

## REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

### UNIVERSITY OF AKRON Doctor of Nursing Practice

#### **Request:**

The College of Nursing at the University of Akron requests approval for a new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

#### **Background:**

The American Association of Colleges of Nurses (AACN) recommends that preparation of advanced practice nurses be moved from the current requirement of a MSN degree to a DNP by 2015. The College of Nursing at the University of Akron is seeking approval to offer the new DNP in response to these recommendations. The DNP has emerged from the nursing profession in the United States as a response to the need for coordinated, sophisticated clinical care that is safe, accessible, and of the highest quality for a population increasingly in need of health care services.

The proposed DNP will focus on advanced clinical practice, rather than research, which makes it distinctive from the Ph.D. in Nursing. The university will maintain its joint PhD program in Nursing with Kent State University.

#### **Curriculum and Enrollment:**

The University of Akron will eventually provide three pathways to the DNP: 1) post-baccalaureate, which includes an advanced practice specialty; 2) post MSN for certified advanced practice nurses; and 3) post MSN for non-advanced practice nurses who wish to become certified advanced practice nurses. The proposed post-baccalaureate DNP requires a minimum of 71 semester credit hours and 1040 clinical hours for graduation. Post-master's entry requires a minimum of 37 credits of DNP core courses, 540 clinical practice hours, and the transfer of at least 34 credits of graduate nursing course work, including at least 500 clinical hours. The curriculum for the DNP program is based the AACN *Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice Nursing*, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) *Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Degree Programs* and the 2008 National Task Force *Criteria for the Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs*.

Initially, enrollment of students will be into the part-time post master's entry pathway for students with advanced practice master's degrees only. Twelve students per year will be accepted in this pathway and graduation for these part-time students is expected in three calendar years.

#### **Faculty and Resources:**


Adequate faculty, facilities, staff and resources are in place to support program start-up. Kent State University and University of Akron will share resources by having each university teach

three DNP core courses, in which students from both universities will enroll. Additionally, University of Akron has plans to add one FTE DNP-prepared faculty member in the second year of the program.

**Recommendation:**

The proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate and professional degrees, and the members of RACGS unanimously voted to recommend approval to the Chancellor.

**End of Comment Period: August 2, 2011**  
**No Comments Received, Recommend Approval**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	
The Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs has verified that this institution has met the standards and requirements of the Ohio Board of Regents.	
	8/3/11
Stephanie Davidson, Vice Chancellor	Date

<b>APPROVED</b>	
	
Jim Petro, Chancellor	8-4-11
	Date

mlc