

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM REVIEW 2002-2003
UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW COUNCIL'S EVALUATION
for the

MSN Primary Care

GRADUATE PROGRAM

I. COUNCIL'S GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program is a nationally accredited, cohort program whose graduates have a very high passing rate on licensing examinations and a very high rate of job placement in the communities KSU serves. The program has many merits, and the overall quality is strong.

<u>Focus of Evaluation</u>	<u>Self-Study Eval</u>	<u>Council's Eval</u>
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QUALITY INDICATORS

<p>II. Summary of Program's Overall Quality Council's Observations: National accreditation, very high passing rate on licensing exams, excellent clinical experiences, highly skilled faculty support a "Very Strong" rating."</p>	Very Strong	Very Strong
<p>IIA. Curricular Adherence to Quality/Accreditation Standards Council's Observations: The MSN is fully accredited by the national League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) and recently completed accreditation process for the commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) with positive feedback.</p>	Very Strong	Very Strong
<p>IIB. Quality of Faculty Supporting the Program Council's Observations: Faculty have expertise in advanced practice nursing and primary health care and specialized expertise in AIDS care, women's health, health care for the frail elderly, homeless, disadvantaged, and multicultural populations. Highly credentialed part-time faculty act as clinical site visitors The graduate faculty includes three full-time faculty, one part-time faculty plus contributions of the Dean and Associate Dean.</p>	Very Strong	Very Strong
<p>IIC. Quality of Facilities, Equipment, Learning Resources, And Placements Council's Observations: Facilities are satisfactory at present. Equipment and learning resources are satisfactory. Practicums appear to be satisfactory to meet program needs in a competitive environment.</p>	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
<p>IID. Quality of KSU's Annual Financial Investment Council's Observations: Annual financial investment is adequate. If the program is to grow, more funds are needed to fund faculty travel for clinical supervision, to replace obsolete equipment, and to add faculty lines to maintain a student-faculty ratio of six to one, mandated by national accrediting agencies.</p>	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

<u>Focus of Evaluation</u>	<u>Self-Study Eval</u>	<u>Council's Eval</u>
IIE. Use of Advanced Technology for Program Delivery and Support Council's Observations:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Two online courses have been offered with positive student feedback; additional faculty should complete online facilitator training so that more online courses can be offered in the future.		
IIF. Quality of Program Advising, Enrollment Management & Student Services Council's Observations:	Strong	Strong
The MSN program has a sound advising program staffed with an Administrative Coordinator to assist the Program Director and supplemented by strong faculty advising and volunteer peer-mentors. Attesting to sound advising, the attrition rate has been low with 92% of students graduating with their cohort.		
IIG. Program Graduates' Competitive Advantages Council's Observations:	Very Strong	Very Strong
Local clinical placements, content expert lecturers, and developmental portfolios contribute to very strong competitive advantages for MSN graduates. Data collected from Program graduates indicates that many of them are employed by agencies in which they completed clinical practicums.		
III. Faculty's & Program's Diversity & Global Perspective Council's Observations:	Very Strong	Strong
While the curricular emphasis on multicultural and global perspectives as evidenced in the use of study abroad options could lead to a “very strong” rating for this criterion, recruitment and retention of minority faculty needs to be addressed. While Blacks are above the national verge, both Latinos and Asians are below the national average.		
III. Endowments, Scholarships, Gifts, Grants, and Fees Council's Observations:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Funding from WellStar provides support for a nurse practitioner to staff the Cobb Health Partners Clinics, utilized as multicultural primary care practice sites by the Program’s students. Two endowed scholarships for graduate students are available. Faculty need to focus more on grant writing. Scholarships for graduate students need to be increased.		
III. Program's Honors, Awards & Recognition Council's Observations:	Very Strong	Very Strong
The MSN is fully accredited by the national League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) and recently completed the accreditation process for the commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) with positive feedback.		

<u>Focus of Evaluation</u>	<u>Self-Study Eval</u>	<u>Council's Eval</u>
<p>IIK. Honors of Program's Students, Graduates & Faculty Council's Observations: Faculty members are active in scholarship, but they need to become even more active. Several of them have received KSU awards. Some students and graduates have presented papers at national conferences and published in refereed journals. Faculty plan to pursue grants in research focus areas they have agreed upon, e.g., care of vulnerable populations and innovations in graduate nursing education.</p>	Strong	Strong
<p>III. Success of Program's Graduates Council's Observations: Because of High passing rates on national certification examinations, excellent job placement statistics, publications, and enrollment in higher degree programs, the council agrees with the “Very Strong” rating for Success of Program’s Graduates.</p>	Very Strong	Very Strong
<p>IIM. Stakeholder Satisfaction with Program Council's Observations: Alumni satisfaction was very high according to annual surveys of graduates. Employer satisfaction was equally high. The Student and Community Advisory Committees also rated graduates highly.</p>	Very Strong	Very Strong
<p>IIN. Selectivity & Achievement of Students Council's Observations: Data provided justify the “Very Strong” rating.</p>	Very Strong	Very Strong
<p>IIO. Program's Responsiveness to Assessment, Change & Improvement Council's Observations: The MSN Program has been proactive in implementing changes based on trends in advanced practice nursing education, trends in healthcare, feedback from program stakeholders, and data collected from the Program’s assessment plan.</p>	Very Strong	Very Strong

