

Letter of Notification - 3 New Option, Concentration, Emphasis

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas
2. Contact person/title:

Sharon Gaber, Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs
3. Phone number/e-mail address:

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4. Proposed effective date: Fall 2012
5. Title of degree program: BS Nursing (current degree offered)
6. CIP Code: 51.3801
7. Degree Code: 2940
8. Proposed option/concentration/emphasis name: no change in name as we've always offered an R.N. to B.S.N program.
9. Reason for proposed action:

The online nursing program will be established to eliminate barriers of time and place that prevent registered nurses with associate degrees from continuing their education. Flexibility and convenience are major benefits that appeal to most RN students. RN students will not follow the typical class and clinical schedules that are fixed and largely inflexible. Thus, RNs may also work while they are earning a degree. The ability to practice nursing with flexible learning schedules are important advantages of online education.

Learners who work well on their own, are computer literate (or can quickly develop the required computer skills), and have access to the Web are likely to be interested in online education. Another benefit to online education is the interaction with other student learners and professors about their nursing practice that may be limited due to the RN's geographical confines. Collaborating with people from different settings, cultures, and levels of experience is a potential benefit that can enhance the learning environment and provide RN students with a wider network of contacts.

From a health care provider workforce prospective, the on-line RN-BSN program will meet the future supply and demands for professional nurses. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* (2010) wrote, "Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression". The Affordable Care Act establishes an increased need for nurses in public health and

community settings to manage chronic illness and to coordinate care among agencies and clinicians. Patients' needs have become more complex which require nurses to acquire higher levels of practice competencies. Today's patient care also requires nurses to use more complicated technologies and manage the resulting data to best meet the needs of the patient. These expectations can be best met through a liberal arts education and higher education. Nurses need significantly higher levels of preparation in evidence-based practice and research skills.

10. New option/concentration/emphasis objective: To provide flexibility in obtaining a baccalaureate degree for registered nurses.

11. Provide the following:

a. Curriculum outline - List of required courses

Requirements for Bachelor of Science in Nursing

University Core (State Minimum Core) 35 hours

*English (6 hours)

*ENGL 1013 English Composition I

*ENGL 1023 English Composition II

*Mathematics (3 hours)

*MATH 1203 College Algebra or equivalent

*Sciences with Labs (8 hours) must include

*4 hours of CHEM including a lab (Must be CHEM 1073/1071L or higher)

*BIOL 2443/2441L Human Anatomy**

*Fine Arts/Humanities (6 hours) Must include one of the following courses: *PHIL 2003

Intro to Philosophy; *PHIL 2103 Intro to Ethics; *PHIL 2203 Logic; or *PHIL 3103

Ethics and the Professions

*3 hours Core History/Government

*Social Sciences (9 hours) Must include *HESC 1403 Lifespan Development

Additional General Studies 25 hours

*BIOL 2213/2211L Human Physiology

*EDFD 2403 Statistics in Nursing, or *PSYC 2013 Introduction to Statistics for Psychology, or *STAT 2303 Principles of Statistics or

*STAT 2023 Biostatistics

*BIOL 2013/2011L General Microbiology

*14 elective hours (as needed)

*Denotes pre-requisite nursing courses that GPA will be computed on for admission into the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing, whether they are from the University of Arkansas or transfer hours.

**BIOL 1543/1541L is a prerequisite for BIOL 2013/2011L and BIOL 2443/2441L and may be used as part of the elective hours.

As directed by the Arkansas Nursing Articulation Model, credit for courses listed below will be held in escrow. The student will receive credit for these courses upon successful completion of the program.

NURS 2032 Therapeutic Communication
NURS 3313 Pharmacology
NURS 3422 Nursing Concepts: Foundations
NURS 3424 Professional Role Implementation I: Caregiver
NURS 3634 Nursing Concepts: Adult Health I
NURS 3644 Professional Role Implementation II: Caregiver
NURS 3742 Nursing Concepts: Mental Health and Illness
NURS 3752 Professional Role Implementation III: Caregiver
NURS 4154 Nursing Concepts: Child and Family
NURS 4164 Professional Role Implementation IV: Teacher
NURS 4262 Nursing Concepts: Adult Health II
NURS 4442 Nursing Concepts: Critical Care
NURS 4452 Professional Role Implementation VI: Role Synthesis
Total Credit Hours of Escrow (37)

R.N. to B.S.N. Professional Nursing Program

NURS 4003 Transition to Profession Nursing Practice
NURS 4013 Informatics for Professional Nursing
NURS 4112 Teaching and Health Promotion
NURS 4203 Leading and Managing in Healthcare Micro-Environments
NURS 4323 Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning for RNs
NURS 4603 Nursing Concepts: Communities
NURS 4701 Professional Nursing Synthesis
NURS 5053 Evidence -based Practice
NURS 5063 Health Care Policy
NURS 5143 Advanced Pathophysiology

R.N. to B.S.N. Nursing Courses	27 hours
Total credits granted from escrow	37 hours
Total degree hours	124 hours

b. New course descriptions:

NURS 4003: Transition to Professional Nursing Practice [new]
The course introduces the RN student to the standards and concepts of professional nursing based on the Essentials of Baccalaureate for Professions Nursing Education.

NURS 4013: Informatics for the Professional Nurse [new]
This course focuses on how information technology is used in the health care system. The course describes how nursing informatics is currently being used by healthcare professionals, and speculates about future applications.

