

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Nursing Department
Academic Plan 2004-2009

Introduction:

The Nursing Department at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke was established as a joint RN-to-BSN Program in 1992. In a cooperative effort, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and Fayetteville State University pioneered efforts in professional nursing education in North Carolina by establishing the first professional nursing program designed exclusively for registered nurses and by establishing a consortium between two historically minority institutions to jointly offer professional nursing education. The program was established to increase access to baccalaureate education for registered nurses, to increase the number of minority nurses with the BSN, and to respond to the health care needs of citizens in the most underserved area in southeastern North Carolina in a cost-effective manner.

As the program developed, the need to offer professional nursing education off-site became apparent. The Program expanded to offer the full program at Sandhills Community College beginning in 1995, Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in 2002, Sampson Community College in 2003 and Southeastern Community College in 2004. With the ever-increasing nursing shortage, the need to offer a generic baccalaureate in nursing became apparent. The consortium will be dissolved in August 1, 2004 with each university continuing to offer professional nursing education.

The Nursing Department at UNCP proposes to have a baccalaureate program with two tracks. The RN-to-BSN track will be offered at UNCP, Sandhills Community College and Southeastern Community College. In response to the nursing shortage, the process for approval of the generic baccalaureate track was begun in April 2003; this continuing process is outlined in this document.

Assumptions:

This document is based on the following major assumptions:

1. Since 65% of the registered nurses hold an associate degree as their highest education and currently approximately 11% of nurses with an associate degree continue their education and obtain a baccalaureate degree, there is a need for professional nurses in the market area.
2. For the RN-to-BSN track to remain viable, the program design necessitates to continue to address the changing needs of working nurses in the geographic area, through assessing and decreasing the barriers to baccalaureate education including offering off-campus programs.
3. The newly proposed generic BSN track will successfully continue the various approval processes through the North Carolina State Board of Nursing and The University of North Carolina System.

4. The program will maintain national accreditation through Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
5. Nursing education, as in other areas of higher education, will continue to use technology to enhance the educational process and pedagogy learning.
6. The current trend of decreasing public support for education and budget constraints may require an adjustment in these goals and timeline as adequate funding will be required to implement this plan.
7. There will be an increased need to provide high quality, cost-effective undergraduate education both on the UNCP campus and off-campus.
8. UNCP will continue to respond to the growing health education and professional development needs in rural, southeastern North Carolina.

This document describes the UNCP Nursing Department proposed Academic Plan for the years 2004 -2009. It has been developed to parallel the 2003 Academic Plan and based on the above listed assumptions. It is designed to serve as a guiding force for decisions to be made concerning program offerings, staffing needs and allocation of resources. The plan is fluid to respond to new opportunities and challenges that may arise as a result of new circumstances or changes in assumptions that have driven its design and development. It will be revised annually and as necessary in concert with UNCP academic planning and budgeting process.