

**The University of West Florida
Academic Programs Inventory
Request to Explore and Plan New Academic Programs Form**

Name of Proposed Program: Master of Science in Nursing

Department: , Program in Nursing, School of Allied health and Life Sciences

College: Arts and Sciences

Nature of the Proposed Program: A Master of Science in Nursing with tracks in Nursing Education and Nursing Administration and a certificate in Geriatric Nursing are proposed. The degree consists of 39 credit hours of coursework including 2 courses in Nursing Research.

Anticipated Impact of the Proposed Program on:

1. Students – There is a critical need for additional highly-qualified nurses to serve our region. In Northwest Florida, hospitals report that more than 11 percent of their nurse staffing needs remain un-met, while a 22-percent college faculty shortage forces schools to turn away nearly 75 percent of qualified applicants. The Agency for Workforce Innovation estimates that an additional 878 registered nurses (RNs) will be needed in the Northwest Florida region between 2004 and 2012, an increase of three percent per year. A significant cause of this un-met need is a shortage of master's-level prepared nurses. Nurses with a master's degree are needed to teach at the community college and university level and to fill key leadership roles in hospitals, clinics and other settings. An MSN (Masters of Science in Nursing) program at the University of West Florida would be a key step in addressing the long-term nursing shortage in Northwest Florida. The potential faculty it would produce would also support growth in nursing programs at the community college and university levels. Currently, the Florida State Board of Nursing allots 40 slots to the generic UWF four-year nursing program, and in 2005 there were 130 qualified applicants for these slots. The UWF nursing program is designed to prepare students to become clinical generalists capable of planning health care for individuals, families or groups. Thanks to support from the Northwest Florida community, UWF offers a bachelor's degree in nursing and a RN to BSN bridge program designed for registered nurses interested in furthering their career through higher education. UWF also has an active and unique partnership with Okaloosa-Walton College (OWC) that allows students pursuing a four-year degree to take their first two years at OWC, with a seamless transition into the degree program of their choice at UWF. UWF graduates approximately 25 RN to BSN students a year through

this partnership. Many of the graduates of the UWF BSN programs wish to go on to earn the MSN and a sizeable number of students within this group are "place-bound". Another important pool of students for the proposed program already hold a BSN and are currently employed in regional health care or the military but wish to earn a MSN to move into nursing administration. The proposed program, which is designed with maximum flexibility in terms of course format (on-line as well as face-to-face) and scheduling (evenings and weekends), will address the educational needs of these pools of students. Moreover, this program will make significant in-roads in addressing the critical shortage in MSN-prepared nurses serving as instructors, which will in turn increase regional output of BSN-prepared nurses. This is an especially critical issue in light of pending recommendations from leading national professional organizations in nursing that the BSN be the basic qualifying degree in nursing.

2. Faculty and Staff - Ph.D.-prepared nurses are required to teach in the proposed MSN. Two of our current faculty have the terminal degree and two additional faculty are enrolled in the UF on-line Ph.D. program that is offered through UWF in partnership with UF. While it is anticipated that at least two of these faculty will be able to teach in the proposed program, their assignments within existing programs will limit their involvement in the MSN. Thus, we propose to "phase " in the two tracks and the certificate within this program (see below in "Budget") to allow acquisition of sufficient qualified faculty supplemented by adjunct faculty from the health care community. Two full-time Ph.D.-prepared faculty will be needed to initiate the Nursing Education track and one full-time Ph.D.-prepared faculty supplemented with adjunct faculty from the health care community to initiate the Nursing Administration track and one full-time Ph.D.-prepared faculty supplemented with adjunct faculty from the health care community to initiate the Geriatric Certificate in Nursing.

3. Community – Solid community support is in place for the proposed MSN. Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of Florida has donated \$150,000 in support of this program and UWF has a major fund-raising campaign in place to identify financial backing for the MSN. In addition, part of UWF's 2007-2008 Legislative Budget Request includes faculty lines for the MSN. With close to \$600,000 provided by regional health care in support of UWF's BSN program (scholarships, equipment, supplies and faculty lines), the importance of nursing education to regional health care is firmly established and this level of support is anticipated for the MSN as well. The two Advisory Committees to the School of Allied Health and Life Sciences (Pensacola-based and the Eastern Committee) have both provided unanimous support for this program. Through input from their representatives on the Advisory Committees and directly from CEO's of seven of the major hospitals in the region (Sacred Heart, Baptist, West Florida, Twin Cities, White Wilson, SH Emerald Coast and Santa Rosa), as well as directors for four county health departments it has been made perfectly clear that the proposed MSN degree is extremely important for regional health care, both

from the standpoint of graduating more BSN students and of providing MSN-prepared nursing administrators.