NURS 4203: Leading and Managing in Healthcare Micro-environments [new]

This course introduces theories and principles of management and leadership and the professional nurse's role within the health care system. Social issues, economic policy, and regulatory requirements are used to explore healthcare delivery systems and access, quality improvement, and patient safety. This course includes strategies for monitoring delivery of care, outcomes, and evaluating program effectiveness.

NURS 4323: Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning for Professional Nurses [new]

This 3-credit theory course builds on the Registered Nurse's clinical experience and knowledge of health assessment. Emphasis is placed on expanding physical assessment skills, interpreting abnormal findings, and applying the principles of evidence-based practice to the health assessment process. The role of documentation of health assessment in third party reimbursement is also explored.

NURS 4701: Professional Nursing Synthesis [new]

The course emphasizes reflection, integration, and synthesis of concepts from previous courses. Course enrollment occurs in the last semester of the program.

c. Program goals and objectives:

The mission of the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing is to promote the health of society through education of professional nurses, research, and service. Specifically, the educational program at the baccalaureate level prepares the graduate as a member of the discipline uses knowledge from a research base to fulfill the roles of the nurse in contemporary society as a caregiver, manager, and/or teacher. On entry into practice, the graduate makes clinical judgments using critical thinking and other key nursing concepts to address health care needs in diverse settings. The baccalaureate nurse works singularly or in collaboration with other health care professionals in coordinating and promoting the health of culturally diverse clients.

d. Expected student learning outcomes:

The BSN graduate is prepared to provide culturally appropriate care to individuals, families, groups, communities and populations through the roles of caregiver, teacher, manager, and member of the profession.

1. Contribute leadership to health care systems, in professional organizations, and inter-professional teams to promote quality improvement and patient safety.
2. Design, deliver and evaluate evidence-based patient-centered care across the lifespan and the health-illness continuum.
3. Demonstrate skill in using patient care technologies, information systems, and communication devices that support safe nursing practice.
4. Use knowledge of healthcare policy, finance, and regulatory environments to advocate for quality health care.
5. Use effective professional communication and collaborative skills to deliver evidence-based care to individuals, families and communities as part of an inter-professional team.

6. Design, deliver, and evaluate evidence-based health promotion/health protection interventions and programs.
7. Assume responsibility and accountability for behaviors that reflect professional standards for moral, ethical and legal conduct.
8. Conduct comprehensive and focused physical, behavioral, psychological, spiritual, socioeconomic, and environmental assessments of health and illness using developmentally appropriate approaches.

12. Will the new option be offered via distance delivery? Yes

13. Mode of delivery to be used: On line delivery using Blackboard course management software

14. Explain in detail the distance delivery procedures to be used.

Students will use a computer and the Internet to access course materials, including threaded discussions, multimedia, chat rooms, homework assignments, testing, and more. Blackboard, a course management system for course delivery will be utilized.

15. Is the degree approved for distance delivery?

Yes. The University of Arkansas Global Campus approved the distance delivery method. This letter of notification is a request for state approval for distance delivery.

16. List courses in option/concentration/emphasis. Include course descriptions for new courses. In addition to the required general studies courses and nursing courses held in escrow, students in the R.N. to B.S.N option will take the following courses online:

NURS 4003: Transition to Professional Nursing Practice [new]

The course introduces the RN student to the standards and concepts of professional nursing based on the Essentials of Baccalaureate for Professions Nursing Education.

NURS 4013: Informatics for the Professional Nurse [new]

This course focuses on how information technology is used in the health care system. The course describes how nursing informatics is currently being used by healthcare professionals, and speculates about future applications.

NURS 4112: Nursing Concepts: Teaching and Health Promotion [currently offered]

NURS 4203: Leading and Managing in Healthcare Micro-environments [new]

This course introduces theories and principles of management and leadership and the professional nurse's role within the health care system. Social issues, economic policy, and regulatory requirements are used to explore healthcare delivery systems and access, quality improvement, and patient safety. This course includes strategies for monitoring delivery of care, outcomes, and evaluating program effectiveness.

NURS 4323: Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning for Professional Nurses [new]
This 3-credit theory course builds on the Registered Nurse's clinical experience and knowledge of health assessment. Emphasis is placed on expanding physical assessment skills, interpreting abnormal findings, and applying the principles of evidence-based practice to the health assessment process. The role of documentation of health assessment in third party reimbursement is also explored.

NURS 4603: Nursing Concepts: Community [currently offered]

NURS 4701: Professional Nursing Synthesis [new]
The course emphasizes reflection, integration, and synthesis of concepts from previous courses. Course enrollment occurs in the last semester of the program.

NURS 5053: Evidence-Based Practice and Innovation in Nursing [currently offered]

NURS 5063: Health Care Policy [currently offered]

NURS 5143: Advanced Pathophysiology [currently offered]

17. Specify the amount of the additional costs required, the source of funds, and how funds will be used.

The EMSON Director submitted a budget request for two additional full-time (nine month) instructor positions starting in 2012 at a cost of \$50,000 plus fringe benefits for each new line. Support for the two new positions will be covered by the tuition generated by the additional students in the online R.N. to B.S.N. option.

President/Chancellor Approval Date:

Board of Trustees Notification Date:

Chief Academic Officer Date: