



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Jeff Jessee, Dean of the College of Health and Vice Provost of Health Programs

Cc: Kathleen Stephenson, Committee Chair & Professor of Nursing
Susan Camasi, Assistant Professor of Nursing
Pamela Grogan, Associate Director, School of Nursing
Christine Michel, Interim Director, School of Nursing

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review: Nursing AAS & Nursing Science BS

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): The Nursing AAS and Nursing Science BS are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

Campuses where the program is delivered: The Nursing AAS is delivered through the Anchorage campus and is available in Anchorage, Bethel, Dillingham, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kotzebue, Palmer, Nome, Petersburg, Sitka, and Valdez. The Nursing BS is delivered through the Anchorage campus and is available in Anchorage, Kodiak, Fairbanks, and Palmer.

Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role:

The mission of UAA School of Nursing is to promote the health and wellbeing of diverse populations by fostering excellence and innovation in nursing education, research and clinical practice. The Nursing AAS prepares students to use the nursing process to provide effective nursing services to individuals receiving care in inpatient settings and in structured outpatient settings. It is available in Anchorage and 12 distance sites (Bethel, Dillingham, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kotzebue, Palmer, Nome, Petersburg, Sitka, and Valdez). The Nursing Science BS provides students both the theory and clinical base to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate health care to meet the needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities. It is available in Anchorage, Kodiak, Fairbanks, and Palmer. Graduates of both programs are eligible to write the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX) for licensure as a registered professional nurse in Alaska. Both programs are central to the College of Health's mission to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities and to the Board of Regents' goal to double the number of health graduates. In addition, both programs are central for meeting the industry demand for Registered Nurses. Industry support for the Nursing AAS and Nursing Science BS is exceptionally strong (both financially and programmatically). Employment growth is expected to be strong (20%), with an average of more than 400 job openings annually.

Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity:

Program demand is also strong. An average of 230 students have graduated with Nursing AAS and Nursing Science BS degrees each year (an average of 109 with Nursing AAS degrees and an average of 121 with Nursing Science BS degrees each year). The number of majors increased substantially in 2019. In 2019, there were 227 students enrolled in the Nursing AAS program (up from 185 in 2018) and 286 in the Nursing Science BS program (up from 223 in 2018). The program should pay attention to the number of semesters required for the Nursing AAS degree.

Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success:

Both programs are approved by the Alaska Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The programs have recently implemented extensive curriculum revisions. Both programs provide students with a closely related mix of theory and clinical practice. Students gain direct experience in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and community agencies in both urban and rural Alaska. Several programs are available to promote student success, including the Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives into Nursing (RRANN) program. The School of Nursing also recently implemented a retention and remediation project. It has also collaborated with the College of Health Student Success Center to improve advising processes. Pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination remain high.

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness:

All undergraduate nursing education programs within the University of Alaska system are delivered through the Anchorage campus. Programs are delivered to distance sites throughout the state of Alaska.

Commendations and Recommendations:

The Nursing AAS and Nursing Science BS provide high quality experiences for students. Students are successful in becoming skilled Registered Nurses. The Nursing AAS and Nursing Science BS programs make a significant contribution to internal goals and industry needs. These programs are essential. A significant number of faculty have recently resigned. The School of Nursing needs to initiate recruitments to replace these faculty.

Decision:

Enhancement.