



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: Jill Janke, Committee Chair & 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 Practice DNP

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): The Nursing Practice DNP is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Campuses where the program is delivered: Anchorage

Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role:

The Nursing Practice DNP represents the highest degree in nursing practice. This is a post-masters program that is available to individuals who are already master's prepared Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and are certified nurse practitioners (NPs), certified nurse midwives (CNMs), or certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). The program is designed to expand students' knowledge and skills to interpret research, apply best practice, and incorporate clinical knowledge and leadership skills to influence health care systems and policy. Because of its strict eligibility requirement, the Nursing Practice DNP is a highly specialized program for a select group of students.

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

Unfortunately, program demand remains very low. During this period of review, seven students have graduated from the program (four in FY17 and three in FY19; an additional four just graduated in December 2019). The number of students increased to 11 in FY19. Class sizes remain low, particularly for courses that are not required for other degrees. On average, instructional costs are 2.2 times as high as full tuition revenues. The necessity of improving student recruitment, advising, and retention has been repeatedly emphasized in previous academic assessment reports and program reviews. Unfortunately, program demand, efficiency, and productivity have not improved.

Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success:

The Nursing Practice DNP is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Despite having few students, the program has persistently struggled with academic assessment. Few recommendations from prior academic assessments and program reviews have been successfully implemented. In particular, the program has not demonstrated satisfactory progress on improving

student recruitment, advising, and retention. Student enrollments continue to be very low. In addition, students often struggle with completing the scholarly capstone project.

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness:

The program is unique, and there are no other comparable programs within the University of Alaska system.

Commendations and Recommendations:

The Nursing Practice DNP offers a unique educational opportunity for a select group of students. Unfortunately, program demand has remained low. The need to improve program demand, efficiency, and productivity has been repeatedly emphasized in prior reviews. Efforts to improve program demand, efficiency, and productivity were not successfully implemented and trends have not improved. Once again, we recommend a continued review so that the program has one last opportunity to demonstrate that there is sufficient student and market demand for this doctoral program in nursing practice.

Decision:

Continued review.