



January 6, 2015

College of Nursing  
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Lexington, KY 40536-0232  
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fax 859 323-1057  
[www.uknursing.uky.edu](http://www.uknursing.uky.edu)

TO: Senate Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "PBH", written over the "TO:" line.

FROM: Patricia B. Howard, Executive Associate Dean, Academic Operations

RE: Program Changes for BSN

Attached please find a program change request for the admission requirements of Pre-Nursing students. The retention issues have become more pronounced for our college due to increased freshman class size (~350 this year) but an absolute capacity (160) for students in the major at sophomore level.

The proposal is to raise the admission requirements for pre-nursing to reflect more accurately the academic preparation of the students who are eventually admitted to the major and thus limit the enrollment of students in pre-nursing who are unlikely to be admitted to the major. Students from other majors on campus will be eligible to apply if they have met the pre-requisites, so students are not being denied an opportunity to apply.

The second part of the proposal is to increase the minimum standards for students who come with a guarantee of admission to align them with the overall averages of students admitted to the major.

Our most recent external review team raised several questions regarding the current practice and recommended an immediate change in process due to retention issues and the overall demand for the available supply. We are requesting approval to be implemented for the 2015-16 recruitment/admission cycle, for students who will enroll in fall 2016.

# CHANGE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM FORM

## 1. General Information

|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| College: <u>Nursing</u>  |                                       | Department: _____                             |   |
| Current Major Name:  | <u>Nursing</u>                        | Proposed Major Name:                          | _____   |
| Current Degree Title:  | <u>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</u> | Proposed Degree Title:                        | _____   |
| Formal Option(s):  | <u>Four-year students</u>             | Proposed Formal Option(s):                    | _____   |
| Specialty Field w/in Formal Option:  | _____                                 | Proposed Specialty Field w/in Formal Options: | _____   |
| Date of Contact with Associate Provost for Academic Administration <sup>1</sup> : _____  |                                       |   |   |
| Bulletin (yr & pgs):   | <u>2014-15, 285-290</u>               | CIP Code <sup>1</sup> :                       | <u>51.3801</u> Today's Date: <u>1/6/15</u>            |
| Accrediting Agency (if applicable): <u>AACN</u>  |                                       |   |   |
| Requested Effective Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Semester following approval. OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specific Date <sup>2</sup> : <u>Fall 2015</u> |                                       |   |   |
| Dept. Contact Person:  | <u>Patricia Burkhart</u>              | Phone:  | <u>3-8071</u> Email: <u>Patricia.Burkhart@uky.edu</u> |

## 2. General Education Curriculum for this Program:

The new General Education curriculum is comprised of the equivalent of 30 credit hours of course work. There are, however, some courses that exceed 3 credits & this would result in more than 30 credits in some majors.

- There is no foreign language requirement for the new Gen Ed curriculum.
- There is no General Education Electives requirement.

**Please list the courses/credit hours currently used to fulfill the University Studies/General Education curriculum:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please identify below the suggested courses/credit hours to fulfill the General Education curriculum.**

| General Education Area                                   | Course         | Credit Hrs |
|--|----------------|------------|
| <b>I. Intellectual Inquiry (one course in each area)</b> |                |            |
| Arts and Creativity                                      | _____          | _____      |
| Humanities   | _____          | _____      |
| Social Sciences  | _____          | _____      |
| Natural/Physical/Mathematical                            | _____          | _____      |
| <b>II. Composition and Communication</b>                 |                |            |
| Composition and Communication I                          | CIS or WRD 110 | 3          |
| Composition and Communication II                         | CIS or WRD 111 | 3          |

<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> Program changes are typically made effective for the semester following approval. No program will be made effective until all approvals are received.

## CHANGE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM FORM

|  |  |       |       |
|--|--|-------|-------|
| <b>III. Quantitative Reasoning (one course in each area)</b> |  |       |       |
| Quantitative Foundations <sup>3</sup>                        |  | _____ | _____ |
| Statistical Inferential Reasoning                            |  | _____ | _____ |
| <b>IV. Citizenship (one course in each area)</b>             |  |       |       |
| Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA                |  | _____ | _____ |
| Global Dynamics  |  | _____ | _____ |
| <b>Total General Education Hours</b>                         |  |       | _____ |

**3. Explain whether the proposed changes to the program (as described in sections 4 to 12) involve courses offered by another department/program. Routing Signature Log must include approval by faculty of additional department(s).**

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

**4. Explain how satisfaction of the University Graduation Writing Requirement will be changed.**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Current</b>   | <b>Proposed</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standard University course offering.<br>List: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Standard University course offering.</i><br>List: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific course – list: _____                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Specific course) – list: _____</i>                      |

