

program in nursing. The annual first-time candidates pass rates for this program have been above 90 percent since 2010. In addition, the College offers four Master of Science (M.S.) Degree programs in Nursing, Nurse Education Role, Nurse Administrator Role, and FNP. On July 16, 2012, the National League for Nursing announced that Wagner College's Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing had been named a 2012-2016 Center of Excellence in Nursing Education in the category of Creating Environments that Enhance Student Learning and Professional Development.

Purpose and Goals of the Program and Relationship to the Mission: The purpose of the proposed D.N.P. program is to facilitate post-baccalaureate, licensed nurses to advance professionally in the role as FNP and earn a doctoral-level degree. The proposed program is consistent with Wagner's Institutional Goals and Mission, preparing students for life, as well as careers, with experiential learning. The College has developed a reputation for quality educational experiences through its undergraduate learning communities, civic engagement, the "practical liberal arts," and its graduate programs. The College's progression to its first Practice Doctorate is a natural extension of the current experiential undergraduate and graduate curriculums. The curricular focus of the proposed program is family health, disaster preparedness, and service to society and is consistent with the College's formal partnerships and the community it serves.

Requirements for Admission to the Program: Students seeking admission into the proposed D.N.P. program must meet the following requirements: a graduate of an accredited school of nursing with a Bachelor of Science degree and a minimum of 3.0 GPA; holding an unencumbered nursing license and current registration; submission of two letters of recommendation along with a current CV; and an on-site interview including producing a professional writing sample.

Advanced placement will be considered for applicants with a Master of Science degree in Nursing from an accredited school and a minimum of 3.4 GPA; an unencumbered nursing license and current registration; and National Board Certification as an FNP. The students will also need to submit two letters of recommendation, along with a current CV; and attend an on-site interview, including producing a professional writing sample.

Curriculum: The proposed D.N.P. program consists of 84 credits. The full-time program is planned over 10 semesters, including summer sessions. The part-time program is 14 semesters, inclusive of two summer sessions. Forty-five (45) credits are from course work currently offered at the Master's level FNP concentration, and thirty-nine (39) credits are new doctoral-level courses. In total, the curriculum maps to the Essentials for Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice and includes a minimum of 1,000 hours of clinical practice, supported by advanced course work in the sciences, organizational and systems leadership, clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice, information systems/technology, policy for advocacy, clinical prevention and population health, and advanced nursing practice. The curriculum is unique in that students will receive training in disaster management.

Prospective Student Body and Projected Enrollment: The College intends to admit an initial cohort of 20 students. At year five, the total program enrollment is estimated at 60 students. During the initial five years of operation, the College expects that all students will be part-time students with advanced standing. The College will not admit students with only a B.S. degree to the D.N.P. program until it has had the opportunity to evaluate the beginning cohorts of students with advanced standing.

Facilities, Equipment and Faculty: Current resources in the Nursing Resources Center (NRC) include high fidelity simulators, examining tables, an infant warmer, a NeoNatalie newborn simulator, Noelle maternal simulator, and a simulated ICU. The plan is to double the size of the NRC in advance of the cohort entering, with construction of the lab in summer 2014. The following equipment will be added to the NRC: the ISTAN Disaster Simulator, respirator masks, and satellite phones. In addition, there are plans in progress to build a new facility on the recently acquired adjacent property to the College.

The Horman Library is a member of the Metro Waldo Library Consortium and provides a modern learning and research environment with Smart classrooms, student study areas and media rooms. Students have access on and off campus to PubMed, Science Direct, CINHALL, Cochrane and soon Joanna Briggs through OneSearch. There are 141,000 book titles in the collection and access to over 20,000 magazines and journals. Assistive technologies include ZoomText and No-Hands Mouse, Wagcat online catalogue, wireless internet, and 50 computer work stations.

The Coordinator of the proposed program will be under the Graduate Director of Nursing and hold a D.N.P. degree, and have a partial teaching load. Six of the current full-time faculty in Nursing will teach in the program. New hires include: one full-time tenure track faculty in year one; one full-time tenure track faculty in year two; a writing specialist (0.5 FTE) in year one; and an information technical assistant (0.25 FTE) in year one. Most of the part-time non-nursing faculty teaching in the proposed program are full-time at the institution and are teaching in their areas of expertise such as ethics and philosophy. Some courses (e.g., Informatics) will utilize adjunct professors from outside the College. The projected faculty to student ratio at the beginning will be 1:15. The interdisciplinary nature of the faculty assists in preparing students to function as Advanced Practice Nurse leaders/practitioners to meet the needs of global populations in natural and manmade disasters.

Prospects for Employment/Further Education for Graduates: With the growing shortage of primary care physicians and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), many more patients will be eligible for primary care services. Qualified Nurse Practitioners will help meet the projected demand. FNPs are prepared to care for individuals across the lifespan from birth through geriatrics which makes any nurse with this credential a viable candidate for employment. Additionally, the ACA specifically addresses reimbursement for nurse practitioners in order to save monies in Medicare. FNPs with a terminal degree are prepared as community leaders and promote population health. As part of the curriculum, program graduates will be uniquely trained

to assume a major role in response to natural or manmade disasters, which makes them more marketable.

Canvass Results: A canvass was conducted of all institutions in the New York City region. There were no objections to the proposed program.

Recommendation

Based on a review of the College's application materials, the findings of the institutional readiness peer review team, and the College's response to the findings, the Department has determined that the proposed program meets the standards of registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the amendment to the master plan for Wagner College to confer the D.N.P. degree on qualified graduates of the FNP program. This amendment will be effective May 20, 2014.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the proposed program, and the College will proceed to enroll students.