BIENNIAL PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT REPORT FORM – ASSESSMENT COMPLETED IN AY 2023-2024 (Due to the dean on November 15)

Submission date: 11/15/2024

Assessment Plan covered in this report: Nursing Practice DNP

College: College of Health

Campuses where the program(s) is delivered: ☒Anchorage ☐KOD ☐KPC ☐MSC ☐PWSC

Submitted by: Susan S. Tavernier, PhD, RN; Assoc. Director of Assessment, Evaluation and QI; sstavernier@alaska.edu

1. **Please list and number the Program Student Learning Outcomes your program assessed in the past academic year. For each outcome, indicate one of the following: Exceeded faculty expectations, Met faculty expectations, or Did not meet faculty expectations.**

   1. Demonstrate enhanced professional skills in advanced practice nursing using an ethical, evidence-based approach to promote healthy communities *MET EXPECTATION*
   2. Apply clinical inquiry using a culturally sensitive, evidence-based approach to adapt practice and change health outcomes *MET EXPECTATION*
   3. Act in expanded leadership roles to influence local, statewide and national health care policy and delivery systems serving unique, diverse and underserved populations *MET EXPECTATION*

   Since the last report in 2022, there has been one graduate of the DNP program. Due to the ability to identify responses, an exit survey was not completed. There are currently four students enrolled in the DNP program, three of which are slated for graduation AY 2024-2025. It is therefore anticipated that the School of Nursing (SON) will request an exit survey of all graduates in May, 2025. This group of students will complete the exit survey used in past years.

2. **Describe what your assessment process was last year for these Program Student Learning Outcomes, including the collection of data, analysis of data, and faculty (and other, e.g., advisory board) conversations around the findings. *(1000 words or less)***

   The program student learning outcomes were assessed based upon the graduation of one student who successfully passed her DNP Project defense and *graduated thus outcomes were met.*

   Other areas needing improvement outside of Program Student Learning Outcomes were

identified:

1. A list of students was found of whom several were not currently enrolled. Thus, in Spring 2024, the process was to develop a system for student tracking and progression. This was done by reviewing a student list kept in the School of Nursing, reviewing Blackboard and contacting students directly.
2. Faculty and student comments made directly to the Associate Director of Assessment, Evaluation and Quality Improvement related to the DNP project: the need for orientation and/or mentoring to the role of DNP Project Committee Chairperson and clarification of expectations of the DNP Project Committee Chairperson relative to the faculty teaching the courses where the student prepares his/her DNP Project proposal.

3. **What are the findings and what do they tell the faculty about student learning in your program?** *(1000 words or less)*

   Findings indicate that there were five students for whom their enrollment status was unknown. After further investigation, of the five, two were on leave of absence (LOA) and three withdrew from classes in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023. The latter three were not degree seeking students but had completed DNP coursework. Unfortunately, the reasons for not pursuing entrance to the program for the three non-degree seeking students is unknown.

   One student on LOA returned in summer 2024 only to withdraw from 2 classes and take an Incomplete in the third class. The other student on LOA is tentatively planning to return Fall, 2025. The two LOA's were both for unspecified personal reasons.

   The findings related to the DNP Project committee chairmanship indicate that the role is outlined in the DNP Project Handbook but the Handbook is accessible only within the DNP Project courses (NSG 696 a,b,c) nor is there a process for orientating or mentoring faculty in the role.

4. **Based on the findings, did the faculty make any recommendations for changes to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes?** Yes.

   i. **Please describe the recommended action(s), what improvements in student learning the program hopes to see, the proposed timeline, and how the program will know if the change(s) has worked. If no recommendations for changes were made, please explain that decision.** *(1000 words or less)*
   Recommendations that are already implemented include a) a comprehensive student tracking spreadsheet that lists initial enrollment date, any LOA, course withdrawals and reasons, maintained by the Academic Specialist assigned to the graduate programs and located in Administration Graduate SharePoint; b) centralization of student documentation for LOA's, and 3) reminders sent to students on LOA several months before they are scheduled to return. While student tracking does not directly assess the end of program outcomes, it does allow for close monitoring of progression and completion rates which in

turn, may affect end of program outcomes. The program will know if the improvements are effective based upon student satisfaction scores and anecdotal comments from students along with there being 0 students "lost to follow up."

Related to the DNP Project committee findings, the DNP Handbook is now available in the School of Nursing SharePoint drive, available to *all* faculty in the SON. An orientation and mentoring plan will be developed after the SON accreditation visit by ACEN for its other programs is completed in March, 2025. In the meantime, the Director of Assessment, Evaluation and Quality Improvement is contacting each DNP Project Committee Chairperson at least monthly to answer questions, provide guidance as needed in the procedures and responsibilities of the Chairperson and the student. The program will evaluate if the improvements are effective based upon student and faculty satisfaction scores and anecdotal comments from students over the next year.

5. **In the past academic year, how did your program use the results of previous assessment cycles to make changes intended to improve student achievement of the Program Student Learning Outcomes? Please check all that apply.**

☐ Course curriculum changes
☐ Course prerequisite changes
☐ Changes in teaching methods
☐ Changes in advising
☐ Degree requirement changes
☐ Degree course sequencing
☐ Course enrollment changes (e.g., course capacity, grading structure [pass/fail, A-F])
☐ Changes in program policies/procedures
☐ Changes to Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)
☐ College-wide initiatives (e.g., High-Impact Practices)
☒ Faculty, staff, student development
☐ Other
☐ No changes were implemented last year. *(If no options above were selected)*

If you checked "Other" above, please describe. *(100 words or less)*

6. **Do you have any information about how well these or other past improvements are working? Are they achieving their intended goals? Please include any data or assessment results that help you demonstrate this. *(1000 words or less)***

The 2022 Assessment indicates a plan for updating the DNP curriculum to address the new AACN Essentials, published in 2022. A consultant was hired to assist with this process and in so doing, developed a curriculum for a BS to DNP curriculum that may be proposed through the curricular process in 2025.

DEAN SECTION (Due to the program on January 15)

1. **Based on the program's responses above, what guidance and support do you have for the program moving forward?** *(200 words or less)*

   The program is commended for continued investment and allocation of resources to the assessment process. The continued evaluation of all facets of the program: student recruitment, program policies, curriculum, advising, and college-wide initiatives and how these impact student learning outcomes should continue to be considered. COH leadership is committed to continued programmatic changes to ensure the continued evaluation and assessment of student learning outcomes.

2. **Discuss what the program is doing particularly well in terms of its processes for the assessment and improvement of student learning, for example, the use of a common rubric or prompt, a signature assignment, etc.** *(200 words or less)*

   The DNP program in the School of Nursing diligently and consistently engages in ongoing program assessment. Despite challenges with leadership changes and low enrollment/lack of graduates, the program continues to identify and evaluate program student learning outcomes on a rotating basis, implement accreditation changes and requirements, and invest resources in this process. Dr Sue Tavernier was hired as the Director of Assessment, Evaluation and QI and this has brought needed leadership to ongoing program assessment. COH administration is deeply appreciative of ongoing efforts on program assessment and commitment to the DNP profession, which serves a vital role in the healthcare landscape of Alaska.

Dean's signature: **Date:** 1/14/25
Cary Moore, Associate Dean for Clinical Health Sciences