

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM ACCREDITATION REPORT
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report from the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at the University of Iowa.

Executive Summary: The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the standards defined by the accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators.

In November 2014, the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program was informed that the program was accredited for the maximum period of 10 years. The program met all four accreditation standards without any compliance concerns. The review by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee is to discuss the results of the accreditation review, the program improvements resulting from the accreditation visit, and future plans of the program/college.

This report, which addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priorities to “ensure access to education and student success; to promote and support innovation in teaching, research, and economic development; and to promote effective use of resources to meet institutional missions,” was submitted to the Board of Regents in January 2017. It also complies with Board policy on accreditation reporting.

Background:

- ◇ **Description of programs.** The Doctor of Nursing Practice is designed to prepare clinicians with the knowledge and skills to provide the highest standard of care for individuals, families and communities to work within today’s complex health care systems. Nurse managers and administrations will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to develop, implement and monitor programs of care and policies in complex organizations. The program prepares advanced practice nurses for leadership roles by educating them in evidence-based practice, economics, finance and policy. The Program offers experiences in the following specialties – Adult/Gero Nurse Practitioner; Nurse Anesthesia; Family Nurse Practitioner; Neonatal Nurse Practitioner; Pediatric Nurse Practitioner; Psych/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; and Health Systems.
- ◇ **Purpose of Accreditation.** An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met national standards for its development and evaluation. To employers, graduate schools, and licensure, certification, and registration boards, graduation from an accredited program signifies adequate preparation for entry into the profession. In fact, many of these groups require graduation from an accredited program as a minimum qualification. Accreditation is also intended to protect the interests of students, benefit the public, and improve the quality of teaching, learning, research, and professional practice. Accreditation is also critical for recruitment of new students.
- ◇ **Accrediting Agency.** The accrediting body is the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). A program’s accreditation is based upon the findings of the Visiting Team which determines if the accreditation standards are in compliance.

- ◇ Review Process. The self-study prepared by the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program contained the responses to the standards required by the accrediting body which included the following: (1) Program Quality – Mission and Governance; (2) Program Quality – Institutional Commitment and Resources; (3) Curriculum and Teaching-Learning Practices; and (4) Assessment and Achievement of Program Outcomes.

- ◇ On-Site Team Report. In February 2014, the visiting team identified strengths of the program. The team assessed the program to determine its ability to meet the 56 CAHME Criteria for Accreditation. Each criterion was assessed as Met, Partially Met, or Not Met. The results of the assessment identified 50 criteria receiving Met status, six criteria receiving Partially Met status, and none of the CAHME criteria receiving Not Met status.

- ◇ Sample Elaborations Identified by the Visiting Team.
 - ⇒ “The program’s mission statement, goals, and expected program outcomes are written and accessible to current and prospective students.
 - ⇒ There is a defined process for periodic review and revision of program mission, goals, and expected student outcomes.
 - ⇒ The nursing unit identified expectations for faculty, whether in teaching, scholarship, service, practice, or other areas.
 - ⇒ The budget enables achievement of the program’s mission, goals, and expected outcomes.
 - ⇒ Academic support services (e.g., library, technology, distance education support, research support, admission, and advising services) are adequate for students and faculty to meet program requirements and to achieve the mission, goals, and expected program outcomes.
 - ⇒ Faculty are academically prepared for the areas in which they teach.
 - ⇒ Curricular objectives (e.g., course, unit, and/or level objectives or competencies as identified by the program) provide clear statements of expected learning that relate to student outcomes.
 - ⇒ To prepare students for a practice profession, each track in each degree program and post-graduate APRN certificate program affords students the opportunity to develop professional competencies in practice settings aligned to the educational preparation.
 - ⇒ Faculty use data from faculty and student evaluation of teaching-learning practices to inform decisions that facilitate the achievement of student outcomes.
 - ⇒ The program uses a systematic process to obtain relevant data to determine program effectiveness.
 - ⇒ The program demonstrates achievement of required program outcomes regarding completion.
 - ⇒ The employment rate is 70% or higher.
 - ⇒ The program uses outcome data for improvement.”

- ◇ Accreditation Status. In November 2014, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education awarded accreditation to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at the University of Iowa for the maximum period of 10 years to December 2024. All four accreditation standards were met. No compliance concerns with respect to the key elements were identified. As is required for all accredited programs, a Continuous Improvement Progress Report (CIPR) must be submitted at the mid-point of the accreditation term. The CIPR must demonstrate the program's continued compliance with all accreditation standards and key elements. The deadline for submitting the CIPR is December 1, 2019.