

## Brothers, Sheila C

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**From:** Raphael Finkel [raphael@cs.uky.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2013 12:15 PM  
**To:** Brothers, Sheila C  
**Cc:** Lowry, Regina; Prats, Armando; Graf, Gregory A; Hayes, Robert Z; Jackson, Vanessa P; Raphael Finkel; Stanley, Aaron D; Rachel McMahan; Lewis, Wayne D; Provost, University of Kentucky; Witt, Don  
**Subject:** SAASC Item 16: admission requirements for the PhD Nursing Program

Sheila,

The SAASC approves this item. My notes:

SAASC Item 16: admission requirements for the PhD Nursing Program

Reference

[http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/curricular\\_proposals/files/PhD%20in%20NUR%20Admission%20Criteria.pdf](http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/curricular_proposals/files/PhD%20in%20NUR%20Admission%20Criteria.pdf)

Overview

This is a proposal from the Nursing PhD Program, college of Nursing, to change admission criteria for students entering the PhD program from the Bachelor of Science - Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science - Nursing (MSN) programs at UK. The rationale is to unify the admission criteria for entry from BSN and entry from MSN into the PhD program.

1. Reduce minimum GPA for students entering the PhD program from BSN from 3.5 to 3.3. In fact, 3.3 is already the minimum GPA for entry to the PhD program from MSN.
2. Drop the GRE requirement for entry to the PhD program from the BSN and MSN programs. The GRE has not been predictive of success, and the requirement makes it hard for BSN students to join the University Studies Program (USP). Admitted PhD students can take the GRE later to become eligible for fellowships. The SAASC Item 13 has already recommended generally dropping the GRE requirement for USP.
3. Flesh out the existing requirement that the applicant (from either BSN or MSN) supply a goal statement by including details about what the goal statement should include.
4. Drop the requirement that students entering the PhD program from the BSN program have clinical experience. The current wording says "An applicant must possess ... a Kentucky Registered Nurse license". This requirement remains. However, clinical experience prior to first clinical course would no longer be required. (Clinical experience is always understood to be after licensure.)
5. Add the requirement for applicants to the PhD program from the MSN program that at least one of the three references should be from

a faculty member with a PhD. This requirement is already in place for applicants from the BSN program.

My query to Terry Lennie <[talenn2@email.uky.edu](mailto:talenn2@email.uky.edu)>:

I am surprised that there are special admission requirements for students entering the PhD program from the BSN or MSN programs; I would have thought that the admission requirements would be generic for all applicants, whether from UK's other Nursing programs, from other domestic institutions, or from international institutions. The proposal doesn't mention what the requirements are for these other categories of students.

His response (with my slight edits):

We are working to make admission criteria similar for BSN and MS entry students. When the BSN entry option was first developed, faculty felt that the criteria had to be higher because these students had not demonstrated ability to be successful in graduate school. The college has moved toward full support of BSN entry for both our PhD and profession doctorate (DNP). The criteria will be the same regardless of which school the BSN degree is from. We only used our program in the rationale because we know we were excluding talented students who simply didn't have a high enough GPA.

I also asked him:

The proposal says to drop the requirement that students entering the PhD program from the BSN program have clinical experience. The current wording says "An applicant must possess ... a Kentucky Registered Nurse license". It also says "... clinical experience prior to first clinical course." Which of these requirements is to be dropped under the proposal?

His response:

The one requiring clinical experience. They all need to be licensed; licensure is a prerequisite for clinical experience.

My take:

This proposal is similar to ones we have been seeing: a program wishes to modify entrance requirements. We have been supportive of such requests; each program knows best how to evaluate its applicants.

In previous cases, the SC has requested precise wording for the SR (University Senate Rules). But those rules only include information on admission policies in specific programs for undergraduate students, not graduate programs; all graduate programs are lumped into SR 4.2.5.

On the other hand, the Graduate School Bulletin, Part 2: Programs, Certificates, and Courses

(<http://www.research.uky.edu/gs/CurrentStudents/Bulletins/current/bulletin-13-part2-final.pdf>)

has a section on Nursing starting on page 285. There are sections

called "MSN-PhD in Nursing" and "B.S.N-Ph.D in Nursing". Are these the sections to be modified? I would like to see a precise wording of the replacement text for the Graduate School Bulletin, but that's not a requirement for us to approve this matter.

