

September 17, 2012

Faculty Response to NLNAC (National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission) Report

The Weber State University, Dumke College of Health Professions School of Nursing received the news that the LPN, ADN and BSN programs were in non-compliance with two accreditation standards on February 10, 2011. Although continued eight year accreditation was recommended, the decision was disappointing in view of the incredible amount of work that went into the self-study preparation process. Regardless, work began to address the program deficiencies immediately after the site visit and plans to comply with the required 2 year interim report were drafted.

The two standards in non-compliance were Curriculum and Outcomes. Work on creating a revised curriculum had already begun months before the accreditation site visit. These plans included the elimination of the LPN program and implementation of a concept based curriculum that the entire ADN and BSN faculty were designing. The revised curriculum would address the following issues:

- Lack of evidence of national standards and guidelines in developing learning outcomes
- Lack of regular curriculum review
- Lack of evidence that student learning outcomes are used to guide delivery of instruction, direct learning activities and evaluate student progress
- Student learning outcomes and program outcomes are not clearly articulated

A Curriculum Revision Committee (CRC) was initiated with representation of all SON faculty members. The revised curriculum was implemented fall 2012.

To address the second non-compliant standard, Outcomes, the Evaluation Committee, composed of program directors and volunteer faculty, developed a plan of action to focus on the following issues:

- Lack of aggregated and trended data
- Lack of consistently reported data (minimum of three (3) years)
- Lack of data across program delivery types

The Evaluation Committee has reviewed all program surveys to ensure that they are accurately assessing program and learning outcomes. Return rates on course, faculty and end of program surveys have been calculated and information has been disseminated to faculty and appropriate SON committees. Trending of all program data has begun and reports issued to administration and level directors about the accumulated data were disseminated.

A great deal of program introspection has occurred since the NLNAC site visit. Faculty are excited about the implementation of a dynamic and evidenced based curriculum and are looking forward to graduates that exemplify the best ideals of Weber State University.