

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION

PRESENTED BY: Gordon Hill, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: April 16, 2009

SUBJECT: **Program Termination – Post Registration BSN**

DECISION REQUESTED:

It is recommended:

That Council approve termination of the Post-Registration Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program in the College of Nursing, effective spring 2013 to allow students presently enrolled to graduate within the five year time requirement.

PURPOSE:

Terminations of academic programs are approved by Council.

SUMMARY

The attached document describes the rationale for this program termination. At its March 24, 2009 meeting, the Academic Programs Committee of Council discussed this termination with Assistant Dean Mary MacDonald from the College of Nursing and agreed to recommend its approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

Covering memo and report form for program termination



MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Programs Committee

FROM: Karen Wright, Assistant Dean Undergraduate Programs
College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

DATE: February 19, 2009

SUBJECT: Deletion of the Post Registration BSN Program

Enclosed please find the following information submitted by the College of Nursing for the deletion of the Post Registration BSN Program.

1. Report form for Program Termination
2. Review of Sequence of Program
3. Reports to SRNA Annual General Meetings

Mary B. Macdonald for Karen Wright

/cp

cc B. Coutts – calendar copy

For College of Nursing use only

- Post Registration Committee approval: January 17, 2008
 College of Nursing Faculty approval: February 6, 2008

U of S Academic Program Committee

- for information only
 for APC approval. Date received: _____
 for Council approval. Date received: _____

Report Form for Program Termination

Department: Nursing

College: Nursing

Program(s) to be deleted: Post Registration BSN Program

1. List reasons for program termination and describe the background leading to this decision.

The Post Registration BSN Program was revised in 2002 with the knowledge that the pool of applicants would decrease given that a baccalaureate for entry to practice as a Registered Nurse was mandatory in Saskatchewan beginning in 2000. The final decision to discontinue the program was documented in the College of Nursing, Post Registration BSN Program Committee meeting on January 8, 2008. The motion was as follows:

MOTION: that the 2008 intake of students into the Post Registration BSN Program will be the last, and as these students will have 5 years to complete, the Post Registration BSN Program will end in 2012 – 2013. (M. Goodwin/C. Wormsbecker) Carried unanimously.

MOTION at College of Nursing Faculty Meeting February 6, 2008: That the 2008 intake of Post Registration students will be the last and students will have 5 years to finish the program (2012-2013 will be the final academic year). P. MacLeod/D. Goodridge) Passed unanimously.

Background

- 1.1 A dramatic decrease in enrolment in 2004 prompted an announcement that the last intake of students would be in 2006. At that time the notice ran in the Star Phoenix and Leader Post and was distributed to the professional associations [the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA) and the Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Association of Saskatchewan (RPNAS)], as well as to the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN), indicating the termination of the program.

However, in 2006 there were more applicants than we could accommodate and in order to be fair we decided to have another intake in 2007 and informed all the students that they could choose either 2006 or 2007 to begin the program. All students that had applied and had not entered the program were sent a letter to tell them that we would have another intake in 2008. There were significantly fewer students applying for the 2008 intake (87 applications; 72 began the program).

A notice was placed in the SRNA Bulletin in December 2007, and in the newsletter of the RPNAS (Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Saskatchewan), informing potential students that program admissions would end in 2008 and that they should contact the College of Nursing for further information. The Post Registration BSN Program committee reviewed the number of applicants received for 2008 and recommended to faculty that 2008 should be the last intake of students for the Post Registration BSN Program. The motion was supported by full faculty on February 6, 2008. (See attached document.)

Students have 5 years to complete the program once they complete their first nursing course. Thus, we expect to offer the courses in the Post Registration BSN Program until 2012-2013. We expect to carefully monitor student progress in order to offer the courses in a timely fashion. Courses may have to be offered at different times near the completion of the program in order to assist/accommodate student completion of the program.

