

## APPENDIX J

### **Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke**

#### **Introduction**

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (CIP: 51.1601) in November 2003. The university requests authorization to establish the program in January 2005.

#### **Program Description**

At a time of a growing national nursing shortage, there is an increasingly strong demand for baccalaureate-prepared nurses. The proposed pre-licensure program of study will lead to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, prepare students for effective professional nursing practice in a variety of healthcare settings, and provide a broad educational foundation for potential graduate study. The proposed baccalaureate of science degree with a major in nursing will be housed in the Department of Nursing in the College of Arts and Sciences. UNCP has offered an RN-to-BSN program as part of a consortium with Fayetteville State University and several community colleges for about ten years.

A bachelor's degree in nursing requires a total of 124 semester credit hours. A total of 62 semester credit hours of nursing core courses and prerequisites are required. The primary goals of the UNCP Department of Nursing program are to 1) promote and advance the accessibility, availability, and quality of professional nursing education and practice for nurses in southeastern North Carolina and 2) prepare graduates to provide quality professional nursing services across the life span, for individuals, families, groups, and communities. Graduates should demonstrate competency in the nursing roles of advocate, clinician, coordinator/collaborator, educator, leader, and consumer of research in a variety of settings. Degree recipients will then be eligible to take the NCLEX-RN licensure examination administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. A registered nurse (RN) license will be awarded upon a successful "Pass" on NCLEX-RN and satisfaction of other Board of Nursing licensure requirements.

#### **Program Need**

In 2000, the American Nurses Association's Center for American Nurses, reported that the current shortage of registered nurses in the nation will have a significant impact on healthcare access, safety, and quality. North Carolina began experiencing a registered nursing shortage in 2002, and it is projected that it will continue to experience this shortage into the next decade. The North Carolina Center for Nursing has projected that by 2020 North Carolina will experience a 20 percent demand over the supply of registered nurses. In 1996 the North Carolina Center for Nursing conducted a study of a random sample of 3,732 registered nurse employers; the study showed a strong demand for nurses prepared at the baccalaureate level and for nurses prepared with master's preparation in either advance practice or administration (NCCN, 1997). Additionally, Survey data reported by AHEC in June 2003 indicate that the southeastern section of North Carolina has higher nursing vacancy rates and longer lengths of time to fill open positions than the remainder of the state.

This proposed degree in nursing will add a track within the existing Department of Nursing that leads to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The UNCP Department of Nursing has been maintaining an inquiry log of potential applicants since June 2003. Between June 2003 and March 19, 2004, over 250 individuals contacted the Department concerning a BSN degree. Data available to the Department of Nursing show that there is keen interest in a BSN degree at UNCP and support from the regional health agencies. Further, UNCP is located in rural, southeastern North Carolina in Robeson County; one of the most underserved areas for professional education.

### **Resources**

The establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program is a priority of the university and needed resources will be allocated for faculty and operational expenses. Current RN-BSN faculty will assume teaching responsibilities in the BSN program. UNC and Southeastern Regional Medical Center (SRMC) in Lumberton, North Carolina have entered into a partnership to serve the nursing needs of southeastern region. SRMC is providing permanent space for the BSN program. The space is located on the campus of the Medical Center in the Corporate Services Building and contains approximately 5300 square feet. A renovation of the space is in progress which will result in virtual reality skills labs (for simulated patient situations), four laboratories (a basic care lab, a home care lab, a basic care lab, and a virtual learning center), a computer lab (opened 24 hours a day seven days a week), classrooms, conference rooms, and faculty offices. It is anticipated that the space at SRMC will be adequate for the BSN program for the next decade.

### **Recommendation**

With the understanding that adequate faculty will be hired to meet accreditation requirements and that adequate clinical sites will be secured and approved by the NC Board of Nursing, it is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke effective January 2005.