



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF NURSING

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 8, 2014

TO: Sherry Queener, Associate Dean, IU Graduate School

FROM: Julie Meek, DNP Program Coordinator, IU School of Nursing
Pat Ebright, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, IU School of Nursing

RE: Request for change in DNP plan of study

IU School of Nursing has offered a 37-credit hour Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program since the fall of 2010. When the DNP was first offered, the plan of study was purposed towards preparing advanced practice nurses (APRNs, e.g., nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, midwives and anesthetists) for leadership roles and to help graduates meet the recommendation that all APRNs earn a DNP as a terminal degree to maintain certification. While the recommendation remains, the 2015 timeline for meeting this certification requirement has been eased. The roles for DNP graduates are also changing, stimulated by the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010. Now, as reported by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 60% of DNP graduates are being hired to lead system-level changes across a variety of healthcare settings, thus requiring high level leadership competencies. While the current DNP plan of study remains strong in terms of leadership preparation, these emerging roles for our DNP graduates call for a greater emphasis on high level leadership and business skills, and a more authentic, problem-based learning approach providing students with a variety of integrative experiences arising from actual practice-based case studies. In response to these changes, faculty has approved that the current D749: Practicum 7-credit single Inquiry Project be replaced with 2 credits of leadership development, 3 credits of integrative case study work and another 2 credits of practicum that the student can choose from a list of options.

We submit this change in the DNP plan of study for your information and for approval at the May 2014 meeting of the Graduate Affairs Committee. The justifications for this change are:

- Recent interviews with local/regional nursing leaders and the subsequent transcription and analysis of their comments revealed that while our current plan of study provides a solid foundation, the balance of content needs to be weighted more heavily on leadership development and business knowledge/skill development that will enable graduates to meet the challenges of solving complex system-level issues.
- Our program will be more differentiated and thus more market competitive. When we started the DNP program in 2010, we were one of three programs in Indiana; we're now one of ten in Indiana with all states surrounding Indiana at nine DNP programs each and Kentucky at seven. The other nine programs in Indiana are focused on providing terminal degree preparation for advanced practice nurses. Our differentiation will allow us to be more competitive and also will expand our market to a nationwide base vs. a local/regional base.

- Students will still be able to complete the program in five semesters, maintaining the total at 37 credit hours. Our plan to replace the single focus Inquiry Project with a series of practicum experiences is also maintained at 7 credit hours.
- This revised plan of study builds on our core strengths and strong clinical partnerships. With IUSON situated within the academic health center as well as IUPUI and surrounded by Magnet hospital systems, we are uniquely situated to capitalize on these differentiating advantages to help students not only attain their DNP, but to also specialize and deepen their expertise in a variety of settings and focus areas such as health informatics, policy leadership, global health, environmental and public health, etc.
- This revised plan of study provides students with an additional 3 credits of electives and 2 credits of tailored Practicum experiences over the current plan of study, thus permitting greater tailoring and ability for students to concurrently earn certificates and/or a minor in their area of specialty. About one third of our students add either a certificate in nursing education or health informatics while in our program. The proposed change permits them to use the additional 3 credits towards those certificate programs.

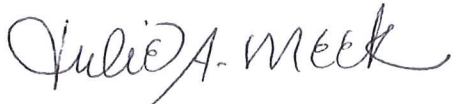
The following table compares the current plan of study with the proposed plan of study. The four courses noted with an “*” are those where minor course title, description and/or competency changes are in preparation and will be submitted to the Graduate Curriculum Sub-Committee. D737 will no longer be offered as course content was consolidated into D736.

Current Plan of Study			Proposed Plan of Study		
Fall-I:	D736: Inquiry I: Evidence-based Research and Translation Science	3 cr	Fall-I:	*D736: Inquiry I: Evidence-based Research and Translation Science	3 cr
	D751: Relationship Centered Leadership in Complex Systems	3 cr		D751: Knowledge Complexity	3 cr
	I630: Informatics	3 cr		*D749: Practicum: Leadership-I	1 cr
	D749: Practicum	1 cr			
Spring-I:	D737: Inquiry-II: Evidence –based Research and Translation Science	3 cr	Spring-I	D751: Relationship Centered Leadership in Complex Systems	3 cr
	D751: Knowledge Complexity	3 cr		D743: Trans-disciplinary Approaches to Influencing Public Health Policy	3 cr
	D735: Clinical Epidemiology & Stats in Nursing	3 cr		D749: Practicum: Leadership-II	1 cr
	D749: Practicum	1 cr		D749: Practicum: Integrative Experience-I	1 cr
Summer-I:	D743: Trans-disciplinary Approaches to Influencing Public Health Policy	3 cr	Summer-I:	Elective	3 cr
	D749: Practicum	2 cr		*I630: Informatics	3 cr
				D749: Practicum: Chooses Option	1 cr
Fall-II	D744: Strategic Human & Financial Resource Management	3 cr	Fall-II:	H615: Health Care Outcomes & Decision Making	3 cr
	D749: Practicum	2 cr		*D735: Clinical Epidemiology & Stats in Nursing	3 cr
				D749: Practicum: Integrative Experience-II	1 cr
Spring-II:	H615: Health Care Outcomes & Decision Making	3 cr	Spring-II:	D744: Strategic Human & Financial Resource Management	3 cr
	Elective	3 cr		Elective	3 cr
	D749: Practicum	1 cr		D749: Practicum: Integrative Experience-III	1 cr
				D749: Practicum: Chooses Option	1 cr
Total:		37 cr	Total:		37 cr

To summarize, we have proposed this revised plan of study to better prepare advanced practice nurses for system-level, strategic leadership roles and request approval of this revised plan of study from the Graduate Affairs Committee.

I welcome any questions and can be reached at 317-278-6148 or at juameek@iu.edu.

Respectfully submitted,



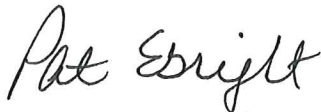
Julie Meek, PhD, RN
DNP Coordinator
Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Community & Health Systems

Proposed changes to the DNP plan of study have been approved by the following:

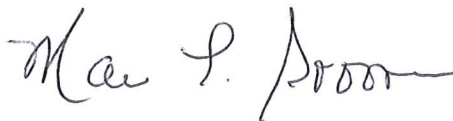
Approval by DNP Curriculum/Student Affairs Committee on May 7, 2014:



Carol Shieh, DNSc, RNC-OB
Chair of DNP C/SA Committee
Associate Professor, Department of Community & Health Systems



Pat Ebright, PhD, RN & Associate Professor
Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, IU School of Nursing



Marion Broome, PhD, RN, FAAN & Professor
Dean, IU School of Nursing