PRODUCTIVITY INDICATORS

<p>III. Summary of Program's Overall Productivity Council's Observations: Number of degrees conferred is high; attrition is very low. Instructional delivery is responsive to the needs of the State and the students. Faculty/student ratio imposed by national accrediting bodies limit instructional productivity and cost effectiveness.</p>	Very Strong	Very Strong
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<u>Focus of Evaluation</u>	<u>Self-Study Eval</u>	<u>Council's Eval</u>
IIIA. Enrollment of Graduate Students in Program Council's Observations: Enrollment numbers have been consistent over the past five years.	Strong	Strong
IIIB. Program's Annual Degree Completions Council's Observations: The Self-Study analysis for the variation in number of degrees conferred in the past five years makes sense. While the Program's degree production increased 27% during the 5-year period, it witnessed decline in FY 2000, FY 2001, and FY2002, even though it is recovering.	Very Strong	Strong
IIIC. Graduation Rate & Program Completion Efficiency Council's Observations: The Council agrees with the Self-Study analysis and conclusion that since the Program's inception, 92% of students overall have graduated with their cohort, and 99% of students have graduated within one year of their cohort.	Very Strong	Very Strong
IIID. Efficiency & Clarity of Curricular Design Council's Observations: Curricular design appears to be highly efficient and very clear.	Very Strong	Very Strong
IIIE. Scheduling Frequency & Sequencing of Required Courses Council's Observations: The Council agrees with the Self-Study analysis and conclusion.	Very Strong	Very Strong
IIIF. Enrollment Levels in Required Courses Council's Observations: The MSN Primary Care Program is a cohort model, and all course enrollments are pretty much guaranteed.	Very Strong	Very Strong

<u>Focus of Evaluation</u>	<u>Self-Study Eval</u>	<u>Council's Eval</u>
IIIG. Diversity of Program's Majors & Graduates Council's Observations: The percentage of Black minority representation in the Program at 21% is nearly double the 11% for the University as a whole.	Very Strong	Very Strong
IIIH. Faculty's Instructional Productivity Council's Observations: The Council agrees with the Self-Study that faculty productivity is maximized within the limits of the advanced practice education mandates.	Strong	Strong
IIII. Cost-Effectiveness of Program Instruction Council's Observations: The Council agrees with the Self-Study that cost-effectiveness of Program instruction is satisfactory within the limits of advanced practice education mandates.	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
IIIJ. Responsiveness to State Needs & Demand for Graduates Council's Observations: The Council agrees with the Self-Study that the Program is responsive to the State's need for highly qualified advanced practice nurses, particularly in rural areas because of the way instructional delivery is provided and scheduled.	Very Strong	Very Strong
IIIK. Program's Ranking in the University System Council's Observations: The Program was first with degrees conferred of ten comparable universities in Georgia with graduate programs in nursing in FY 2000.	Very Strong	Very Strong
III L. Program's Contribution to Achieving KSU Mission Council's Observations: The Program is fully aligned with the KSU mission, and it has made considerable contributions toward achieving the KSU mission.	Very Strong	Very Strong
IV. PROGRAM'S VIABILITY AT KSU Council's Observations:	Viable	Viable

<u>Focus of Evaluation</u>	<u>Self-Study Eval</u>	<u>Council's Eval</u>
V. MODEL PROGRAM POTENTIAL Council's Observations: The MSN Program has great potential to become a Model Program.	Very Strong	Very Strong
VI. COUNCIL'S OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE PLANS FOR IMPROVING QUALITY & PRODUCTIVITY The Council supports the MSN 6-point plan for improving quality & productivity.		
VII. EXPAND, MAINTAIN, CONSOLIDATE, OR DISCONTINUE Council's Observations: Expansion of the MSN program is recommended to include the non-nurse practitioner advanced care management and leadership track.	Expand	Expand

COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDED FOLLOW-UP

The Council agreed with the comments herein and had no additional recommendations or specific follow-up for this program.