**5. List any changes to college-level requirements that must be satisfied.**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Current</b>  | <b>Proposed</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standard college requirement.<br>List: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Standard college requirement.</i><br>List: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific required course – list: _____       | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Specific course – list: _____</i>                |

**6. List pre-major or pre-professional course requirements that will change, including credit hours.**

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Current</b> | <b>Proposed</b> |
| _____          | _____           |

**7. List the major's course requirements that will change, including credit hours.**

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Current</b> | <b>Proposed</b> |
| _____          | _____           |

**8. Does the pgm require a minor AND does the proposed change affect the required minor?**  N/A  Yes  No  
If "Yes," indicate current courses and proposed changes below.

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Current</b> | <b>Proposed</b> |
| _____          | _____           |

**9. Does the proposed change affect any option(s)?**  N/A  Yes  No

If "Yes," indicate current courses and proposed changes below, including credit hours, and also specialties and subspecialties, if any.

<sup>3</sup> Note that MA 109 is NOT approved as a Quantitative Foundations course. Students in a major requiring calculus will use a calculus course (MA 113, 123, 137 or 138) while students not requiring calculus should take MA 111, PHI 120 or another approved course.

## CHANGE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM FORM

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| Current | Proposed |
|         |          |

- 10. Does the change affect pgm requirements for number of credit hrs outside the major subject in a related field?**  Yes  No  
 If so, indicate current courses and proposed changes below.

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| Current | Proposed |
|         |          |

- 11. Does the change affect pgm requirements for technical or professional support electives?**  Yes  No  
 If so, indicate current courses and proposed changes below.

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| Current | Proposed |
|         |          |

- 12. Does the change affect a minimum number of free credit hours or support electives?**  Yes  No  
 If "Yes," indicate current courses and proposed changes below.

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| Current | Proposed |
|         |          |

**13. Summary of changes in required credit hours:**

|   | Current        | Proposed |
|---|----------------|----------|
| a. Credit Hours of Premajor or Preprofessional Courses:         | _____          | _____    |
| b. Credit Hours of Major's Requirements:                        | _____          | _____    |
| c. Credit Hours for Required Minor:                             | _____          | _____    |
| d. Credit Hours Needed for a Specific Option:                   | _____          | _____    |
| e. Credit Hours Outside of Major Subject in Related Field:      | _____          | _____    |
| f. Credit Hours in Technical or Professional Support Electives: | _____          | _____    |
| g. Minimum Credit Hours of Free/Supportive Electives:           | _____          | _____    |
| h. Total Credit Hours Required by Level:                        | 100: _____     | _____    |
|   | 200: _____     | _____    |
|   | 300: _____     | _____    |
|   | 400-500: _____ | _____    |
| i. Total Credit Hours Required for Graduation:                  | _____          | _____    |

- 14. Rationale for Change(s) – if rationale involves accreditation requirements, please include specific references to that.**

- 15. List below the typical semester by semester program for the major. If multiple options are available, attach a separate sheet for each option.**

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>YEAR 1 – FALL:</b><br>(e.g. "BIO 103; 3 credits") | <b>YEAR 1 – SPRING:</b> |
|  |                         |

# CHANGE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM FORM

|                        |       |                         |       |
|------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| <b>YEAR 2 - FALL :</b> | _____ | <b>YEAR 2 – SPRING:</b> | _____ |
| <b>YEAR 3 - FALL:</b>  | _____ | <b>YEAR 3 - SPRING:</b> | _____ |
| <b>YEAR 4 - FALL:</b>  | _____ | <b>YEAR 4 - SPRING:</b> | _____ |

# CHANGE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM FORM

## Signature Routing Log

**General Information:**

Current Degree Title and Major Name: Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Proposal Contact Person Name: Patricia Burkhart

Phone: 3-8071



Email:

patricia.burkhart@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   |
|--|---------------|---|---|
| Undergraduate Faculty                            | 12-5-14       | Patricia Burkhart / 3/8071 /<br>patricia.burkhart@uky.edu |  |
| Executive Associate Dean,<br>Academic Operations | 12/5/14       | Patricia B. Howard / 3-6332 /<br>pbhowa00@uky.edu         |  |
|  |               | / /   |   |
|  |               | / /   |   |
|  |               | / /   |   |

**External-to-College Approvals:**

| Council                      | Date Approved | Signature                  | Approval of Revision <sup>4</sup> |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Undergraduate Council        | 3/3/15        | Joanie Ett-Mims            |                                   |
| Graduate Council             |               |                            |                                   |
| Health Care Colleges Council | 1/20/2015     | Pam Stein & Sharon Stewart |                                   |
| Senate Council Approval      |               | University Senate Approval |                                   |

**Comments:**

The course information section is left blank because there are no proposed changes to any courses.

