

Date: March 9, 2020

To: Cathy Sandeen, Chancellor

From: Islyndy Johnson, Dean of the College of Health, Behavior & Society

Cc: Jeff Jessee, Dean of the College of Health, Behavior & Society
Jill Lapke, Co-Chair & Professor
Pamela
Christine Munk, Interim Director, School of Nursing
Susan Kalina, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Claudia Lampman, vice Provost

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review
Nursing Education CC & Developmental Health Nurse Practitioner
Nursing Science MS

I have reviewed the dean's findings and the committee's expedited program review. I concur with the Family Nurse Practitioner and the program review. The program review committee has not yet received any input on the program.

Recommendations

My recommendation is to continue and recommend the program. My comments are that the program is a high quality program that provides instruction in Graduate Certificates and Masters of Science programs, which are in higher demand than the LNP in the State of Alaska. An interim progress report to the provost by April 1, 2021. A full progress report to the provost by March 1, 2022. The interim progress report to the provost by April 1, 2021. A full progress report to the provost by March 1, 2022. in AY22.

Decision

Recommend Continued Review



Office of the Dean

3211 Providence Drive, PSB 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4614
T 907.786.4406 F 907.786.4440



in 2019 (by 108%). However, instructional costs also increased significantly (by 115%). Nonetheless, the increase in tuition revenue is encouraging.

Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success :

All program options are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Graduates are eligible to write national certification examinations for advanced professional practice. The programs have struggled conducting annual academic assessments, but results generally show that program student learning outcomes are met. Some students delay taking the certification exams (which again may be related to the low projected number of job openings for Nurse Practitioners). When students delay taking the certification exams, they are less likely to pass. Faculty are working with students to better prepare them for these examinations.

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness :

Submission date 2/7/2020 (revised, original sent in on 1/31/2020)

Program/s in this review Family Nurse Practitioner GC, Nursing Education GC, Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner GC, Nursing Science MS

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable) Accreditation for Education in Nursing (ACEN) _____

Campuses where the program is delivered: Anchorage _____

Members of the program review committee:

x Jill Janke, Associate

Nurse practitioners are in high demand across the State. As providers, they play an essential role to supplement and fill gaps for needed healthcare providers. There are currently 150 designated Mental Health and Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) and 40 Medically Underserved Areas and Populations (MUA/P) in the state (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2016). The gaps in healthcare providers are noticed in both urban and rural communities. We prioritize clinical placements, so the majority of our students have some experience with MUA/Ps and HPSAs. In addition, each semester FNP students have the option to do a short rotation in rural villages, doing Head Start Physicals. This is done in partnership with RuralCap.

2. Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity (7 year trend; 1400 words or less)

The number of graduates have remained steady since 2014, ranging from 17 to 22. Program growth is limited to available faculty and available clinical sites throughout the state. While the number of students has remained steady, the number of applicants has increased over the last three years. Until we resolve the problem with finding clinical sites, we will not be able to expand the program. Faculty have been looking at options, including incentives for preceptors.

It should be noted that the numbers of certificates are low. However, the certificate students are enrolled in the same courses as the MS students (in terms of clinical mainly), which adds to the number of students in existing classes and does not increase the cost of running the program.

Course pass rates are high and do not fluctuate a great deal. Most of the students who dropped or withdrew had pressing personal issues, and it was not due to academic failure. Of the academic failures, most of them were due to ethical and professional reasons. Plagiarism has been an issue in some of the recent ones.

3. Program Quality Improvement and Student Success (1500 words or less)

All of the MS and graduate certificate programs are and have been accredited by ACEN. Since Accreditation mandates that all programs undergo continuous review through annual reports. In addition, onsite visits and audits are also required.

The graduate faculty committee reviews the curriculum yearly with updates determined by student response, changes in the national standards for the respective programs, and practice guidelines. Our PMH and FNP programs were designed to allow students throughout the state of Alaska to obtain their advanced practice nursing degree. The core courses are all online/distance delivered. The clinical courses do require a trip to Anchorage once a semester for a 56 day intensive. The on-campus time allows students to develop collegiality, complete simulations, and practice hands on skills. The NLDR program is completely online, making it available to students throughout the state. Because our students all need to work while going to school, all program options are available on a part-time basis.

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