



**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** Douglas E. Lentivech 

**SUBJECT:** Mercy College, Manhattan Campus: Master Plan Amendment to offer a Master of Science (M.S.) program in Nursing Education

**DATE:** August 29, 2019

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents approve a Master Plan Amendment for Mercy College – Manhattan campus to offer an M.S. program in Nursing Education?

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and regulation.

#### **Proposed Handling**

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

#### **Procedural History**

Approval of a master plan amendment by the Board of Regents is required by section 237 of Education Law. This would be the institution's first master's program in the disciplinary area of health professions at the Manhattan campus.

#### **Background Information**

Mercy College requested approval to offer an M.S. program in Nursing Education at its Manhattan campus. This program is currently offered at its main campus. The purpose of the program is to prepare Nurse Educators for faculty positions in Associate

and Baccalaureate Degree Programs, and for staff development positions in health care agencies.

The curriculum is 36 credits (33 credits of didactic courses and 3 credits of clinical practicum) and can be completed in three years of part-time study. Didactic courses include courses in Computer Technology, Health Policy, Diversity, Philosophical and Theoretical Foundations of Nursing, Research, Integrated Health Assessment, Curriculum Processes, Instructional Strategies, and Student Evaluation. Students complete 120 hours of clinical experience in the *Nursing education Practicum and Role Development* course. The curriculum meets the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) *Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing* (2011).

The admission requirements for matriculation and admission into the Master of Science program in Nursing are as follows: baccalaureate degree with a nursing major from a professionally accredited program; a minimum GPA of 3.0; and current and appropriate RN registration/license in the state where the clinical experience is taking place.

Projected enrollment in the first year of the program is 15 new students, with a projected total enrollment of 43 students by year five. Students will have the option to take the program on the Manhattan campus, via distance education, or a combination of campus-based and distance education.

The M.S. in Nursing Education at the Manhattan campus will use the existing facilities at the Manhattan campus, which currently houses classrooms and library. The College plans an expansion at the campus in 2019, which will include a simulation lab. Mercy College provides student resources and services in a supportive environment that enhances student success. These services include academic advising, career services, a learning center, library, Office of ACCESS ability services, bookstore, academic testing department, financial aid, grants office, scholarship program and student counseling service.

In addition to the full-time program coordinator, two full-time faculty members at the main campus will teach at the Manhattan campus for the first year (each faculty member ½ FTE). Two new full-time faculty will be added to teach exclusively at the Manhattan campus in year two.

Department staff reviewed the application materials, completed a site visit to the Manhattan Campus, and determined that the proposed program meets the standards of registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Following standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the New York City Regents region and received no objections.

**Related Regents Item**

N/A

**Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Mercy College to offer its first masters-level program in the Health Professions discipline area at the Manhattan Campus, a Master of Science (M.S.) in Nursing Education. This amendment will be effective until September 30, 2020, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

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