

## **Request to Plan a Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at Winston-Salem State University**

### **Introduction**

Winston-Salem State University requests approval to plan a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program (CIP 51.3818).

### **Program Description**

The primary goal of the proposed DNP program is to prepare experts in specialized advanced nursing practice. Graduates of the program will assume clinically intensive leadership careers, including clinical practice, clinical leadership, applied research, and faculty roles.

As WSSU Division of Nursing (DON) makes the transition to offering a DNP program, a multiple entry model will be implemented to facilitate the transition from the current MSN degree to the new DNP degree and to establish a BSN to DNP pathway. Because of the different entry points, the curriculum will be individualized for students based on their prior education and experience. Many students will enter with a nursing master's degree (MSN), which has been built on the AACN Essentials of Master's Education (2011). They will then pursue DNP competencies (AACN, 2006). This pathway requires 3 semesters and one summer from the MSN program completion. Specific requirements include:

- 31 credit hours or more as required by the student's educational background;
- meet the minimum requirement of 1000 hours, based on assessment of the student's clinical background; and
- completion of a Capstone Research Project

The proposed multiple entry transition model builds upon a baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) as the (generalist) foundational preparation. Students may complete the program on a full-time or part-time basis. Students with a baccalaureate degree will require 7-8 semesters for completion of the program. Specific requirements include:

- approximately 84 semester credit hours;
- approximately 1244 hours of supervised clinical experience; and
- completion of a Capstone Research Project experience

The WSSU DNP program will prepare graduates to assume clinically intensive leadership careers, including clinical practice, clinical leadership, applied research, and faculty roles. The DNP program will prepare graduates to function at the most advanced level of nursing practice, which includes the direct care of individual patients, management of care for individuals and populations, administration of nursing systems and health care, and development and implementation of health policy.

The Division of Nursing will offer the proposed DNP program as a hybrid program, utilizing both online and face-to-face courses.

The goals of the DNP program are:

- Prepare a diverse population of advanced nurse clinicians to function as clinical leaders in service and academic settings
- Prepare clinical leaders to serve as executive health care managers and to employ concepts of patient centered and collaborative practice.
- Prepare clinical leaders to initiate, develop, and evaluate health care policy, finance standards, guidelines, and protocols.
- Prepare nurse leaders to initiate, develop and use regional problem-oriented clinical research and apply evidence-based practice to ensure quality care and educational goals.

The objectives of the DNP program are:

1. Incorporate nursing science with knowledge from ethics, psychosocial, biophysical, analytical, and organizational sciences as the basis for the highest level of nursing practice.
2. Exemplify qualities required to assume leadership positions within the health care system, political arena, academic centers, and professional organizations.
3. Design and evaluate care delivery approaches that meet current and future needs of patient populations based on scientific findings in nursing and other clinical sciences as well as organizational, political, and economic sciences.
4. Develop and/or evaluate effective strategies for managing ethical dilemmas inherent in patient care, the health care organization, and research.
5. Use analytical methods to critically appraise existing literature and other evidence to determine and implement the best evidence for practice.
6. Publicize findings from evidence-based practice and research to improve healthcare outcomes.
7. Critically analyze health policy proposals, health policies, and other related issues from the perspective of consumers, nursing, other health professions, and other stakeholders in policy and public forums
8. Examine epidemiological, biostatistical, environmental, and other appropriate scientific data related to individual, aggregate, and population health.
9. Demonstrate advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in designing, delivering, and evaluating evidence-based care to improve patient outcomes.

### **Relevance to Institutional Mission and Strategic Plan**

Consistent with the Winston-Salem State University, School of Health Sciences, and Division of Nursing vision and mission statements, the proposed DNP program will:

- offer high-quality education to a diverse group of DNP students who will assume

- leadership positions in health care;
- increase the number of nurses who can assume positions as nurse educators and therefore increase the enrollment in nursing programs in the state, especially at community colleges; and
- contribute to health promotion, disease prevention, and a better health care outcome for North Carolinians.

### **Projected Enrollments**

Estimated number of post-MSN students in the program during the first year of operation:

Full-time	10	Part-time	5
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Estimated number of post-MSN students in the program when it is fully operational:

Full-time	50	Part-time	25
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### **Graduate Council**

The Council heard a presentation introducing the five proposals to plan the six Doctor of Nursing Practice programs under consideration. This presentation addressed the background of the DNP degree, reasons for its currently being offered in 37 states, an overview of the curriculum, student demand for the program in North Carolina, opportunities for employment of DNP graduates in North Carolina, and the relationship of the DNP program to the Master of Science in Nursing degree program.

Graduate Council members asked numerous questions, which were answered by the Deans and faculty members of the six Schools of Nursing in attendance. Questions addressed issues of the evolving relationship of the DNP degree and the MSN degree; which faculty members in what departments may be qualified to teach in the DNP programs; the effect of the DNP on the enrollment in Ph.D. in Nursing programs; student demand for the program in North Carolina; opportunities for employment of DNP graduates in North Carolina; the new role of DNPs in hospitals and other healthcare facilities; the budget implications of initiating these DNP programs; how these six campuses planned to implement, support, and sustain the DNP programs should enrollment growth funding not be available; and other areas. All questions were answered to the satisfaction of the Council members.

Winston-Salem State University made a presentation on the specific details of its proposed DNP program, and answered questions about its program to the satisfaction of Council members.

After discussion, the Graduate Council voted, without dissent, to recommend approval of Winston-Salem State University's Request to Plan the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program.

### **Collaboration with Other Universities**

Winston-Salem State University and UNC Chapel Hill have committed to collaborating to the extent practicable in the offering of their respective DNP programs. For example, the two institutions will begin by sharing at least one course offered simultaneously via videoconferencing with faculty on both campuses sharing joint responsibility for planning and delivering the content of the course. (Grading and enrollment will occur on the students' home campus.) This evolving collaboration will likely result in additional opportunities, such as opportunities for shared research on clinical and educational topics related to nursing practice.

### **Resource Implications**

Winston Salem State University estimates it will need an additional 5.7 faculty positions during the first two years of the proposed DNP program. WSSU's plan for ensuring the adequacy of resources in the event of no enrollment growth funds is outlined below.

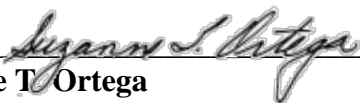
Four currently-vacant faculty positions will be filled with faculty credentialed as certified nurse practitioners. The Office of the Provost has agreed to provide one additional position. To compensate for the additional 3/4<sup>th</sup> position, WSSU will "streamline" the number of 12 month faculty positions; only those positions absolutely necessary for summer courses will be maintained as calendar year appointments. Winston-Salem State University will also consider a school-based tuition to provide for adjunct salaries and other program requirements.

Should the request to plan be approved, additional detailed budget information on the DNP program will be submitted with the Request to Establish document.

### **Recommendation**

The staff of the General Administration recommends that the Board of Governors approve the request from the Winston-Salem State University to plan a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program.

**Approved to be Recommended for Planning to the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs**

  
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Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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