2. Technical Information.

2.1 Courses offered in the program and faculty resources required for these courses.

Table 1
Courses, Enrolment and Offerings per Year in Post Registration BSN Program

Course number	Title	Number of times offered per year (at least one faculty member per offering of course)	Number of students in course 2006/07	Number of students in course 2007/08	Number of students 2008/09
NURS 483	Cultural Diversity and Aboriginal Health	twice	Spring 2006 - 24 Winter 2007 - 38	Spring 2007 - 16 Winter 2008 - 18	Spring 2008 - 47 Winter 2009 - 24
Spring/Summer NURS 411	Policy, Politics and Professionalism	once	Spring 2006-27	Spring 2007 - 49	Spring 2008 - 58
NURS 484	Primary Health Care Practice	Twice	Spring 2006 - 11 Winter 2007 - 32	Spring 2007 - 19 Winter 2008 - 37	Spring 2008 - 17 Winter 2009 - 48
NURS 329.1	Primary Health Care & Nursing	once	Fall 2006 - 95	Fall 2007 - 47	Spring 2008 - 71
NURS 318.3	Health Assessment	Once and PLAR option	Fall 2006 - 54 PLAR 2006 - 13	Fall 2007 - 24 PLAR 2007 - 10	Fall 2008 - 44 PLAR May - 13 PLAR Dec. - 9
NURS 413.3 Fall	Teaching & Learning for Health	once	68	69	46
NURS 416.3 * Winter	Management in Healthcare Systems	once	33	37	28
NURS 426.3 Winter	Health Program Planning	once	15	9	13
NURS 448.3 * Fall	Nursing in Community Settings	once	42	32	31
NURS 476.3 Fall and/or Winter	Health & Aging	once	Fall 2006 - 36	Fall 2007 - 6 Winter 2008 - 14	Fall 2008 - 22
NURS 478.3 Fall	Rural Nursing	once	11	32	16
NURS 486.3 Winter	Forensic Nursing in Secure Environments	once	22	14	14
NURS 491.3 Winter	Research in Nursing	once	29	30	30

*Post Registration students are allowed to register in equivalent NEPS courses taught on site. Nine took the NEPS course equivalent to NURS 416.3 and six took the equivalent to NURS 448.3.

The above courses are offered in the program by distance except NURS 329.1 and NURS 411.3 which must be taken on campus. Faculty members teach smaller numbers of students in web-based learning than they would for courses offered on campus. Usually one faculty member will have no more than 25 students in a distance course. If there are more than 26 students an additional instructor is hired to assist with the course.

2.2 Other resources (staff, technology, physical resources, etc) used for this program.

Secretarial support is needed for updates to course materials, mailing of course materials, and help in monitoring student progress. The students require a great deal of advising and

consultation during the program. Space for files and materials is necessary on site and computer support is needed by students, faculty and staff. Since three of the courses in the Post Registration BSN Program have been adapted to use via Black Board there is other computer support necessary as well as yearly updates to course material.

2.3 *Courses to be deleted, if any.*

Discussion will take place about the merit of adapting the courses for distance delivery for other undergraduate students. Given the planning of a new interprofessional health science program, some of the classes currently offered to Post Registration students could be revised or adapted for the new proposed program.

2.4 *Number of students presently enrolled.*

Please see Table 2 below.

2.5 *Number of students enrolled and graduated over the last five years.*

Please see Table 2 below.

Table 2
Student Intake and Graduates in Post Registration BSN Program

Year	Intake	Total graduates per calendar year	Approx # in program (registered in U of S nursing classes)
1999	17	47	
2000	21	23	129
2001	11	22	118
2002	98 (revision)	21	195
2003	79	43	231
2004	74 (notice of ending in 2006)	40	265
2005	96	54	307
2006	95	26	376
2007	47 (notice of last intake)	51	372
2008	71	50	167
2009	N/A	50 anticipated	

3. Impact of the termination.

Internal

3.1 *What if any impacts will this termination will have on students? How will they be advised to complete their program?*

Students enrolled in the program have been advised of the impending closure of the program through newsletters, advising in person, and the College website. Students will be reviewed annually and recommendations, if necessary, given to them as to the choice of appropriate courses for the upcoming year.

3.2 *What impact will this termination have on faculty and teaching assignments?*

There will be fewer faculty needed to teach the courses, therefore more faculty can be assigned to other College of Nursing programs. For example, the Government of Saskatchewan has increased the enrolment quota for the NEPS and the graduate program enrolments are increasing.

