Executive Summary

The faculty of the Department of Nursing (DON) met in June (2011) to complete the work of curricular review for the RN-BSN completion track. The proposed changes to the RN-BSN curriculum plan come with a unanimous (4) vote of the Department of Nursing faculty. The changes would be implemented starting January 2012. The discussion points from the faculty will be found after the discussion of the proposed changes. The required forms are included in this document so they could be paginated for easy location. You will find references to those pages as you move through the discussion.

The DON faculty is proposing to adjust the curriculum requirements of the RN-BSN curriculum to meet the needs of students, MU, employers, accreditation requirements, and to have a competitive program that will attract and retain qualified students. The following table illustrates comparisons of existing requirements versus proposed requirements. The items bolded include requested changes for approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing RN-BSN Curriculum</th>
<th>Proposed RN-BSN Curriculum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAE (41 hours)</td>
<td>LAE transfer module in place (36 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Transfer (varies with program)</td>
<td>Nursing Transfer ( varies with program)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing major courses (23-25 hours)</td>
<td>Nursing major courses (23-25 hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cognate support courses (21 hours)</td>
<td>Cognate support courses (18 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University residency requirement (48 hours)</td>
<td>University residency requirement (32 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300-400 level courses (40 hours)</td>
<td>300-400 level courses (40 hours)</td>
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<td>124 semester hours are satisfied to graduate including university and nursing requirements for the BSN degree.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Of the students that have graduated to date, the average earned semester hours at graduation was 158 semester hours with a range of 134 -185 semester hours.

Existing nursing major requirements include: (23 credit hours approved for 23-25)
- NURS 340 - Nursing Research (3)
- NURS 401 - Professional Nursing Transitions (2)
- NURS 430 - Perspectives in Global Health & Nursing (3)
- NURS 450 - Critical Care Nursing (4) (with practicum)
- NURS 460 - Community Health Nursing (4) (with practicum)
- NURS 475 - Issues & Trends in Health & Nursing (2)
- NURS 480 - Nursing Leadership & Management (4) (with practicum)
- NURS 490 - Nursing Informatics (1) (nursing elective)

Existing cognate non-nursing courses include: (21 credits)
- BIOL 305 – Genetics (3)
- BIOL 346 – Pathophysiology (3)
- CPSC 100 – Computer Science (3)
- PHIL 305 - Biomedical Ethics (3)
- PSYC 208 - Lifespan Development (3)
- PSYC 232 - Behavioral Statistics (3)
- SOCI 345 – Sociology of the Family (3)
Department of Nursing: Proposed Curricular Changes RN-BSN (MAP)

Proposed nursing major requirements include: (23 credit hours approved for 23-25)
  • NURS 340 - Nursing Research (3)
  • NURS 3XX – Transitions in Professional Practice (3)
  • NURS 3XX – Health Assessment (3)
  • NURS 430 - Perspectives in Global Health & Nursing (3)
  • NURS 460 - Community Health Nursing (4) (with practicum)
  • NURS 4XX – Contemporary Issues in Nursing & Healthcare (3)
  • NURS 480 - Nursing Leadership & Management (4) (with practicum)

Proposed cognate non-nursing courses include: (18 credits)
  • BIOL 305 – Genetics (3)
  • BIOL 346 – Pathophysiology (3)
  • PHIL 305 - Biomedical Ethics (3)
  • PSYC 309 – Adulthood and Aging (3) (if no transcripted Lifespan Development)
  • PSYC 232 - Behavioral Statistics (3)
  • SOCI 345 – Sociology of the Family (3)

The following course will be removed from the permanent offerings:
  • NURS 401: Professional Nursing Transitions (2) (see form on page 11)

The following courses will be removed from the RN-BSN major only:
  • NURS 450: Critical Care and the Family (4) (see form on page 15)
  • NURS 475: Issues and Trends in Health and Nursing (2) (see form on page 17)
  • NURS 490 (informatics) (1) this is a nursing elective that students take in order to balance load
    requirements. It will remain as an elective. Future students will no longer need it to balance load
    requirements. (see form on page 13)

