

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

NURSING PROGRAMS
ACCREDITATION REPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

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

Executive Summary: The Nursing Programs that underwent accreditation include the following – Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Bachelor of Science in Nursing for RNs (RN-BSN); Master of Science in Nursing - Clinical Nurse Leader; Master of Science in Nursing; and Doctor of Nursing Practice. The Nursing Programs (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 baccalaureate and master’s programs were accredited for the maximum ten-year period through 2019. The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program received initial accreditation for the maximum five-year period through 2014. This accreditation report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to provide “educational excellence and impact.”

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 basic undergraduate program consists of 128 credit hours including 59 credit hours in the nursing major.
- ☑ 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. There are 128 credit hours required for completion of this program. In accordance with the Iowa Board of Nursing Statewide Articulation Plan, students are granted 64 credit hours for the basic nursing program completed at a community college. Thirty of the remaining 64 credit hours must be taken in the nursing major. The courses included in this curriculum are similar to those required in the BSN program. However, all didactic courses are delivered through an on-line format; laboratory and precepted practicum experiences are facilitated by nursing faculty and completed in the student’s local community.
- ☑ 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. This 61 credit hour accelerated program is offered over five concurrent terms, including summers and one winter session.

- ☑ The *Master of Science in Nursing* program prepares graduates for roles as clinical specialists, nurse managers, and nurse educators. This program has a number of focus areas, including advanced practice, nursing administration, and education or clinical. Students may also complete a dual degree program, MSN/Master of Public Health. This program requires 33-56 credit hours for completion.
- ☑ The *Doctor of Nursing Practice* program was approved by the Board of Regents in June 2007 and admitted the first class in Fall 2007. This 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/gerontology nurse practitioner; nurse anesthesia; family nurse practitioner; neonatal nurse practitioner; pediatric nurse practitioner; and psych/mental health nurse practitioner. It builds on the MSN advanced practice curriculum and may be completed with an additional 29 credit hours by students who completed an advanced practice program.
- ◇ 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 Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- ◇ Review Process. The self-study prepared by the Nursing Programs contained the responses to the standards/guidelines required by the accrediting body: program quality – mission and governance; program quality – institutional commitment and resources; program quality – curriculum, teaching-learning practices, and individual student learning outcomes; and program effectiveness – aggregate student performance and faculty accomplishments.
- ◇ On-Site Team Report. In April 2009, the visiting team determined that the Nursing Programs met the requirements for accredited status.
- ◇ Sample Elaborations Identified by the Visiting Team.
 - ☑ “Expected student outcomes are clear and may be expressed as competencies, objectives, benchmarks, or other language congruent with institutional and program norms.”
 - ☑ “Roles of the faculty and students in the governance of the program, including those involved in distance education, are clearly defined and enable meaningful participation.”
 - ☑ “The budget enables achievement of the program’s mission, goals, and expected student and faculty outcomes.”
 - ☑ “Each degree program and specialty area incorporates professional nursing standards and guidelines relevant to that program/area.”
- ◇ Accreditation Status. In November 2009, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education awarded accreditation to the baccalaureate and master’s Nursing Programs at the University of Iowa for a ten-year period through 2019 and to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program for a five-year period through 2014. There are no compliance concerns with respect to the key elements. As is required for all accredited programs, the programs must submit a Continuous Improvement Progress Report at the mid-point of their respective accreditation terms.