

Proposition Number: 12-08/09

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Proposed Committee:

Actual Committee Assignment: Scholastic Affairs 3/17

Title: School of Nursing Proposal for the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

Proposal:

This program has been developed based on the New Mexico Department of Higher Education provisions of Title 5 Post-Secondary Education, Chapter 5 Post-Secondary Educational Programs, and Part 2 Approval of New Graduate Programs 5.52.9 Requirements for Approval of Graduate Programs.

The program will maintain and increase the number of advanced practice prepared nurses who are critically needed to provide advanced nursing services within New Mexico. This program is transitional for specific advanced practice nursing specialties as national requirements mandate movement for advanced practice nursing (APN) from masters level education to a doctorate of nursing practice (a practice doctoral degree). The three specialty concentrations that are proposed for the transition are: adult health nursing, psychiatric-mental health nursing, and public/community health nursing. Two avenues are projected for the DNP. For advanced practice nurses with masters in nursing, a post masters DNP route will be available. For registered nurses (RNs) with bachelor's degrees in nursing (BSN), the move would be directly from the BSN to the DNP.

The development of advanced practice nurses at the doctoral level is consistent with the role and scope of New Mexico State University and its strategic vision document, "Living the Vision: A Performance Plan for Excellence which is New Mexico State." A Hispanic-Serving and High Research Activity University, New Mexico State University has as its mission: "New Mexico State University is the state's land-grant university, serving the educational needs of New Mexico's diverse population through comprehensive programs of education, research, extension education, and public service." The NMSU School of Nursing (SON) Mission Statement: "The mission of the NMSU School of Nursing is to promote health and improve the quality of life for the people of New Mexico through comprehensive nursing education, research, practice and public service while recognizing the state's multicultural heritage and dynamic border environment" is congruent with the larger NMSU mission and speaks to the appropriateness of adding the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) to its approved program offerings.

The NMSU Vision is "By 2020, New Mexico State University will be a premier university as evidenced by demonstrated and quantifiable excellence in teaching, research, and service relative to its peer institutions." As a premier member of the university community, the School of Nursing's ability to offer a DNP is critical in assisting the university to realize its mission. Advanced practice nurses play an essential role in the delivery of a wide variety of health services to the residences of the state/region, many times in underserved areas. The services provided range from primary care, acute care, mental/behavioral health services for individuals as well as population focused programs. If the

NMSU SON does not transition its graduate advanced practice nursing concentrations to the DNP, it will be unable to educate these greatly needed health care providers as national requirements mandate this level of education by 2015.

The consistency between institutional goals and objectives and the proposed DNP are outlined in the following table.

Table 1: Selected NMSU Goals, Objectives, & Doctorate of Nursing Practice Interface			
NMSU Goal		NMSU Objective	Nursing Doctoral Interface
1	To be the "University of Choice" for undergraduate education in New Mexico	Achieve diversity among undergraduates, students, faculty & staff similar to New Mexico's demography	Greater than 50% of undergraduate students are classified as minority. This provides a diverse doctoral applicant pool from which to educate a large number of diverse doctoral prepared nurses. Doctoral prepared nurses from diverse ethnic/racial backgrounds are underrepresented in all nursing areas and even more so at the advanced practice doctoral level. Provision of diverse advanced practice nursing role models will result from this doctoral program.
3	To be nationally and internationally recognized in research and creative activity	Obtain increasing levels of external funding for research, creative activity, & other sponsored programs to achieve parity with peer institutions	Strong nursing academic and practice health research programs will be supported through implementation of doctorate of nursing practice program as this both attracts and retains nursing faculty who will work with colleagues in health care. This will not only create new practice but translation research into practice.
		Demonstrate faculty participation in research & creative activity similar to peer institutions with one criteria being number of awarded doctoral degrees	The increased emphasis on evidenced based practice combined with partners in academic and practice settings is projected to increase the number of approved/funded external proposals and improved health care outcomes
5	To serve as an engine for economic, social, educational and community development in New Mexico.	Speak to technology transfer, community development	SON doctorate of nursing practice program will facilitate improved health care access, services, and health outcomes thus promoting economic development and improve quality of life.
6	To be an excellent steward of all resources dedicated to achieving the vision of the university.	Speak to developmental funds, allocation, and fiscal responsibility	Transitioning of three concentrations from existing masters nursing tracks to DNP, builds on existing expertise/resources within the NMSU SON.

