

IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Reviewer:

School:

Department:

Email:

Date Reviewed: January 8, 2007

Documents Reviewed: Nursing Education Major in the IUSON Master's Degree Proposal (includes cover letter from Dr Dan Pesut and the proposal itself)

Summary of the Proposal: The School of Nursing is proposing to add a nursing education major to the existing Master's Degree in Nursing. Rationale for the major is the documented need for more people to be educated as nurses due to the state and national nurse shortage. A major component of this shortage is that there are not enough faculty to educate people to become nurses. Therefore, the goal of the proposed major is to educate nurses to be faculty. Another goal appears to be to enhance the backgrounds of nurses so as to permit them to function as educators in facilities and agencies. This goal would not impact on the nursing shortage.

The major is designed to be offered completely on line and includes a combination of new and existing courses. Full time students could complete degree requirements for the major in 18 months. Principle components of the degree include core courses, advanced practice courses, nursing education courses, and practica/seminar. Total credit hours required is 42. 3.65 faculty will be needed to present the major; 20 students is anticipated steady state enrollment.

Review:

1. Program Goals: The program goals appear to be clear and achievable. The rationale for creating educators of nurses is compelling. However, it is unclear to me if the addition of more faculty will completely solve the inability of programs to accept more students, or will programs continue to face space and clinical site constraints as well.

2. Academic Soundness: Regarding the academic soundness of the program, I had several questions. I posed these questions to Dr Dan Pesut, the designated contact for the major, and what follows is my understanding of Dan's responses. If I have misinterpreted his remarks, I welcome his comments.

My first question had to do with the level of the degree-a master's degree. Indeed, Dan assured me that academic institutions would accept master's prepared nurses to teach in associate and baccalaureate nursing programs. However, I would suggest that students who express an interest in this program be clearly advised regarding the difference in academic opportunities afforded to

nurses educated at the master's degree level and those educated at the doctoral level.

One of the principle components of the proposed major is 13 credit hours in Advanced Practice Nursing Knowledge Core to include "introduction to the scientific foundations for clinical nurse specialist practice, enhancing health behavior through psycho-educational interventions, and data analysis for clinical and administrative decision-making". It is not clear why nurses who are being educated to be educators would be required to take these courses. I would suggest that the document more clearly articulate the rationale underlying the required advanced practice component for this major.

On page 6 the document speaks to having students enrolled in teaching practica be paired with expert teachers in both clinical and classroom contexts. In speaking with Dan, the IUSON apparently has a cadre of nurses who are willing to supervise student practia without compensation. I would suggest that the document more clearly reflect the required background of theses supervisors **in the area of teaching** and state that no compensation is being considered.

With regard to admission criteria, (page 7) the criterion of having applicants being required to hold Indiana State licensure would seem to limit this major to that particular cohort so that even though the major is offered on line, applicants are limited to those holding state licensure. In speaking with Dan, that is the intent of the school at this time so as to meet the nurse educator shortage in the state.

Also with regard to admission criteria (page 7) Dan states that the school does have mechanisms in place to determine whether or not an applicant meets the essential abilities as outlined for admission.

When the curriculum and core courses are laid out on page 10, it would be helpful to identify what courses are existing and what courses are new. In speaking with Dan, it is my understanding that the following courses are new: N504, M500 and T679.

3. Faculty Resources: I am unable to tell from the proposal if the deployment of faculty to this major would adversely impact the SON and its existing programs.

4. Overlap: There would appear to be overlap in courses with some of the other majors currently being offered in the SON master's degree program. This overlap could result in an effective use of resources as long as the overlap is intentional and is germane to the goals of the major (ie: the advanced practice courses).

Recommendations/comments/concerns: Please see my responses to items 1-4. Overall, I am supportive of the proposal.