3.3 *Will this termination affect other programs, departments or colleges?*

Students in the Post Registration BSN Program may choose courses at the University of Saskatchewan from on campus or courses offered by distance for their social science or open elective requirements for the Post Registration BSN Program. There are not large numbers of students but there will be a decrease in demand for some courses. Since we do not have directed choices for the electives the effect on any particular college should be negligible.

3.4 *If courses are also to be deleted, will these deletions affect any other programs?*

The deletions should not affect other programs as there are no required courses in the Post Registration BSN Program required in another program.

3.5 *Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college will develop a program to replace this one?*

It is not likely that this program will be offered by another College as the Post Registration BSN Program is particular to nursing.

3.6 *Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college will develop courses to replace the ones deleted?*

No, another college is not likely to develop courses to replace ones deleted for the same reason as expressed in 3.5.

3.7 *Describe any impact on research projects.*

None known. Post Registration students are not involved in research projects.

3.8 *Will this deletion affect resource areas such as library resources, physical facilities, and information technology?*

There will be less demand for required library resources and for requests for interlibrary loans. Since all but two courses are taught by distance delivery there will little effect on the physical facilities. There will be decreased demand for support from information technology as the students will not need continued support, and faculty requests for assistance in web based courses for this program will decrease as courses are gradually phased out.

External

- 3.9 *Describe any external impact (e.g. university reputation, accreditation, other institutions, high schools, community organizations, professional bodies).*

The two professional bodies in Saskatchewan [the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA), the Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Association of Saskatchewan (RPNAS)] as well as the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) are aware of the decreasing enrolment and acknowledge that this is an expected end. (See attached College of Nursing Annual Reports to the SRNA.)

- 3.10 *Is it likely or appropriate that another educational institution will offer this program if it is deleted at the University of Saskatchewan?*

The number of eligible diploma prepared nurses is dropping as a baccalaureate degree in Nursing is now the required preparation for entry to practice as a Registered Nurse (effective January 1, 2000). SIAST has just reinstated a diploma level Registered Psychiatric Nursing (RPN) program and in the future there may be students from that program who are interested in seeking a BSN. Any such students would receive applicable transfer credit in the BSN program. However, the number of RPNs who took the Post Registration BSN Program was very low. Thus it is anticipated that there would not be enough of a pool of eligible RPN students to make continuation of the Post Registration BSN Program viable.

Other

- 3.11 *Are there any other relevant impacts or considerations?*

The numbers of applicants to the Post Registration BSN Program has gradually declined. As the NEPS Program has been available since 1996 as the only entry level BSN education program for the province, there are declining numbers of diploma prepared RN's who are considering obtaining a degree.

As the age cohort of nurses who are only diploma prepared is reaching retirement age, few of these nurses would be pursuing BSN education at this point in their career. Younger nurses have already completed the Post Registration program or are currently enrolled in the program.

In the event that there are a small number of diploma prepared Registered Nurses who may still want to study for a baccalaureate in nursing after this program, diploma prepared RN's are able to access the entry level BSN program and receive transfer credit for courses from their diploma program. There are also other options available for these students such as the Athabasca University distance baccalaureate program for diploma prepared Registered Nurses.

- 3.12 *Please provide any statements or opinions received about this termination.*

None received.

(Optional)

4. Additional information.

Programs which have not undergone Systematic Program Review should check the Self-Study Guide for additional relevant information which could be provided about program quality, demand, efficiency, unique features, and relevance to the province.

MOTION: that the 2008 intake of students into the Post Registration BSN program will be the last, and as these students will have 5 years to complete, the Post Registration BSN Program will end in 2012-2013. (M. Goodwin/C. Wormsbecker) *Carried unanimously.*

From January 17 2008 meeting Post Registration BSN Program

Review of Sequence of Program

2001-2

Enrolment was down; many students were waiting to see what the revision changes would be. A total of 83 students were in the program this year.

On January 22, 2002 faculty approved the revision for the Post Registration BSN Program from 24 courses and 72 credits to 19 courses with 55 credits. Clinical courses are decreased to one and more freedom in choice of electives was given. The program revision was approved at University of Saskatchewan Council on March 21, 2002. College of Nursing Faculty then approved a motion on March 28, 2002: As of June 1st 2002, the closing date for the applications for the Post Registration BSN Program, there were 132 applications, 32 of them were for readmission.

