Brothers, Sheila C

From:	Raphael Finkel [raphael@cs.uky.edu]
Sent:	Tuesday, November 29, 2011 9:26 PM
To:	Brothers, Sheila C
Cc:	Davis, Alison F; Feddock, Christopher A; Meyer, A L; Carl Lee; Lowry, Regina; Fuqua, Zachary D; Raphael Finkel; Scott Yost; Provost, University of Kentucky; Witt, Don
Subject:	SAASC, item 3: Proposed Change to SR 4.2.1.2 for Nursing

Sheila,

After deliberation, the SAASC has voted in favor of the proposal proposing a change to SR 4.2.1.2 for Nursing. We offer the following clarifications.

1. The proposal should not ask for dropping the 67-credit limit in general, but only for RN-BSN students. We suggest this rewording of the proposal:

    Modify the following current language from SR 4.2.1.2, which is
    University-wide:

        Credit hours for courses accepted from a junior college, or
        other two year colleges or branches, shall be limited to a
        maximum of 67 semester hours.

    to provide a specific exclusion:

        Credit hours for courses accepted from a junior college, or
        other two year colleges or branches, shall be limited to a
        maximum of 67 semester hours, except for students in the RN-BSN
        (Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program,
        for whom the limit shall be a maximum of 90 semester hours.

2. Nomenclature:

    KCTCS   Kentucky Community and Technical College System
    AA   Associate of Arts (2-year) degree
    AS   Associate of Science (2-year) degree
    AAS   Associate of Applied Science (2-year) degree
    ADN   Associate degree in Nursing, which can be an AA, AS, or AAS.
    RN-BSN Registered nurse getting a Bachelors of Science in Nursing
            This is a student who has state licensure as an RN. The student
            might have an ADN, a Bachelor's degree, or a diploma,
            so long as it is from a school permitted by the Board of Nursing to
            prepare students for the licensure examination.
    CPE   Council on Post-Secondary Education (Kentucky institution)
    GETA   General Education Transfer Agreement of the CPE.
    USP   University Studies Program, superseded by UK Core
    UK Core 30-credit undergraduate core requirement recently enacted

3. The purpose of the proposal is so that RN-BSN students can transfer not only UK Core courses, such as ENG 101 and 102, public speaking, psychology, sociology, history, and chemistry, but also all their nursing courses (given a passing grade in the course and given a GPA of C or better), which have already been vetted by their passing a licensure examination.

4. The effect of the proposal is to require only 30 hours of UK credit; UK requires that 30 of the last 36 hours earned toward a degree be earned at UK. These 30 hours are typically 30 hours of upper division nursing courses, including Concepts of Professional Nursing (which meets the graduation writing requirement), Advanced Health Assessment, Clinical Reasoning (the nursing research course), Public Health Nursing, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, Leadership in Nursing, and the capstone course, Synthesis. In addition, students might also need to take statistics, foreign language, and missing UK Core courses.

5. Background information:

    a. UK considers that students with an AA or an AS from a two year college have met the UK Core requirements, by virtue of the GETA.

    b. Nursing students at KCTCS get an AAS degree. UK does not consider students with an AAS to have met the UK Core, but they can get core credit for courses they have taken that are relevant to the core.

    c. Students with an AAS often return to their KCTCS school to earn either an AA or an AS. This is the advice both UK and KCTCS gives such students who want to continue at UK. The KCTCS program is often better for these students: more adult-friendly, more evening and online classes. Such students then come to UK with even more courses that should be transferred.

    d. Currently, students entering the RN-BSN program are limited to transferring 67 credits. Any credits applicable to UK Core are applied first, then lower-division nursing courses. The knowledge gained from those courses is tested on licensure boards; therefore, if a nurse has a license, he/she has demonstrated competency in this material. But a limit of 67 means that transfer students do not get credit for all their lower-division nursing courses.

    e. The RN-BSN program still requires the student to take UK courses, because KCTCS does not offer all the courses required for this program.

6. The justification for the proposal is that students take low-level courses at a KCTCS school, because the tuition is lower and scheduling more flexible than UK. They might also take some core requirements there. They want to transfer 90 credit hours and take 30 credit hours at UK to get the BSN. As it stands, students are choosing programs other then UK because of the limitation of 67 transfer credit hours.
One workaround currently used is to award credits via portfolio or experience, but these practices have not been formally approved and are labor-intensive. Benchmark schools have a wide variety of practices.
The cleanest solution is to allow a transfer up to 90 credit hours.

Raphael

June 29, 2011

TO: Heidi Anderson, Chair HCCC

FROM: Jane Kirschling, Dean
          Patricia Burkhart, Associate Dean

RE: Review/Repeal of 67 hr rule

The College of Nursing is requesting a review and ~~repeal~~ amendment of the current rule

4.2.1.2   Admission to Advanced Standing [SREC: 6/8/06]

Applicants for admission must present evidence that they are in good standing in every respect in the institution they last attended. At no time shall college or university records be disregarded to admit an applicant solely on the basis of his/her high school records. Credit hours for courses accepted from a junior college, or other two year colleges or branches, shall be limited to a maximum of 67 semester hours, except for students in the RN-BSN (Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing) option, from whom the limit shall be a maximum of 90 semester hours. Applicants must have maintained a grade point average of 2.0 or an average of C in all previous course work. [US: 12/13/82]

In 2006, this rule was changed to include KCTCS schools, which had previously been exempted from the limit of 67 credits accepted from a junior college. This had a significant impact on students applying to the RN-BSN completion program offered by the College of Nursing. This degree option is designed for working nurses and so the requirements have been streamlined to include the essentials of a BSN degree and the UK Core requirements.

The ADN is not GETA certified so UK Core will not be completed and so typically, the students who pursue the RN-BSN use the KCTCS schools to take USP courses – at reduced tuition and often more flexible scheduling options for them. It would be normal to have such a student transfer 90 semester hours to UK – and then take the required 30 hrs here to complete the BSN. Sometimes there would be one or two USP courses to complete as well.

With the imposing of the maximum credit hours limit of 67, students are opting out of UK in favor of other programs with more flexibility. Those who choose to come are taking courses just to earn sufficient hours – not to fulfill any other requirement. To try to prevent this, we have worked with the Registrar to award credits some other way – via portfolio or credit by experience. But we don't have a formally approved practice.

We surveyed RN-BSN programs to see what our benchmarks and other schools were doing and found a wide range of practices, none of which seemed any more sound than repealing the rule and accepting the credit hours. The bottom line is that students at other institutions were not taking any more hours at the BSN institution but were receiving credits by portfolio review or for prior learning (with some form of evaluation); some schools charge tuition for these credits.

If we can award the students the full hours they earned at other schools, it seems like a cleaner process academically, and the record stands on its own merit. The portfolio or credit for prior learning is a labor intensive undertaking and raises the question of if it in fact indicates any more depth of learning than is already in evidence from the transcript. Students will not graduate from UK without earning 30 credit hours, at the minimum. All UK Core will still have to be complete.