



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech 
SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: State University College at Brockport, Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) Program in Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
DATE: July 2, 2019
AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for State University College at Brockport to offer the D.N.P. degree in Family Nursing Practice (FNP)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its July 2019 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

A Master Plan Amendment is necessary as this is the College's first program at the doctoral level.

Background Information

State University College at Brockport requested to offer a post-baccalaureate Doctor of Nursing Program (D.N.P.) program in Family Nurse Practitioner in a distance education format. The College has existing FNP programs leading to the master's degree or Advanced Certificate. The primary purpose of the D.N.P. program is to prepare practicing registered nurses for advanced practice roles as nurse practitioner leaders who can meet the increasingly complex health needs of diverse populations. In addition to their clinician role, D.N.P. graduates are prepared to improve health outcomes by generating new knowledge through innovation and practice change, to translate evidence, and to implement quality improvement processes within specific sites, systems, and populations. D.N.P. graduates will also possess organizational and systems leadership knowledge and skills to develop and evaluate new models of care delivery in order to create and sustain change at the system level. Having a D.N.P. program at the College would provide access to students at a lower tuition, contributing to the diversity of the profession as well as ensuring provision of primary care providers within underserved rural communities.

The curriculum of the D.N.P. program was developed in accordance with the mission and values of both the College and the School of Education, Health and Human Services. The student learning outcomes (SLOs) follow both the American Association of Colleges of Nursing D.N.P. Essentials and National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties guidelines. The program includes a minimum of 78 credits and 1,000 clinical hours, which students may complete in 3.5 years of full-time study. It includes education in the following areas: the generation of clinically relevant data and utilization of data from clinical information systems; the diagnosis and treatment of health care issues of individuals, families and communities; and the achievement of quality improvement. The D.N.P. program will prepare nurses to be an FNP with an emphasis on rural health.

Admission requirements for the graduate program were developed after benchmarking other graduate nursing programs and considering both the academic requirements in the program as well as the professional demands in the role. All students will be required to apply to the College, providing transcripts from all previous coursework. A bachelor's degree from an accredited nursing program or an international equivalent is required. Transcripts from foreign institutions will be evaluated for transfer equivalency credits by an accredited evaluation service. An overall GPA of 3.0 in all previous course work is required. Applicants must have an unencumbered New York state license and current registration as a registered professional nurse. Recent work experience as a registered nurse is preferred and required before graduation. Curriculum Vitae, two letters of recommendation addressing both academic and professional ability, as well as a written personal statement are required. All applicants must submit official scores from the GRE general test taken within the last five years. All health/technical standards must be met.

It is expected that many of the graduates from the College's B.S. Nursing program will return to complete the D.N.P. program. In addition, it is expected that nurses within the Finger Lakes region whose employers do not have tuition reimbursement will elect to attend the program with tuition of a public institution. Currently more than 50 percent of students enrolled in the existing FNP program are Brockport alumni looking to advance their careers and become primary care providers within their underserved rural communities. Anticipated enrollments were determined by benchmarking interest of current professionals, alumni, and community advisory board members. The program will allow for part-time or full-time enrollment. It is anticipated that there will be 15 FTEs beginning in the fall of 2020 with the capacity to increase to 20 FTEs in 2021 and beyond.

The Department of Nursing has a new state-of-the-art building that includes state-of-the-art technology. The building's recent \$14.5 million renovation enables sophisticated instruction at the undergraduate and graduate level as well as flexible instruction associated with distance and online learning. More than \$1 million was invested to equip nursing students and faculty with state-of-the-art equipment and technology, including suites that replicate hospital rooms and the latest medium- and high-fidelity manikins that mimic ill patients. The master's degree FNP program utilizes these resources and equipment. Because of the online nature of the didactic courses and the off-site clinical experiences, no additional equipment or space will be needed for D.N.P. instruction. Additional faculty offices will be needed and the College has plans to expand the number of faculty offices in the building by moving another department out. The College augmented library and on-line resources to support the master's FNP program including subscriptions to Up to Date, and Cochrane reviews. The library's online collections have been expanding based on consortia and SUNY-wide collaborations. Librarians are available to provide individualized consultations to support D.N.P. students in their research activities. Statistical consultation and research design support is available for project development and remote tutoring services for graduate students are in place. The College has also augmented instructional design support for online programs.

The Department of Nursing will have 24 full-time faculty in the fall of 2019. There is a plan to add an additional three lines for the D.N.P. program. The College is currently searching for a half-time administrative support person

Canvass Results: A canvass of the institutions of the Finger Lakes Region and institutions offering D.N.P. programs was conducted to determine the potential impact on current programs and resources. We received no objections.

Department Review: Staff members in the Office of Professions reviewed the application materials. As a part of the review process, a peer-review site visit was conducted on April 15-16, 2019 to assess the institution's capacity to offer doctoral programs. Based upon the review, it is determined that the proposed D.N.P. program in FNP meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Related Regents Item

As the D.N.P. award represents State University College at Brockport's first use of this degree title, a degree authorization will be presented before the full Board at its July 2019 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the master plan of State University College at Brockport to authorize the college to offer the D.N.P. program in FNP. The amendment will be effective until July 2019, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case the master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

Amendments to the State University of New York master plan require approval by the Governor. If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will forward the amendment to the Governor for approval. Upon gubernatorial approval, the Department will register the program.