## CHANGE DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM FORM

### GENERAL INFORMATION

College:	<u>Nursing</u>	Department:	<u>NA</u>
Current Major Name:	<u>Nursing</u>	Proposed Major Name:	<u>no change</u>
Current Degree Title:	<u>Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing</u>	Proposed Degree Title:	<u>no change</u>
Current Formal Option(s):	_____	Proposed Formal Option(s):	_____
Current Specialty Fields w/in Formal Option:	_____	Proposed Specialty Fields w/in Formal Option:	_____
Date of Contact with Associate Provost for Academic Administration <sup>1</sup> :	<u>5/24/2012</u>		
Bulletin (yr & pgs):	<u>2012/p. 220-223</u>	CIP Code <sup>1</sup> :	<u>51.1608</u>
		Today's Date:	<u>7/2/2012</u>
Accrediting agency (if applicable):	<u>NA</u>		
Requested Effective Date:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Semester following approval.	OR	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Date <sup>2</sup> : _____
Dept Contact Person:	<u>Terry Lennie</u>	Phone:	<u>3-6631</u>
		Email:	<u>tlennie@uky.edu</u>

### CHANGE(S) IN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
1. Number of transfer credits allowed: <i>(Maximum is Graduate School limit of total of 9 hours (or 25% of the credit hours needed to fulfill the pre-qualifying residency requirement.)</i>	_____	_____
2. Residence requirement: <i>(Minimum of one year before and after Qualifying Exams.)</i>	_____	_____
3. Language(s) and/or skill(s) required:	_____	_____
4. Provisions for monitoring progress and termination criteria:	_____	_____
5. Total credit hours required:	_____	_____
6. Required courses:	_____	_____
7. Required distribution of courses within program:	_____	_____
8. Minor area or courses outside program required:	_____	_____
9. Distribution of courses levels required (400G-500/600-700):	_____	_____
10. Qualifying examination requirements:	_____	_____

<sup>1</sup> Prior to filling out this form, you MUST contact the Associate Provost for Academic Administration (APAA). If you do not know the CIP code, the APAA can provide you with that during the contact.

<sup>2</sup> Programs are typically made effective for the semester following approval. No program will be made effective until all approvals are received.

## CHANGE DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM FORM

11. Explain whether the proposed changes to the program (as described in numbers 1 through 10) involve courses offered by another department/program. Routing Signature Log must include approval by faculty of additional department(s).

None of the changes involve departments or programs outside the college of nursing

12. Other requirements not covered above:

Change in admission criteria for BSN and MSN entry students (Table 1A and 1B).

13. What is the rationale for the proposed changes? If the rationale involves accreditation requirements, please include specific references to those requirements.

1. Lowering minimum GPA for BSN entry: The UK BSN program is rigorous and the faculty maintain high academic standards. In fact, Spring 2012 was the first year that a total of 3 undergraduate students earned a 4.0 GPA. Thus, a 3.3 GPA in the undergraduate BSN program represents high scholastic achievement. Requiring a minimum 3.5 GPA was eliminating a number of otherwise qualified students who could succeed in the graduate program. The minimum 3.3 GPA for BSN entry is consistent with the minimum MSN entry GPA. 2. Dropping GRE requirement for in BSN entry: The GRE has not been predictive of whether or not a student succeeds in the PhD program. We are interested in admitting our undergraduate students while in their senior year. Requiring the GRE delays admission as students are not able to complete the GRE until after graduation. Students will be strongly encouraged to take the GRE after sufficient preparation to be eligible for Graduate School fellowships. 3. Goal statement. This is not a change per se but a clarification of what faculty members want in the Goal Statement. 4. Drop requirement for clinical experience. Clinical experiences relevant to the student's program of research are embedded in the revised BSN entry curriculum eliminating the need for prior experience. 5. Dropping GRE requirement for MSN entry. As with BSN entry students, the GRE was not predictive of success/failure in the PhD program. 6. Goal statement. Same rationale as for BSN entry students. 7. References. Language changed to be consistent with BSN entry students.

