Academic Policy Committee Report

To: Faculty Senate

From: Meagan R. Kendall, Chair

Committee Members: Godwin Udo, Penelope Espinoza, Shalla Copeland, Connie Summers, Laura Serpa, Jeri Sias

Date: March 3, 2017

Subject: Action items from the Academic Policy Committee

The Academic Policy Committee passed one proposal outlined below and recommends it for approval by the Faculty Senate.

Policy Proposal: Traditional BSN Program Application and Admission
Submitted by Dr. Myrna Anchondo, Assistant Dean School of Nursing and Dr. Gloria McKee, Assistant Dean Graduate Education School of Nursing

Proposal Summary: The proposed catalog changes to the Traditional BSN program were originally made in response to a request from the Provost’s office. This request was based on a mandate from the federal government to remove all ‘pre-nursing’ course designations from all undergraduate degree majors at UTEP. The current undergraduate BSN catalog includes an ‘application process’ and an ‘admissions process’ to the nursing program which mentions ‘pre-nursing students’ and ‘pre-nursing courses’. The attached proposed catalog changes include the removal of any pre-nursing verbiage, and also eliminates the section entitled the ‘application process’. The application process was deleted because students that apply to the UTEP School of Nursing will be classified as ‘Nursing Majors’ from the time they initially apply for admission to UTEP. Instead of the current section entitled ‘Application Process’ we are proposing to leave only the section entitled ‘Admission Process’, which will now include 3 different phases, and will completely eliminate all reference to ‘pre-nursing’. Another change being proposed is the stipulation that in order for students to progress to ‘Phase 2’ and ‘Phase 3’ of the nursing program, they must have earned a minimum overall GPA of 3.0.

In short, the School of Nursing is proposing the following changes:

• Removal of “pre-nursing” from application and admissions process
• Create a 3-phase process: Phase 1 and 2 are the traditional pre-nursing program and phase 3 is the traditional BSN program.
• Increase the minimum GPA required for admission into Phase 2 from 2.5 to 3.0.

The committee unanimously approved the proposal.

Proposal with Tracked Changes: next page.
Traditional BSN Program Catalog Revisions

Traditional BSN Option

The undergraduate Traditional BSN curriculum provides an innovative, integrated, and conceptual model for teaching and learning wherein critical thinking and decision-making are emphasized.

The curriculum is grounded in the sciences and is focused on addressing nursing and health care across the life span. The degree plan consists of approximately two (2) years of lower-division course work followed by two or more years of upper-division Nursing courses taken at the School of Nursing. The entire program is possible to complete in eight (8) full-term semesters. The curriculum culminates in preceptored courses that include learning and practice with experienced professional nurses in acute care facilities and in community health care settings.

The Traditional BSN option is primarily designed as a pre-licensure entry to professional nursing practice educational program for students pursuing their first baccalaureate degree.

Traditional BSN Option Application Process:

• Completion of the University Core Curriculum (grade of "C" or better is required for each course in the University Core).
• The minimum cumulative GPA to apply is 2.50.
• Completion of the Pre-Professional pre-requisites (MATH 1320 Math for Social Sciences I (C) or higher, BIOL 1305 General Biology and BIOL 1107 Topics in Study of Life I, BIOL 2311 Human Anat/Physiology I (C) and BIOL 2111 Human Anat/Physio Lab I (C), BIOL 2313 Human Anat/Physiology II (C) and BIOL 2113 Human Anat/Physio Lab II (C), CHEM 1407 Introductory Chemistry (C) or CHEM 1305 General Chemistry and CHEM 1105 Laboratory for CHEM 1305, MICR 2330 Microorganisms and Disease, HSCI 2302 Fundamentals of Nutrition, PSYC 1301 Introduction to Psychology (C)) with a grade of "C" or better.
• Completion of TEAS exam with a Proficient or higher score (See TEAS Information below)

Traditional BSN Admission Process

• Admission to the UTEP School of Nursing Traditional BSN Option is highly competitive, and includes the following 3 phases:
• Students are ranked for admission based on
  • Pre-Professional pre-requisites GPA (historically, the competitive Pre-Professional pre-requisites GPA is 3.0 or higher)
  • Completion of Pre-Nursing courses (NURS 2303 Intro to Nursing Practice NURS 2303 Intro to Nursing Practice)
Traditional BSN Curriculum (3 Phases)

Phase 1 Nursing: Core Curriculum and Pre-Professional Courses

• Core Curriculum
  o 42-semester credit hour core curriculum
  o Completion of the nine component (block) areas.
  o All courses used to satisfy the core curriculum must be completed with a grade of “C” or better. This also applies to courses transferred from another institution.
  o Transfer students who have successfully completed the 42-hour core at another Texas institution of higher education, that core shall be substituted for the University of Texas at El Paso’s core curriculum.

