

APPENDIX E

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Science Degree in Nursing at Winston-Salem State University

Introduction

Winston-Salem State University notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Master of Science degree in Nursing (CIP# 51.1605) on July 27, 2001. The university requests authorization to establish the program in August 2002.

Program Description

The proposed interdisciplinary Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree will prepare students for advanced practice nursing roles, specifically as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). FNP's are registered nurses with advanced education and clinical training in a health care specialty; they serve as primary health care providers for children and adults during health and illness. The proposed program will allow students to choose one of two interrelated specialties: Minority Health or Psychiatric/Mental Health. Graduates will be prepared to sit for a national certifying examination and, upon certification, apply to the Joint Practice Committee of the NC Board of Nursing and NC Board of Medicine.

Program Need

With projected increases in the elderly population, minority populations, and needs in mental health, there will be increased demand for health care providers with expertise in both primary care and in treating mental health disorders at a community level. The need for minority health care providers is particularly acute. In 1999, the AHEC Program conducted a survey of baccalaureate-prepared nurses in North Carolina and received 2,568 responses from nurses stating their interest in pursuing an MSN. Of these respondents, 65 percent expressed preference for a Nurse Practitioner (NP) program as their first or second choice. The Northwest AHEC region, which includes the WSSU service area, had the greatest number of survey respondents among the nine AHECs in the state, and 187 selected an NP program as their first choice, and 106 selected it as their second choice. There are no FNP programs in this region and no NP programs that offer either of the two specialty areas (minority health and psychiatric/mental health) proposed. WSSU anticipates enrollment of 10 full-time and 20 part-time students by the fourth year of the program.

Resources

A new wing for the F.L. Atkins Building, which houses the Department of Nursing, is being constructed with funds from the UNC Bond Project, and it will have a variety of laboratory and research space, technologically advanced classrooms, and computer resources. Other resources will come from internal reallocations, enrollment increase funds, and possible federal grants and AHEC support. Two endowed faculty chairs have been funded, and a new program director has been hired.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Nursing degree at Winston-Salem State University effective August 15, 2002