2002-3

May 14, 2003 there were 92 applications for the 2003 intake.

2003-4

As of May 28, 2004 there were 61 applications for the 2004 intake. The cut-off date was June 1st. At the middle of March we had only received 17 applicants for the program this year, which was a marked decrease from the previous 2 years when we had approximately 50 at the same time. After consulting with the committee and students we decided that it was time to choose an end date for the program and ran the following ad in the Star Phoenix and the Leader Post. It was also distributed to SUN, RPNAS, and SRNA.

Are you a Diploma prepared Registered Nurse or Registered Psychiatric Nurse thinking of getting your BSN from the University of Saskatchewan?

Enrol by June 1, 2006!

Demand for the Post Registration BSN Program is declining because nurses entering practice in Saskatchewan are now degree prepared. Therefore, beginning in September 2006 the Post Registration BSN Program will be phased out. Students will continue to be accepted into the program in 2004, 2005, and 2006. (The annual application deadline is June 1.) Since students have 5 years to complete the program, classes will be offered until June 2011. **No new students will be accepted after June 2006.**

For further information please call 966-6231 or email us at college.nursing@usask.ca

2004-5

As of June 1, 2005 there were 132 applications for the 2005 intake. We accepted 100 students for 2005.

2005-06

250 applications for 2006

110 accepted for 2006 and the remainder were told they could begin in 2007. Ninety-seven started.

2006-07

110 accepted for 2007 - 47 started

62 students who had been accepted for 2007 gave no response to mailed letter asking them whether they were still interested.

In December 2007 a notice to SRNA, SUN, RPNAS regarding continuation of program dependent on registrants.

2008

The intake was changed to May instead of August for the first nursing course.

There were 62 applications as of January 15. At a Post Registration BSN Program committee meeting in mid January we decided to extend the deadline for new registrants to February 15, 2008.

Based on the declining number of applicants to the program and the need to redirect resources in the College of Nursing, the committee recommends to full faculty the motion that the 2008 intake of students in the Post Registration BSN Program will be the last.

**College of Nursing
University of Saskatchewan
Reports to SRNA Annual General Meetings**

The following are the excerpts from the College of Nursing Reports to the SRNA Annual General Meetings in respect to the Post Registration BSN Program.

May 2008

The Post Registration BSN Program is designed for program completion in one year for students who choose full time study. Recognizing a diminishing pool of potential applicants for this program, the lost cohort (71 students) will enter the program in May 2008. Forty-four post registration students convocated in October 2007.

May 2007

The Post Registration BSN Program is designed for program completion in one year for students who choose full time study. Recognizing a diminishing pool of potential applicants for this program, it was announced that the program would be phased out. However, a result of this announcement, there has been an increased interest as reflected by the high number of applications. Thus, a full quota has been accepted for August 2007. Applications for a 2008 intake will be available on the website starting January 1, 2008. Twenty-six post registration students completed the program in 2006.

May 2006

The Post Registration Program accepted the first students into a revised program in 2002. That curriculum is designed for program completion in one year for students who choose full time study. As previously reported and advertised, recognizing a diminishing pool of potential applicants for this program, the program will be phased out. The last intake was to be for 2006. However, as a result of this announcement, there has been a record number of applications. Thus, those accepted will be given one of two start dates – August 2006 or August 2007. Since students have 5 years to complete the program, the group starting in 2007 need to have completed the program by June 2012. Fifty-four post registration students completed the program in 2005.

May 2005

The Post Registration BSN Program accepted the first students into a revised program in 2002. That curriculum is designed for program completion in one year for students who choose full time study. As previously reported and advertised, recognizing a diminishing pool of potential applicants for this program, it is the intention to phase out the program. Students will continue to be accepted into the program in 2005 and 2006. Since students have 5 years to complete the program, classes will be offered until June 2011. We have had a total of approximately 300 nurses register for this program over the first three years of the revised program (74 registering in 2004). Although most nurses take the program part time, an increasing number are completing the program in one year. Forty post registration student completed the program in 2004.

NOTE: Mention was made in reports prior to 2005 but copies are not available.