degree has been recommended to the Provost by the College of Nursing faculty given their expertise within their respective disciplines. The Provost of the University supports the program faculty's recommendation.

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Action taken:    ☒ Approved    ☐ Disapproved    ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_