<sup>4</sup> Councils use this space to indicate approval of revisions made subsequent to that council's approval, if deemed necessary by the revising council.



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## Rationale for changes

Proposal centers on 3 areas:

**(1) Admission to Pre-Nursing (High School to Freshman year)**

Increasing minimum standard for enrollment management and adding an ACT math requirement that meets the pre-requisite for Chemistry (CHE 103);

- Raise high school GPA from 2.75 to 3.25
- Specify minimum ACT composite of 22, with a minimum of 19 ACT math

**(2) Early Admission Policy**

To encourage enrollment of high caliber high school students, consistent with our benchmarks

- Raise the minimum high school cum GPA from 3.5 to 3.6 (unweighted); ACT composite remains the same
- Raise UK freshmen GPA from 3.25 to 3.6 GPA

**(3) Admission to BSN major (freshmen to sophomore year)**

Increasing minimum standards to be more consistent with benchmark nursing programs

- Raise minimum cumulative and science GPA from 2.75 to 3.0

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Proposed Changes to Undergraduate Nursing Program  
EARLY ADMISSION (BULLETIN 2014-2015)

| CURRENT Early Admission Policy<br>(per 2014-2015 UK Bulletin)   | PROPOSED CHANGE to Early Admission Policy  |
|---|--|
| <p>High School GPA of 3.5 or higher. ACT composite of 28 or higher (or the equivalent SAT combined score). Students will be required to maintain a 3.25 GPA in each semester <i>in their first year at UK</i> and a 3.25 GPA in science to retain guaranteed admission to the professional level.</p> <p>Students who meet these requirements will be granted full admission in either the fall or spring of the student's sophomore year to the Professional Nursing Curriculum. Students not meeting those requirements will be grouped with other applicants who are considered for admission after completion of the prerequisites.</p> | <p>High School GPA of 3.6 or higher (unweighted). ACT composite of 28 or higher (or the equivalent SAT combined score). Students will be required to maintain a 3.6 GPA in each semester <i>in their first year at UK</i> and a 3.6 GPA in science to retain guaranteed admission to the professional level.</p> <p>Students who meet the early admission requirements will be granted full admission to the Professional Nursing program in either the fall or spring of the student's sophomore year. Students who do not meet the requirements will be considered with other applicants who meet admission criteria, following completion of program prerequisites.</p> |

***Approved by the Undergraduate Student Admission and Progression Committee (USAPC) and Undergraduate Nursing Faculty at meetings 9/05/14.***

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDED CHANGES: The recommended changes reflect the increasing GPA and ACT of applicants admitted to the UK nursing program.**

The faculty recommends retention of the provisional admission option because it assists in recruiting high caliber students, especially from out of state, who otherwise might choose another nursing program where they would be admitted as freshmen into a baccalaureate nursing program.

The table below reflects the enrollment statistics for the 2014-2015 academic year.

| Term of Enrollment      | Status | Average High School GPA | Average ACT | Average Cumulative GPA | Average Science GPA |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Fall 2014               | PNUI   | 3.56                    | 25          | N/A                    | N/A                 |
| Fall 2014 & Spring 2015 | NURS   | 3.62                    | 23          | 3.74                   | 3.6                 |

Within the residence halls, and in particular in the living learning community, there is tension between the students who have the provisional guarantee and those who do not. There is careful attention in the housing assignments in the living learning community to ensure that students are paired together who meet (or do not meet) the provisional admission requirements. That comes from experiencing the first year with unequal pairings and ensuing arguments that tend to have a negative impact on living and academic environments.

Due to limited resources and availability of clinical placements, the College admits 160 students to the professional nursing program to begin either fall or spring semester sophomore year (based on GPA; 80 students enrolled each semester). For 2014-2015 admission into nursing (NURS), there were 8 students



who, because of the provisional admission, were placed in fall semester ahead of students with higher grades who did not have the provisional admission. (This results in an extra semester of tuition cost for those 8 students with better academic performance but without provisional admission). The break point between those students admitted to fall semester versus spring semester (without provisional admission) was a 3.74 cumulative GPA (2014-2015).

