

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE MASTER'S PROGRAM IN NURSING AND HEALTHCARE
PRACTICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Master's Program in Nursing and Healthcare Practice (MNHP) in the College of Nursing.

Executive Summary: The request to terminate the Program resulted from recommendations by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the national accreditation agency for baccalaureate and graduate programs in nursing, for a better clinical nurse leader curriculum. This led the College of Nursing to adopt programmatic changes to the MNHP program, including a transition from a stand-alone MNHP Program to a new Clinical Nurse Leader CNL) sub-track in the existing Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program administered by the Graduate College. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue "educational excellence and impact."

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** In 2003, the Board of Regents approved the creation of the MNHP Program at the University of Iowa. The program was created in response to a 1999 recommendation from AACN for more effective nursing education programs to meet client care needs in the health care delivery system by preparing clinical nurse leaders. These leaders would be responsible for designing, implementing, and evaluating client care through the coordination, delegation, and supervision of care provided by the health care team of licensed nurses, technicians, and other health professionals.

The program was designed to enable individuals who possessed undergraduate and/or graduate degrees in other fields and who had taken the necessary prerequisites to earn a professional master's degree in nursing in 15 months. It was designed as an accelerated pre-licensure program for students who had not completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Upon completion of the required didactic and clinical practicum experiences, MNHP students became master's prepared nurse generalists eligible for entry into practice as well as entry into clinical leadership roles.

- ◇ **Reason for proposed termination.** In 2004, the AACN updated its curriculum recommendations for preparing clinical nurse leaders and the University concluded that a more effective way to meet the recommendations was through the creation of a Clinical Nurse Leader sub-track in the existing MSN Program. In June 2007 (Agenda Item #10I), the University of Iowa requested authorization to suspend admissions to the MNHP program which would allow the College to transition to the Clinical Nurse Leader sub-track. At that time, there were 61 students enrolled in the MNHP Program. Those students were offered the option of transferring to the Clinical Nurse Leader MSN sub-track or to complete the MNHP Program. The last class of students (n=53) to receive the MNHP degree graduated from the College of Nursing in May 2008. No new students were admitted after June 2007.

- ◇ Transition to new sub-track. The College of Nursing reconfigured the MNHP curriculum plan of study to more fully align with the standards in the national movement to prepare clinical nurse leaders. The significant differences between the plan of study for the MNHP program and the MSN-CNL program include the following:
 - ⇒ Expansion of the current program from four to five semesters, including the expectation that students complete one designated course during the Winter Session.
 - ⇒ Incorporation of additional courses deemed essential to the effective implementation of the clinical nurse leader role in practice based on the AACN recommendations and the core courses required for the MSN program in the College of Nursing.
 - ⇒ Inclusion of a Capstone Residency course designed as an immersion experience in the CNL role, including 315 clinical contact hours.
 - ⇒ Inclusion of two new courses – Intensive Practicum III and Capstone Residency – which were approved by the Iowa Board of Nursing.

- ◇ Impact on resources. There will be no additional expenses associated with the proposed termination of the MNHP Program and the transition to the MSN-CNL Program. The CNL sub-track model has the potential for cost savings. The post-BSN entry model will decrease the number of faculty and clinical sites required to deliver the program. All of the admitted students will have licensure; therefore, the level of faculty supervision in clinical practice will be less than that required for pre-licensure students. This will allow the College of Nursing to educate additional students because there will be more faculty availability to teach courses.

- ◇ Impact on workforce. The College of Nursing is the only higher education institution in Iowa that offered the MNHP program. Future students will still be able to pursue a Master's degree in nursing (MSN-CNL) and at other Iowa Board of Nursing approved institutions in the state.

- ◇ Effect on current students. No new students have been admitted into the MNHP program since admissions were suspended in June 2007; there are no current students.

- ◇ Effective date of termination. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, termination of the program will become effective immediately.