

APPENDIX K

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at Fayetteville State University

Introduction

Fayetteville State University notified the Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (CIP: 51.601) in September 2003.

Program Description

The Department of Nursing at Fayetteville State University is proposing to offer a generic baccalaureate degree in nursing. FSU currently offers an RN-to-BSN program as part of a consortium with UNCP and several community colleges in the region. This proposed program is expected to promote the development of professional nurses who are committed to making sound clinical decisions in providing high-quality nursing care to diverse populations in a variety of health-care settings. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be expected to possess knowledge, attitudes, values, psychomotor skills, and behaviors that define professional nursing. Graduates will also be expected to possess the knowledge base appropriate for graduate study. The proposed BSN will require 127 semester credit hours of course work, including 31 hours in the University College core, which provides a strong liberal-arts foundation, 32 hours in science courses (15 of which meet University core requirements), and 64 hours in nursing, including required and elective courses. The educational objectives of the proposed Bachelor of Science in Nursing are consistent with the mission of FSU, the standards of the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission; the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education; and the laws, rules, and standards of the North Carolina Board of Nursing.

The BSN program will help relieve the shortage of professional nurses in the region, which includes medically underserved and health-care professional shortage areas. Studies have suggested that minority health professionals are likely to practice in areas of health-care shortages and in areas with high racial and ethnic populations. While open to a diverse student population, FSU, which serves students from medically underserved areas in the state, from rural and poor counties, and from the military, is well positioned to address and remove these barriers, based on its long history of meeting the educational needs of persons of color. In southeastern North Carolina, the need for RNs with the baccalaureate degree is great. Of particular significance is the close proximity of two major medical facilities serving military personnel, military dependents, and veterans, Womack Army Hospital and the Veterans Administration Hospital. Both prefer and target the hiring of baccalaureate nurses. Preliminary discussion with Fort Bragg has indicated a desire to have enlisted personnel participate once the program is accredited.

The proposed generic nursing program is one of FSU's top academic priorities and the administration has made a major commitment of its resources to the program and is committed to seeking accreditation from both the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. While the program expects to start with 30 students, its longer-term goal is to enroll 125 upper-division majors and graduate 50-60 per year.

APPENDIX K

Resources

FSU has funded an additional five faculty positions and a new departmental chair position in support of the program and has committed resources to meet facilities needs. The regional AHEC is assisting with clinical sites and library resources.

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 Fayetteville State University effective May 2005.