

GRADUATE CURRICULUM AUTHORIZATION FORM

Check As Appropriate:

- Expedited Review
- Level I ⇒ New Program or Program Revision
- Level II ⇒ Degree Program Revision or New/Revised COR
- Level III Minor Program Revision
- Application for COR Renewal
- Deletion Course or Track or Minor or Program
- Variability in Program Delivery
- Program Reactivation
- New Course ⇒ Enter CIP Code (Contact Registrar’s Office): _____
- Major Course Revision
- Minor Course Revision
- Dual-Level or Cross Listing
- Distance Education

Description of Proposal: This proposal seeks delivery of the PhD in Nursing program for the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg. To meet the demands of the community of interest, courses offered to a cohort of students will consist of a variety of delivery methods including weeklong summer workshops, immersive classes (Friday and Saturday class sessions), videoteleconferencing and online delivery (pending appropriate approvals for select courses). There are no changes in credits, course content, or prerequisites. With the addition of the Dixon University Center cohort the admission of the next Indiana PhD in Nursing cohort will be delayed.

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SIGNATURES OF APPROVAL

	Academic Integrity	Resource Implications ^T	Email Address	Date
Department Curriculum				
Committee Chair:	_____	_____	tshell@iup.edu	_____
Department Chair:	_____	_____	lpalmer@iup.edu	_____
TECC Chair:	_____	_____	_____	_____
College Curriculum				
Committee Chair:	_____	_____	_____	_____
College Dean:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Graduate Dean:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Provost:	_____	_____	_____	_____
Graduate Com. Chair:	_____	_____	_____	_____

COMMENTS: _____

APPROVE EXPEDITED REVIEW

 Dean’s Associate, SGSR Dean, SGSR Provost UWGC Chairs

If any signatory above wishes to decline expedited review, write “Decline” on the appropriate signature line and return the proposal to the SGSR Dean’s Associate.

 To sign off on resource implications, confirm that detailed justification of resource sufficiency has been made and approved.

Proposal for Variability in Delivery of PhD Program in Nursing

Introduction

The Department of Nursing and Allied Health Professions (DNAHP) PhD in Nursing is proposing a change in delivery to offer our doctoral program at the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg. The program will offer a unique combination of hybrid course delivery at that site, summer workshops, immersion classes and distance education format courses. The PhD program currently offers a part-time 60 credit program at Indiana that is delivered in a hybrid format (up to 1/3 of the class meeting is online). Courses in Indiana are offered in one day intense sessions with classes meeting every other Friday. Even though this provides an attractive option for some applicants, an alternative approach may be attractive to others. Offering the PhD program at Dixon with other delivery options will be attractive to a broader pool of applicants.

The PhD program emphasizes nursing educator preparation and will help to meet the need for nurse educators with appropriate academic qualifications while also increasing our visibility and program delivery at other sites. In the past, the DNAHP has offered our graduate nursing programs at other remote sites such as Monroeville, Northpointe, and Conemaugh Regional Medical Center (Johnstown) and have done so in creative formats such as Saturday offerings, Friday evenings, and workshops. The recent conversion of our MS programs to online delivery has allowed faculty to develop the skills to successfully incorporate the use of technology into our programs.

PhD courses, content and curriculum delivered via the Dixon University Center will remain the same as those offered in Indiana. We will use a variety of delivery strategies to make the program attractive to the potential student. One such strategy is offering summer courses in a week-long workshop format for in person meeting time and then up to 1/3 of the class time will be delivered online using a classroom management system. During the academic year, students will take 1-2 courses per semester. These courses will either be offered in what we consider an immersion delivery; following a workshop format, classes will meet for immersive 7 hour class days on a Friday and Saturday at two points during the semester. The remaining 1/3 of the course will be offered online. Pending appropriate approvals, select courses may be delivered online or with the use of videoconferencing. Those courses will have more than 1/3 of class time delivery online.

Method of Delivery

a. Faculty: Faculty who teach at the doctoral level must have doctoral eligibility. Using established methods already in place in the department, faculty are selected to teach PhD courses based on their prior background, teaching experience, and content expertise. Awarding of summer teaching contracts will also comply with the established processes in place but will consider departmental rotation lists for teaching. Teaching assignments are made by the dean

after conferring with the chair to ensure that department needs are met. The department will continue to comply with the university guidelines for doctoral teaching eligibility. Doctoral faculty will undergo evaluation by the Evaluation Committee in accordance with the CBA guidelines. Currently, 11 tenure/tenure track faculty hold doctoral eligibility. No additional faculty complement is required by this proposal.

b. Facilities/Location: The Dixon University Center facilities, located in Harrisburg, provide adequate classroom facilities to support doctoral education. Other IUP graduate programs are already offered at this site.

c. Learning Resources/Equipment: The change to the Dixon University Center, offering of immersion offerings and the use of distance education will not require any additional resources or equipment. Faculty will continue to use on campus and personal computers. No additional books, films, or periodicals will be needed. Students have access to university resources (library) most of which is now available electronically. The existing technology (learning management systems such as Moodle or D2L) currently used by faculty teaching doctoral courses would meet the demands for this proposal.

