**Summary of Related Curriculum Proposals**

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| Title of Proposal | ASN Curriculum Change |
| Presenter(s) | Deborah Ebaugh, Lorraine Canty |
| Presenter's Associate Dean | Dr. Susan Holland |
| Presenter's Academic Dean | Dr. Tami Such |
| Department/ Discipline | Associate Degree Nursing |

**Related Proposals**

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| New Course’s ID’s | From NUR 2942L to NUR 2942C |
| Course Change Proposals | NUR 1020C Fundamentals I  NUR 1068C Health Assessment  NUR 2211C Adult Health I  NUR 2213C Adult Health II  NUR 2420C Maternal  NUR 2310C Pediatrics  NUR 1511C Mental Health Nursing  NUR 2144 Pharmacological Nursing |
| Deleting Course’s ID’s | NUR 1050C after January of 2024. |
| New Program (Title) | N/A |
| Modifying Program (Title) | N/A |
| Deleting Program (Title) | N/A |

**Summary of Proposal:**

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| The Associate Degree Nursing Program is proposing a re-alignment of the didactic and clinical credits of the current curriculum to increase didactic and clinical credit in the second year of the program. This change will also add a didactic component to the last course in the program, the Clinical Preceptorship.  The realignment of credits will allow for a greater number of clinical credits in the last year of the program, facilitation of transfer of didactic knowledge into practice, assist students with decision making, and provide students with more opportunities to be better prepared for professional nursing practice.  Adding the didactic component to the preceptorship course will better prepare students for the NCLEX exam that is taken shortly after graduation. Students would be ready to take the test immediately after graduation. Data indicates that the longer students wait to take the NCLEX, the poorer the outcomes.    The re-alignment would eliminate Fundamentals II after January of 2024. All Fundamentals course content will be taught during Fundamentals I. |

**Rationale for Proposal:**

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| The FSW Associate Degree Nursing program has had a long history of program quality and providing high quality nurses in Southwest Florida since 1968. The program has historically had pass rates in the high 80’s and 90’s until 2014. The pass rates for the past three years (2020, 2021, 2022) were 76.01%, 79.62% and 71.85%, lower than the required 80% ACEN standard. This places the program at risk with ACEN accreditation.  Program assessment was conducted and included evaluation of evidence. Past and current FSW program data, evaluation of curricula and pass rates of other programs in Florida, and program usage of a standardized admission tests were evaluated. Data were presented to ASN faculty.  The first ASN faculty meeting occurred November 17, 2022. Data were presented on twelve years of pass rates for FSW. The data clearly showed a decline with the highest pass rate in the period being 92.12% in 2012. Faculty voiced many concerns including displeasure with HESI, and the quality of the students. The decision to change the admission process was discussed to assure selecting the most qualified students. Lead course faculty presented each course to identify areas of concerns and to better map out the content. Several curricular changes were proposed at that time to add more credit toward the end of the program. Two faculty were absent from the meeting.  A second ASN meeting was held on January 18, 2023. Faculty continued to have concerns about students. A new curriculum was proposed. Faculty did not want to make a decision about change during the January meeting, but they did want a survey. A survey was developed and sent out.  A follow-up meeting was held on February 17, 2023. By the time of this meeting, the 2022 NCLEX pass rates had been released by the Florida Board of Nursing that showed that FSW pass rates had dropped to 71.85%. Not meeting the ACEN benchmark of 80% requires a substantive change to be submitted to ACEN by March 26, 2023. We were also notified a few days later that ACEN had not been notified of the low pass rates for calendar year 2021 and needed an additional substantive change for 2021 pass rates to be submitted. This must be completed by April 1, 2023. Dr. Weiner, The FSW Nursing Re-accreditation coordinator and a site visitor for ACEN programs attended the ASN faculty meetings to provide additional leadership and guidance during each faculty meeting.  During the February meeting, data were presented that included the results of Mountain Measurement data that identifies student’s strengths and weaknesses when the cohort took the NCLEX. Mountain Measurement Data (data on how FSW students score on various categories of the NCLEX) ranked FSW at 16% (131 out of 816) programs in the Associate Degree Category, however, 83 ADN programs, out of 816 had 100% pass rates.  Faculty voted by secret ballot at this meeting to adopt the curriculum proposed for Fall 23. There were 14 faculty who voted yes, with one dissenting vote, and one faculty absent.  Consistently high performing programs across Florida were evaluated and data trends indicated support for strong preparation in medical/surgical courses with high numbers of clinical hours during the last year. The curricula were very similar to the curriculum that FSW used up until 2015. There was also only one program in Florida identified that had two Fundamentals courses besides the FSW current curriculum.  Members of the Florida Council of Nursing Educators (FCNEA) discussed during the February meeting the need for clinical to assist students apply didactic principles during practice.  Hospital partners from one region provided data on FSW students mean scores for testing taken upon hire. FSW graduates were 5 points below the mean score of other programs in the area. Area partners have voiced concern about FSW pass rates and the quality of the students.  Several faculty have also come forward with concerns about the Level 3 and Level 4 students who are currently near the end of the current curriculum and the students not having the knowledge or skills to be successful in the program or on the NCLEX.  The students graduating this semester, who would be the first class of the current curriculum are missing key concepts of basic nursing care and knowledge such as (but not limited to) critical thinking, basic pathophysiology, translating nursing knowledge into the clinical setting, and clinical judgement.  These are all concepts that are learned in the didactic setting but solidified in the clinical setting.  This makes increasing clinical hours and increasing the didactic learning in our Adult II class and preceptorship crucial to solidifying the necessary knowledge prior to graduation and licensure examination.  Three consecutive years of low pass rates is a red flag for ACEN and could initiate a focus visit and/or probation or other sanctions. Focused visits are authorized by ACEN when a program is found to be in non-compliance with accreditation standards or to review significant accreditation related information about a program due to substantive changes. It is imperative that the ASN program justify to ACEN that we have a solid, proven curriculum. The program cannot risk a 4th year of low pass rates by waiting to implement needed curricular changes. ACEN guidelines indicate that if a site visit is done, the accreditors may (1) request additional information, (2) continue accreditation with conditions, (3) continue accreditation with warning, (4) continue accreditation for good cause (5) deny continuing accreditation and remove the program from the list of accredited programs (ACEN, 2023)  Approval of this curriculum proposal will return the curriculum to the proven, evidenced-based curriculum that consistently resulted in high pass rates and a quality program. |

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, (2023). *ACEN accreditation manual.*

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