**CHANGE DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM FORM**

Signature Routing Log

**General Information:**

Proposal Name: Change in College of Nursing BSN and MSN entry PhD admission criteria

Proposal Contact Person Name: Terry Lennie Phone: 3-6631 Email: tlennie@uky.edu

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Identify the groups or individuals reviewing the proposal; note the date of approval; offer a contact person for each entry; and obtain signature of person authorized to report approval.

**Internal College Approvals and Course Cross-listing Approvals:**

Reviewing Group	Date Approved	Contact Person (name/phone/email)	Signature
College of Nursing PhD Curriculum Committee	2/14/12	Susan Frazier / 3-5791 / skfraz2@uky.edu	Susan K. Frazier <small>Digitally signed by Susan K. Frazier DN: cn=Susan K. Frazier, o=University of Kentucky, ou=College of Nursing, email=skfraz2@email.uky.edu, c=US Date: 2012.07.02 15:46:37 -0400</small>
College of Nursing Graduate Faculty	5/24/2012	Terry Lennie / 3-6631 / tlennie@uky.edu	Terry Lennie <small>Digitally signed by Terry Lennie DN: cn=Terry Lennie, o=University of Kentucky, ou=College of Nursing, email=tlennie@uky.edu, c=US Date: 2012.07.02 15:18:46 -0400</small>
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**External-to-College Approvals:**

Council	Date Approved	Signature	Approval of Revision <sup>3</sup>
Undergraduate Council			
Graduate Council		Dr. Brian A. Jackson <small>Digitally signed by Dr. Brian A. Jackson DN: cn=Dr. Brian A. Jackson, o=University of Kentucky, ou=Graduate School, email, c=US Date: 2012.11.16 13:11:56 -0500</small>	
Health Care Colleges Council	9/18/12	Jim Lindsay, Coordinator	
Senate Council Approval		University Senate Approval	

**Comments:**

HCCC: Typos in sections #11, #13

<sup>3</sup> Councils use this space to indicate approval of revisions made subsequent to that council's approval, if deemed necessary by the revising council.

<b>Table 1A. Admission BSN Entry</b>	
<b>Current BSN entry admission criteria</b>	<b>Proposed BSN entry admission criteria</b>
1. Undergraduate GPA $\geq$ 3.5 on a 4.0 scale	Undergraduate GPA $\geq$ 3.3 on a 4.0 scale
2. Official GRE scores within the past five years. Recommended scores 600 or above on Verbal and Quantitative and 5.0 or above on the Analytic Writing portion	GRE is optional, but highly recommended; GRE scores are used for competitive funding opportunities, particularly those from the Graduate School
3. Goal statement	Goal statement that addresses short and long term academic, research and career goals, a self-evaluation of motivation, initiative, and the potential for independent learning with specific examples of each and examples of leadership experiences where initiative and self-motivation were important to success
4. Clinical experience as a RN prior to first clinical course	Deleted: No required clinical experience
A bachelor's degree from a NLN- or CCNE-accredited program	No change
Licensure as a registered nursing in Kentucky or in state where clinicals will take place	No change
Three references – at least one from a doctorally prepared faculty member	No change
Example of scholarly work that could include a publication or a class paper that demonstrates scholarly writing and ability to communicate clearly and logically	No change
Two faculty interviews arranged as part of the admission process	No change
Admission to the University of Kentucky Graduate School	No change

<b>Table 1B. Admission MSN Entry</b>	
<b>Current MSN entry admission criteria</b>	<b>Proposed MSN entry admission criteria</b>
Graduate GPA $\geq$ 3.3 on a 4.0 scale	No change
5. Official GRE scores	GRE is optional, but highly recommended; GRE scores are used for competitive funding opportunities, particularly those from the Graduate School
6. Goal statement	Goal statement that addresses short and long term academic, research and career goals, a self-evaluation of motivation, initiative, and the potential for independent learning with specific examples of each and examples of leadership experiences where initiative and self-motivation were important to success.
MS or MSN from an accredited program	No change
7. Three references	Three references – at least one from a doctorally prepared faculty member
Two faculty interviews arranged as part of the admission process	No change
Admission to the University of Kentucky Graduate School	No change