d. Course Schedule—Depending upon the semester, the delivery of the course will be variable. Summer courses will be offered in one week workshops with up to 1/3 of the course delivered online. Students will have the full summer session to complete work/assignments. During the academic year we will use a variety of delivery methods depending upon the course (pending appropriate approvals). These delivery methods may include: immersion class meetings on Fridays and Saturdays, online courses, or videoconferencing. Electives will be available online or via preapproved transfer procedures. See attached Course Sequence.

e. Outcomes Assessment--The PhD program uses an established Systematic Program Assessment Plan (SPAP) to monitor and evaluate program quality, institutional commitment and resources, curriculum and teaching-learning practices, and aggregate student and faculty outcomes. The plan includes key indicators/elements of quality, designed data sources and methods of data collection, a person/group designated as the party responsible for collecting, monitoring, and reporting data. The doctoral program committee reviews data as per the SPAP. The plan also provides the basis for a 5 year program review. Data collection methods targeting assessment of student outcomes include: candidacy exams, comprehensive exams, dissertation defense (proposal overview and final defense), course grades, course evaluations, and faculty reports.

f. Statement of Compliance. To the best of our knowledge, this proposal complies with all the relevant guidelines enumerated in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (including article 41) and the Graduate Curriculum Handbook.

Impact of Program

a. Demand: The demand for nurses is projected to remain high. However, nursing programs are unable to meet this demand and admit more students to undergraduate nursing programs due to a lack of adequately qualified nursing faculty to teach in these programs. US nursing schools turned away 75,587 qualified applicants due to an insufficient number of nursing faculty (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2012). Yet, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2009) projects that nursing is the nation's top projected job growth market through 2018. If measures are not taken, the US could have a shortage of Registered Nurses as high as 500,000 by 2025. The IUP graduate nursing programs have been attempting to address this need by creating innovative and flexible nursing programs that will attract graduate students into our MS and PhD programs from a wider geographic location. As outlined above, a creative program initiative has been developed to capture students from a different market. Those with family and work demands who are unable to travel for our Indiana courses may find this an attractive alternative.

Additionally, the recent approval of the fast track option for DNP students to complete their PhD in an accelerated fashion will also be an option at Dixon. This unique DNP to PhD program, unlike any other in the state, will allow graduates of DNP programs to take the required PhD coursework via the Dixon Center offerings.

Lastly, PASSHE has expressed an interest in the delivery of the PhD in Nursing program at the Dixon Center and the doctoral nursing office has received numerous inquiries about the possibility of course offerings at this locations.

b. Impact on existing program: Typically PhD in nursing cohorts are offered in Indiana every 2 years. With the start of the Dixon University Center, the next cohort in Indiana will be delayed. Therefore, no additional resources are required since the Dixon Center courses will replace the courses that would traditionally be offered in Indiana. This will allow students to progress through the Harrisburg program without creating additional demands or burdening the faculty. The only additional resources needed to support the program will be for faculty travel. These costs will be supported by doctoral enhancement funds and departmental operating budgets as needed. This variable delivery will help to enhance our reputation by meeting market needs and providing a greater access and flexibility for our students. Delivery of the program in the central portion of the state will provide a strong presence in Harrisburg while also reaching into neighboring states.

References

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2012). *New AACN data show an enrollment surge in baccalaureate and graduate programs amid calls for more highly educated nurses*. Retrieved from www.aacn.nche.edu
- U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2009). Occupational employment projections to 2016. Monthly Labor Review. Retrieved from www.bls.gov

Appendix
PhD Course Sequence for Dixon University Center

Year One

Summer		6 credits
	NURS 820: Seminar in Nursing Theory	
	NURS 861: Pedagogical Practices in Nursing Education	
Fall		6 credits
	NURS 860: Faculty Development in Nursing Education	
	Elective (Note: Can be taken at any time, provided here as a sample plan)	
Spring		6 credits
	GSR 517: Statistical Methods II	
	Elective	

Year Two

Summer		6 credits
	NURS 862: Curriculum Evaluation in Nursing	
	NURS 952: Qualitative Nursing Research	
Fall		3 credits
	NURS 864: Technology in Nursing Education	
Spring		3 credits
	NURS 802: Leadership in Nursing: A Case Study Approach	

Year Three

Summer		6 credits
	NURS 863: Evaluation in Nursing Education	
	NURS 951: Quantitative Nursing Research	
Fall		6 credits
	NURS 865: Student Issues in Nursing Education	
	NURS 993: Nursing Professoriate Practicum	
Spring		3 credits
	NURS 953: Research Seminar I	

Year Four

Summer		6 credits
	NURS 954: Research Seminar II	
	NURS 994: Dissertation Seminar	
Fall →	until completion	9 credits
	NURS 995: Dissertation	

Total = 60 credits

Summer Courses

Each course will be delivered in a workshop format with 5 class meeting days and up to 1/3 of the class delivered online. Classes will meet at the Dixon University Center. Students will have the entire summer session to complete work for the course.

Fall and Spring Courses

Courses will be delivered via distance technology (pending appropriate approvals) or in an immersion format (Friday and Saturday classes).