For 2014-2015, there were 133 students admitted (PNU) who met the conditions for provisional admission. Of those, 44 students were Kentucky residents. Enrollment from the 133 students accepted to pre-nursing is 69. With the current standards for provisional admission, that would leave 11 spaces in fall semester for other students who may perform better than the students with provisional admission. Changing the requirements from 3.25 to 3.60 could make a significant impact. Of the 30 students admitted this fall into NURS, only 16 would have met the proposed criteria for provisional admission, thus creating more opportunities for students who perform well at UK freshmen year to have a chance at fall admission.

9/5/14 approved by vote of undergraduate nursing faculty

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Proposed Changes to Undergraduate Nursing Program  
ADMISSION CRITERIA

| CURRENT Admission Criteria<br>(per 2014-2015 UK Bulletin)   | PROPOSED Admission Criteria<br>(To begin 2016-2017)   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Admission Criteria</b><br/>Criteria for admission to the 4-year B.S.N. program include:</p> <p><b>1. Freshman Student:</b><br/>Students will be admitted as freshmen to a <b>pre-nursing</b> curriculum based on the following criteria:</p> <p>a) high school grade-point average of <b>2.75</b> or above on a 4.0 scale;<br/>b) meeting criteria for selective admission to the University of Kentucky (see the <i>Undergraduate Admission</i> section of this Bulletin for more information).</p> <p><b>Consideration for Nursing</b> program will occur at the sophomore level for all students based on the following criteria:</p> <p>a) a minimum cumulative and science grade point average of <b>2.75</b>;<br/>b) a grade of <b>C</b> or better in all required pre-nursing courses;<br/>c) completion of an approved Medicaid Nurse Aide training program;</p> <p>d) the Internet-based TOEFL is required of all applicants whose <i>first or primary language</i> is other than English. Minimum cumulative score of 90; <i>and at least</i> minimum individual scores of 26 in speaking, 22 in listening, 20 in writing and 22 in reading.</p> <p>In addition, any or all of the following information may be requested as part of the application:</p> <p>e) a writing exercise based on the criteria established by the College of Nursing;<br/>f) two letters of reference from individuals who can assess potential for success (e.g., teacher, employer).<br/>g) an interview with members of the Admis-</p> | <p><b>Admission Criteria</b><br/>Criteria for admission to the 4-year B.S.N. program include:</p> <p><b>1. Freshman Student:</b><br/>Students will be admitted as freshmen to a <b>pre-nursing</b> curriculum based on the following criteria:</p> <p>a) high school grade-point average of <b>3.25</b> (unweighted) or above on a 4.0 scale and a minimum of 22 ACT composite, with a minimum of 19 ACT math score<br/>b) meeting criteria for selective admission to the University of Kentucky (see the <i>Undergraduate Admission</i> section of this Bulletin for more information).</p> <p><b>Consideration for Nursing</b> program will occur at the sophomore level for all students based on the following criteria:</p> <p>a) a minimum cumulative and science grade point average of <b>3.0</b>;<br/>b) a grade of <b>C</b> or better in all required pre-nursing courses;<br/>c) satisfactory completion of the UK College of Nursing approved Medicaid Nurse Aide training program;</p> <p>d) the Internet-based TOEFL is required of all applicants whose <i>first or primary language</i> is other than English. Minimum cumulative score of 90; <i>and at least</i> minimum individual scores of 26 in speaking, 22 in listening, 20 in writing and 22 in reading.</p> <p>In addition, any or all of the following information may be requested as part of the application:</p> <p>e) a writing exercise based on the criteria established by the College of Nursing;<br/>f) two letters of reference from individuals who can assess potential for success (e.g., teacher, employer).<br/>g) an interview with members of the Admis-</p> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| sions and Progression Committee, or their designees. | sions and Progression Committee, or their designees. |
|--|--|

Approved by the Undergraduate Student Admission and Progression Committee (USAPC) 12/05/14 and Undergraduate Nursing Faculty 12/22/14 (electronic vote; 2/3 approval required for program change).

24/28 faculty voting = 86% response rate of UG faculty

75% (n = 18/24) YES, support BSN Admission Criteria

17% (n = 4/24) NO, do not support the changes to BSN Admission Criteria.

8% (n = 2/24) ABSTAIN FROM THIS VOTE

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDED CHANGES:** The recommended changes reflect the increasing GPA and ACT of applicants admitted to the UK nursing program.

The recommended changes are in response to the increasing numbers of applications from high school graduates to the nursing program (e.g., > 1200 applications) and the limited number of spaces in the BSN program (160/year) sophomore year. The high school GPA and ACT recommended for applicants in this proposal are consistent with benchmark nursing programs and trend data supporting students' successful selection into the sophomore BSN nursing program; and responsive to retention concerns freshmen to sophomore year for students not selected to the BSN program.