• Pre-Professional Courses (the PPC GPA is the first criterion used for ranking for Phase 2)
  o Math 1320 or higher (3 credit hours)
  o BIOL 1305-1107 (4 credit hours)
  o BIOL 2311-2111 (4 credit hours)
  o BIOL 2313-2113 (4 credit hours)
  o CHEM 1407 OR CHEM 1305-1105 (4 credit hours)
  o MICR 2330 (3 credit hours)
  o HSCI 2303 (3 credit hours)
  o PSYC 1301 (3 credit hours)

• Requirements to apply to Phase 2.
  o A minimum overall GPA of 3.00 is required.
  o A minimum TEAS-VI score of 58.7% is required.
  o Students must apply at the beginning of their last semester of completing Phase 1.
  o Students enrolled in the last semester of Phase 1 at the time of selection may be conditionally accepted pending successful completion of Phase 1.
  o Phase 1 must be complete to progress to Phase 2.
  o Last semester of completing Phase 1 must be at the University of Texas at El Paso to be eligible to rank.
  o Students will be officially notified of admission status by the School of Nursing, Office of Student Affairs.
Applicants transferring from another school of nursing must provide a letter from the Dean/Director of that school stating that she/he is in good academic standing and eligible for progression in that program.

**Phase 2 Nursing:** If selected, students will be approved to take the following nursing courses (11 credit hours):

- **Ranking criteria:** Phase 1 pre-professional courses GPA, overall GPA, TEAS score
- NURS 2303 Introduction to Nursing Practice (3 credit hours)
- NURS 2402 Pathophysiology (4 credit hours)
- NURS 2407 Pharmacology for Nursing (4 credit hours)
- The first criterion used for ranking to Phase 3 is the overall GPA of Phase 2 (NURS 2303, NURS 2402, and NURS 2407.)
- A minimum overall GPA of 3.00 is required to apply to Phase 2.

**Phase 3 Nursing:** If selected, students will be approved to take the nursing professional courses.

- **Ranking criteria:** Phase 2 nursing courses, Phase 1 pre-professional courses GPA, overall GPA, TEAS score
- A minimum overall GPA of 3.00 is required to apply to Phase 3.
- The School of Nursing will require a cleared criminal background check by the Texas Board of Nursing to be eligible to rank for Phase 3.
- Nursing professional courses
  - 5th Semester (12 credit hours)
    - NURS 3401 Health Assessment (4 credit hours)
    - NURS 3604 Fundamentals of Nursing (6 credit hours)
    - NURS 3205 Nursing Informatics and Technology (2 credit hours)
  - 6th Semester (13 credit hours)
    - NURS 3709 Adult Health Nursing I (7 credit hours)
    - NURS 3300 Mental Behavioral Health Nursing (3 credit hours)
    - NURS 3314 Evidence-Based Research (3 credit hours)
  - 7th Semester (13 credit hours)
    - NURS 4714 Adult Health Nursing II (7 credit hours)
    - NURS 4608 Nursing Care of Childbearing and Childrearing Families (6 credit hours)
  - 8th Semester (13 credit hours)
    - NURS 4407 Transition to Professional Nursing Practice (4 credit hours)
    - NURS 4511 Population-Focused Care (5 credit hours)
    - NURS 4412 Senior Practicum (4 credit hours)
- 1 hour of a nursing elective will be required of students who transferred NURS 2307 (3 credit hours) prior to Spring 2017.
Policy Proposals Still Under Consideration

1. No registration or reinstatement into College of Science courses after late registration ends without written consent of Instructor of Record (registrars office currently only requires faculty signature after drop date)
2. Institutional space allocation policy and procedures