

Board Meeting
May 11, 2006

ESTABLISH DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE,
COLLEGE OF NURSING, CHICAGO

Action: Approve the Establishment of the Doctor of Nursing Practice, College of Nursing, Chicago

Funding: No New State Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the Graduate College recommends the establishment of a new degree program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

Illinois has one of the largest health care markets in the country. With this large market comes an increasing demand for highly specialized nurses who are able to excel in complex interdisciplinary environments and systems, and provide cost-effective evidence-based services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (2005) lists nursing as one of ten occupations with the largest projected job growth rate between 2003 and 2014. At the same time, vacancy rates for faculty in nursing are increasing, as faculty prepare to retire. Data from the 2000 Illinois nurse workforce study show the mean age of faculty in Illinois to be 50.1 years; that 67.2 percent of faculty are over 45 years of age, and that 42.9 percent of Illinois nurse faculty plan to retire within ten years of the study date.

The mission of the DNP is to develop advanced practitioners of nursing into evidence-based, intradisciplinary providers who meet the needs of a rapidly

expanding healthcare field. In keeping with the most recent position statements of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Chicago campus nursing practice doctorate will prepare individuals to be nurse leaders at the highest level of practice. It will become the terminal practice degree in nursing (AACN, 2005). These expert practitioners will also be in demand as clinical faculty members.

Students entering the program must complete a minimum of 90 semester hours of credit beyond the baccalaureate degree. A maximum of 45 semester hours of credit may be awarded for a master's degree completed either at the Chicago campus or another accredited institution. Any credit awarded will be determined on an individual basis by the DNP Admissions Committee. All students, however, are required to earn a minimum of 45 semester hours of credit in formal course work in the DNP program.

Students in the DNP program will pay a tuition differential (\$2,311 per semester and \$1,156 per summer session.) This will provide support for the additional faculty time required to provide new courses and supplemental sections of existing courses. The tuition differential revenue will grow incrementally as the number of students increases and it should be sufficient to cover program expenses by Year 3. Internal reallocation of funds will be necessary to cover costs as estimated for the first two years. This may be minimal if new sections are not needed for existing courses as projected.

The board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval, pending further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.