The DNP curriculum will prepare individuals who assume leadership roles as advanced practice nurses in which they will promote an environment of best practices and gain additional skills necessary for the clinical nursing leader of the future. The curriculum will consist of a doctoral core of courses related to nursing theory/research, population/public health, health care organization, communications/leadership, and evidence based practice. In addition, advanced clinical practicums, a clinical project, and specialty specific content are included.

Two avenues are projected for the DNP: For advanced practice nurses, a post masters DNP and for RNs with bachelor degrees in nursing, a direct route from BSN to DNP.

- Masters to DNP course work will consist of a minimum of 34 semester credits. Course work includes topics not covered in the MSN, practica hours, and a scholarly project.
- The BSN to DNP course work consists of core courses related to nursing theory/research; population/public health; health care organization; communication/leadership; advanced practice courses, and evidenced based practice. Each concentration has specialty specific course work and all concentrations include 1000 practicum hours and a scholarly project.
 - Psychiatric Mental Health-94 semester credits
 - Adult Health Nursing-90 semester credits
 - Public/Community Health Nursing-85 semester credits

As a point of information, the discipline of nursing has two types of doctoral education. The research doctorate (PhD or DSN) has a focus on research while the practice doctorate (DNP) has a focus on practice. These differences in foci explain the distinguishing features in the curricula for each of the degrees (PhD versus DNP). The DNP has substantially more specialty specific practice related course work while the PhD has more research course work.

Rationale:

The need for this degree is based on: the status of New Mexico as largely medically underserved; the existing and worsening shortage of nurses within the nation and the state; the lack of educational mobility options for many masters prepared nurses who desire doctoral nursing education; the need for increased numbers of advanced practice doctoral prepared nurses to address the complex health needs of the diverse residents of New Mexico and the U.S.-Mexico Border Region; and the need to educate nursing faculty as a strategic approach to the state's nursing shortage. In addition, by 2015 national requirements for advanced practice nurses will necessitate education at the DNP level. Without this level of education, individuals desiring advanced practice nursing status will not be eligible for national certification thus decreasing the number and availability of practitioners/clinical nurse specialists. The program clearly provides a response to societal requirements, employer needs, and student demands.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in 2004 endorsed the position of the practice doctorate in nursing. This called for the movement of advanced practice nursing education from the master degree to the doctoral degree by the year 2015. They further developed the DNP Essentials to guide DNP curriculums in 2006. Subsequently, the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education established criteria for accrediting DNP programs in 2007. Calls for improvement in patient care quality/safety, the need for more nursing clinical faculty, and the nursing shortage that mandates improvement in efficiency in health care are the factors driving the imperative to establish DNP programs across the country. Eighty-two (82) DNP programs are fully functioning and nationally over 140 others are in the process of being established. Within our region, the University of New Mexico and the University of Texas- El Paso are in the process of developing/implementing their programs

while DNP programs are operational at the University of Arizona, Arizona State, University of Colorado-Denver, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, and Texas Tech University.

At present, the only DNP programs are located outside of New Mexico. With the DNP, the specialty is a consideration in selection of a particular program. The concentrations for NMSU are psychiatric-mental health, adult health, and public/community health. The psychiatric mental health concentration is the only one in New Mexico and neither University of Texas- El Paso, Texas Tech, or University of Colorado has this concentration/track. Similarly the public/community health and adult health foci are different that within other regional universities. For example, the University of Texas- El Paso is planning an acute care nurse practitioner program while ours is an adult health clinical nurse specialist concentration. The Western Regional Graduate Program for 2008-2010 shows limited availability for advanced nursing practice education in all areas; however, this is even less at the DNP level with programs listed only for University of Utah and University of Arizona.

The concentrations selected for the NMSU DNP are different than those of our sister College of Nursing at the University of New Mexico. The UNM College of Nursing foci are in the general areas of maternal child health (nurse midwifery) and family nurse practitioner (primary care). By offering different clinical specialty areas from those at University of New Mexico, the NMSU DNP provides the nursing community of New Mexico with a greater variety in advanced practice specialty concentrations. This benefits the state as a greater variety of nursing specialties are more likely to be represented and provide critical advanced practice nursing services within New Mexico.