4. Budgets -

Phase 1—NURSING EDUCATION TRACK

- Two full-time, tenure-track faculty, 9 months (fringe included) to cover eight courses/year plus clinicals and administer the Nursing Education track) \$171,600
- Yearly increase in E&G budget for Nursing 4,000
- Equipment (non-recurring) 7,500

TOTAL FOR PHASE 1\$183,100

Recurring Costs: \$175,600

Phase 2—NURSING ADMINISTRATION TRACK

- One full-time, tenure-track faculty, 9 months (fringe included) to cover three courses/year plus clinicals and administer the Nursing Administration track \$85,800
- Adjuncts to cover 3 courses/yr @ \$4,800/course.... 14,000
- Yearly increase in E&G budget for Nursing..... 4,000
- Equipment (non-recurring)..... 7,500

TOTAL FOR PHASE 2\$111,300

Recurring Costs: \$103,800

Phase 3—GERIATRIC CERTIFICATE IN NURSING

- One full-time, tenure-track faculty 9 months (fringe included)to cover three courses/year plus clinicals and administer the Geriatric Certificate in Nursing track\$85,800
- Adjuncts to cover 3 courses/yr @ \$4,800/course..... 14,000
- Yearly increase in E&G budget for Nursing..... 2,000
- Equipment (non-recurring) 5,000

TOTAL FOR PHASE 3\$106,800

Recurring Costs: \$101,800

TOTAL COST FOR THE ENTIRE PROGRAM\$401,200

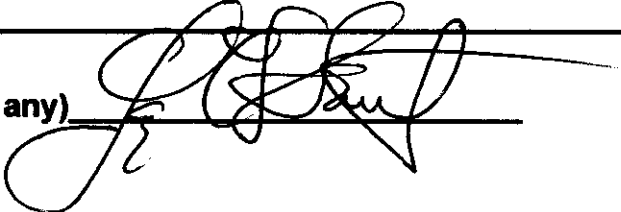
Recurring Costs: \$381,200

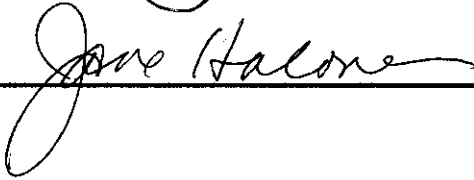
5. Space – While no new space is required in which to conduct this largely online program, a Health Sciences center in which to house all of the health-related programs currently under SAHLS, including this one, is a component in UWF's current fund-raising campaign. This facility is also tied to a partnership with the Florida Department of Health effort to seek funding for establishment of a major public health laboratory on the UWF campus.

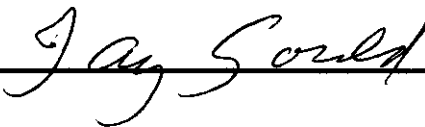
6. Related Programs – The proposed MSN will have a significant impact on educational options available to students in UWF's BSN and RN to BSN programs. A BSN is required for entrance into the MSN. Therefore, this program will have no impact on other health-related programs at UWF. In addition to the pool of candidates for the MSN that graduate from BSN programs at UWF and elsewhere, the large pool of BSN-prepared nurses in the health-care settings both in the military and the community at-large will enjoy expansion of educational options in nursing through this program.


7. Accreditations – The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is the official accrediting arm of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and all of UWF's nursing programs are fully accredited through this agency. CCNE is responsible for accreditation of nursing graduate programs as well and we will seek accreditation for the proposed MSN through this agency.

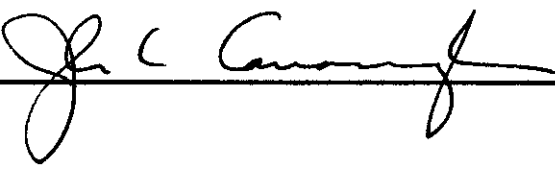
Other Related Information:

Program Chair's Approval (if any) 
Date: 01/23/07

Dean's Approval 
Date: 1/24/07

Faculty Senate's Approval 
Date: 2/9/07

Provost's Approval 
Date: 2/23/07

President's Approval 
Date: 2/28/07

BOT A&SA Committee Approval _____
Date: _____