The following courses will be removed from the offerings as cognate non-nursing for the RN-BSN major
only:
  • CPSC 100: Introduction to Computing (3) (see form on page 5)
  • The majority of nursing RN-BSN students have already completed an introductory course
    in computers.
  • The Ohio Board of Regents Transfer Module policy does not require the need for transfer
    students to complete CPSC 100.
  • PSYC 208: Lifespan Development (3 credits) (see form on page 7)
  • The majority of nursing RN-BSN students complete a course in human growth and
    development in their ADN nursing program.
  • The ADN programs that do not offer a specific course integrate human growth and
    development or lifespan content in their nursing content courses (Ohio Administrative
    Code 4723-5: Curriculum)

New Courses to be added to the RN-BSN major:
  • NURS 3XX: Transitions in Professional Practice (3): Objectives and content emphasize the
    professional nursing practice at the baccalaureate level. (see form on page 21)
Department of Nursing: Proposed Curricular Changes RN-BSN (MAP)

- **NURS 3XX: Health Assessment (3):** Objectives and content emphasize comprehensive health assessment with an application project. *(see form on page 19)*

- **NURS 4XX: Contemporary Issues in Nursing and Healthcare (3):** Objectives and content emphasize issues that professional nurses must address. *(see form on page 23)*

**Course to be added to the cognate support for the major** for students who do not have a transcripted Lifespan Development course:

- **PSYC 309: Adulthood and Aging (3):** *(see form on page 9)*
  - RNs have Lifespan Development either integrated into their basic nursing program or they have taken a transcripted course in Lifespan Development.
  - Based on current issues in healthcare and IOM findings, content on aging could be strengthened.
  - This course meets the requirement for hours at the 300-400 level for graduation. PSYC 208 does not meet this requirement.
  - Only a small number of RN-BSN students will come to us with this need.

**Department of Nursing discussion points**

Rationale for the proposed changes is grounded in identifiable evidence as required by CCNE. The following evidence was collected, analyzed, and discussed by the voting members of the Department of Nursing faculty.

1. The mission, philosophy, organizing framework, and program objectives continue to be the foundation of BSN degree. Therefore, the proposed changes do not constitute a change to the degree, BSN.
2. There is no external mandate (to MU) that both pre-licensure and post-licensure BSN curriculum plans be identical. It is the BSN Essentials and our own mission, philosophy, organizing framework, and program goals (objectives) that need to be consistent.
3. The proposed changes are within the existing scope of accreditation standards and will be reported to Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in the expected reporting format.
4. Program review by DON faculty was based on faculty and student feedback about content flow and delivery. The first graduation cohort was in May 2011.
5. Feedback from enrolled and prospective students was that the current design is less desirable than other programs in the area.
6. The proposed nursing major courses are designed to be completed in a 12-month, 3 consecutive semester (or 4 consecutive sessions, fall, spring I, spring II, and summer), if a student so chooses. This meets what potential students have identified as a desirable option.
7. Data suggests that no RN-BSN completion program requires a critical care course.
8. BSN graduates are assumed to have a transcripted health assessment course. Our existing design has it “integrated” into the critical care course.
9. The needs of area employers were reviewed for qualified staff. Many are taking action to mandate RNs achieve the BSN.
10. The Ohio Board of Nursing rules were reviewed for content mandated by approved RN programs. This is important when looking at cognate support courses that may or may not be included as standalone transcripted courses versus integrated content. Lifespan development is one example of these considerations.

Approved by DON Faculty Organization, June 2011
11. Benchmark programs that recruit students from this area were identified and reviewed.
12. BSN Essentials (AACN, 2008) requirements for accreditation were confirmed for the proposed design.
13. Recent Institute of Medicine (IOM, 2011) report on recommendations for the future of nursing education informed the decision making of faculty.
14. Curricular mandates (American Association of Colleges of Nursing and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education) suggest that faculty need to be intentional about including content supporting the national initiative on Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) has been included in the proposed course structures.
15. Support cognate non-nursing courses were reviewed and modified to reflect curricular outcomes and professional standards.

Please see the Curriculum Change Proposal forms that follow: