

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
**ACCREDITATION REPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Receive the accreditation report for the Nursing Education Program in the College of Nursing at the University of Iowa.

**Executive Summary:** The Nursing Education Program includes the following programs – Bachelor of Science in Nursing; RN-BSN; Master of Science in Nursing - Clinical Nurse Leader; Master of Science in Nursing; Doctor of Nursing Practice; and Ph.D. in Nursing. The Nursing Education 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. The program was accredited for the maximum six-year period through 2014. This accreditation report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan objective (1.1) to “offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students.”

**Background:**

◆ **Description of Programs.**

- ☑ The *Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)* program builds on natural and behavioral sciences and integrates liberal arts and professional courses into a cohesive program. Clinical experiences involve working with clients in community and hospital settings. The program prepares professional nurses to be primary health providers who are able to engage in a broad range of health promotion and teaching activities, as well as to coordinate care in any sector of the health care system.
- ☑ The *RN-BSN* program is delivered largely online to associate degree and diploma-prepared registered nurses who seek to expand their nursing skills and professional potential by completing a four-year program.
- ☑ The *Master of Science in Nursing – Clinical Nurse Leader* program is a unique program for students who have a bachelor’s degree in a non-nursing area and are interested in pursuing a career in nursing. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to sit for the national licensing exam to earn RN licensure; they are also eligible to test for certification as a clinical nurse leader.
- ☑ The *Master of Science in Nursing* program prepares graduates for roles as clinical specialists, nurse managers, and nurse educators.
- ☑ The *Doctor of Nursing Practice* program is a clinical doctorate which prepares nurses for leadership roles in an advanced clinical specialty with immersion in public policy and advocacy, specialty systems, change theory, economics, and finance. The program offers six specialties – adult/gero nurse practitioner; nurse anesthesia; family nurse practitioner; neonatal nurse practitioner; pediatric nurse practitioner; and psych/mental health nurse practitioner.
- ☑ The *Ph.D. in Nursing* program prepares scholars to conduct research in nursing, to extend the knowledge base relevant to nursing, and to collaborate in interdisciplinary research with other scholars. The program has four focal areas – nursing in aging; nursing administration; child and family nursing; and nursing informatics.

◆ **Purpose of Accreditation.** An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met state and national standards for its development and evaluation.

- ◇ Accrediting Agency. The accrediting body is the Iowa Board of Nursing.
- ◇ Review Process. The self-study prepared by the Nursing Education Program contained the responses to the appropriate standards/guidelines required by the accrediting body – organization and administration of the program; resources of the controlling institution; curriculum; faculty; program responsibilities; clinical facilities; preceptors; and report to the Iowa Board of Nursing.
- ◇ On-Site Team Report. In April 2008, the visiting team determined that the Nursing Education Program met the requirements for accredited status with three recommendations.
- ◇ Sample Strengths Identified by the Visiting Team.
  - ☑ “Teaching, research, and service are tightly interwoven in the philosophies, policies and strategic plan of the University of Iowa as well as in those of the College of Nursing.”
  - ☑ “The proposal for the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program provides an example of how the philosophy and mission of the College was used to guide new program development. The program developed reflects the College of Nursing beliefs about the role of research in nursing practice as well as the beliefs about practice leadership.”
  - ☑ “The College of Nursing evaluation plan provides for a systematic evaluation of all elements of the College programs.”
  - ☑ “To complement the supportive and educational services of the University, the College provides technical and professional staff to assist faculty in research proposal development and statistical support as well as assistance with online and distance learning technologies.”
- ◇ Recommendations Identified by the Visiting Team and Institutional Responses (italics).
  - ☑ Curriculum. “Include subrule 2.5(5) in all course syllabi, which have a critical component, and all student materials, e.g., college catalog and student handbook. Develop a policy for all students’ notification.” Subrule 2.5(5) states that “Curricula of postbasic programs shall (a) provide advanced didactic content and practice in a specialty area of nursing and (b) address the role of advanced registered nurse practitioners.”  
*Beginning with the Fall 2008 semester, faculty will include the recommended portion of subrule 2.5(5) in all course syllabi.*
  - ☑ Program responsibilities. “Remove paragraph two and three of the ‘Past Felony Conviction’ requirements as stated in the Undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Nursing Student Handbook 2006-07, and also from all student handbooks and written materials available to students.”  
*The requested changes were made to the 2008-09 Nursing Student Handbook.*
  - ☑ Program responsibilities. “Include a statement on the BSN Graduation Profile indicating the evaluation is based on program outcomes.”  
*This statement was incorporated into the BSN Graduation profile for the Fall 2008 term.*
- ◇ Accreditation Status. In June 2008, the Iowa Board of Nursing awarded accreditation to the Nursing Education Program at the University of Iowa for a six-year period through 2014.