



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Sarah S. Benson *Sarah S. Benson*

SUBJECT: Rochester General College of Health Careers: Master Plan Amendment to offer the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) Program in Nursing

DATE: September 3, 2020

AUTHORIZATION(S): *[Signature]*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents approve a proposed Master Plan for the Rochester General College of Health Careers (RGCOHC) to offer a nursing program leading to the A.A.S. degree?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the Full Board at its September 2020 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Approval of a master plan by the Board of Regents is required by Section 237 of the Education Law. This would be the institution's initial authorization to award a degree which makes a master plan necessary.

Background Information

RGCOHC under the aegis of Rochester Regional Health (RRH) is a newly established institution. The College requested approval to offer an A.A.S. program in nursing. The proposed program is designed to promote educational mobility for LPNs from an accredited program to enter an RN program at RGCOHC. The purpose of the

program is to develop competent entry-level registered nurses with the skills needed to adapt to rapid changes in healthcare delivery and to function as caring practitioners across diverse practice settings while establishing a foundation for lifelong learning. The goals of the LPN to RN pathway program are consistent with the college's mission, vision, and goals, which are focused on academic excellence, educational advancement, workforce development, community engagement, and meeting the needs of diverse populations.

The curriculum of the LPN to RN Pathway program is four and a half semesters and 69 credits: 27 general education credits, and 42 nursing credits (including 12 credits awarded for LPN licensure program/LPN licensure). The program includes 364 clinical hours and 24 nursing lab hours. The curriculum is aligned with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) standards and RGCOHC plans to apply for accreditation with the ACEN.

The foundation of general education courses, which will be offered at Monroe Community College, includes six credits in English and six credits in Psychology, three credits in Sociology, and twelve credits in science including a lab component for each course. The curriculum builds on the foundation of knowledge gained in the first year, allowing for progression to greater complexity of nursing knowledge during the second year. Year two courses include Role Transition, Essentials of Health/Physical Assessment, Pharmacology, Family Health Nursing, Adult Health Nursing (I and II), Community/Population Health, Behavioral Health Nursing, and Role Exploration in Professional Nursing Practice. Year two enables students to build upon their LPN education, license, and general education foundation to complete the nine nursing courses.

Admission to the program includes HS diploma/GED, currently registered and unencumbered LPN licensure, and completion of ATI TEAS exam in "proficient" range or higher. Completion of all general education courses with a "C" or better is a progression requirement for year two. Students will be required to earn a "C+" in each nursing course, including a "P" (pass) in the clinical courses. The program has two entry points. Students can be enrolled as a freshman in year one or be enrolled in year two if they have completed the general education courses.

The enrollment will begin with 26 students in the first year, 82 students (total) in the second year, 130 students in the third year, 178 students in the fourth year, 202 students by the fifth year. It is expected that students will come from the Finger Lakes Region, will be adult learners with a diverse background. The plan is to have students on campus one day per week for didactic instruction and one day per week for clinical experience. Beginning in year two, RGCOHC will offer two cohorts per week in the same manner.

RGCOHC will be located at the current Wegmans Workforce Development Center in Rochester, NY, a 32,000 sq. ft building which also houses Isabella Graham Hart School of Practical Nursing (IGHSPN). The program has adequate space for instruction, library services (satellite of the Werner Library), student services, and instructional support. Common areas such as the resource room, cafeteria, computer lab with 20 computer stations, a student copy center, and a 10-room suite simulation

center with three high-fidelity simulators, debriefing rooms, and LEAP monitoring/recording capabilities will be shared with IGHSPN. The RGCOHC nursing program will have 2,406 sq. ft of dedicated space, including two classrooms, each with TV monitors and projectors and capacity for 24 students. The program will also have a six-bed dedicated skills lab with private, curtained areas surrounding the beds and extensive equipment for educational purposes. Students will also have access to academic tutoring, counseling services, healthcare assistance, transportation services, childcare services, vocational/career counseling, and the parent organization's Werner Library with its extensive library catalog, online resources, and library support. The library is in the lobby of Rochester General Hospital, one mile from the College. The College has a plan for a new location to support program growth.

Two full-time faculty will be hired for the initial cohort with additional faculty hired as needed with the goal to maintain a class size of no more than 50 students and clinical/lab groups at eight students. Nursing faculty will have a master's degree in Nursing or be enrolled in a master's degree program in Nursing and have appropriate clinical experience. The Dean of Academic Services will oversee the administration of the program.

Based upon the review of the application materials and findings of the virtual site visit conducted on August 6, 2020, it is determined that the proposed A.A.S. program in nursing meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

To determine potential impact on current programs and resources, a canvass of the institutions of the Finger Lakes region as well as of all institutions in the state offering A.A.S. programs in nursing was conducted to determine potential impact on current programs and resources. No objections were received.

Related Regents Item(s)

As the A.A.S. degree represents RGCOHC's first use of this degree title, a charter item will be presented before the Full Board at its September 2020 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the master plan for RGCOHC to confer the A.A.S. degree on qualified graduates of the registered nursing program.

Timetable for Implementation

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