

Nursing – MScN

Cyclical Program Review – 2005-2011

Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan, Executive Summary

Reported to Joint-Committee on Quality Assurance: April 15, 2015

Program description

The Masters of Science in Nursing Program was approved by the York Senate and the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OGS) to admit students in May, 2005. In September 2007 the Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (PHCNP) field began to admit students. In November 2007 Senate approved further changes to the MScN program, including a pure distance model, an on-campus model, and elimination of the Major Research Project and introduction of a thesis option. The most recent change to the program in 2010 allowed for fast-track admissions of qualified Registered Nurses into the program by providing them the opportunity to first complete 30 credits of undergraduate coursework before proceeding into graduate study.

Program	Accepts 2013	Enrolment 2013	Degrees Awarded 2013
MScN	53	141(Heads)/ 70 FTEs	98

Reviewers appointed by the Vice-Provost Academic:

Dr. Dauna Crooks, Professor (Former Dean), Faculty of Nursing, University of Manitoba
 Dr. Lynnette Leeseberg Stamler, Professor and Associate Dean, Department of Graduate Nursing, College of Nursing, South Dakota State University
 Dr. Karen Swift, Faculty of Social Work, York University

Site Visit: March 17 and 18 2013

The reviewers met with Alice Pitt, V-Provost Academic, Harvey Skinner, Dean, Faculty of Health, Barbara Crow, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Claire Mallette, Director of the School of Nursing and Associate Professor, as well as other academic leaders in the School. In addition they spoke with support staff, the dedicated librarian and the University’s Chief Information Officer,

Outcome: The Joint-Committee on Quality Assurance concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations. Follow-up report due October 2016.

Summary

The MSc in Nursing provides a generic stream, with electives in 3 areas (education, leadership and advanced clinical practice) in an on-line format; a Nurse Practitioner stream serves full and part-time students with courses available in the evening. The program has developed significantly since its inception in 2005, and the review process has provided a timely assessment of strengths and opportunities for enhancement in terms of program delivery, curriculum; policies guiding admissions and student progress; and development of opportunities for faculty-student as well as inter-faculty and SON-professional alumni collaboration. The detailed recommendations on the part of the reviewers have been taken up at the level of the program with responsibilities and timelines for developing responses clearly articulated. The decanal implementation plan supports the implementation of many of the recommendations and addresses several key issues (eg., the need for support in the ongoing development of e-learning pedagogical innovation) with the identification of Faculty-level strategies and initiatives.



The Dean and the program are invited to address a point of variance between the timelines he proposes for the development of proposals for program changes (2013-2014) and the program's view that many of reforms are dependent upon the identification of an Associate Director, Research and Graduate which is scheduled to occur in July 2015. While the review was confined to the MSc in Nursing program, the review report's thoughtful commentary and advice with respect to the program's aspirations to develop a PhD program provides a welcomed lens for ensuring that resolving issues and enhancing the quality at the masters level will prepare the ground for the School of Nursing's development as a provider of innovative and excellent quality graduate education in Nursing at the masters and doctoral levels. It is in this light that the dean is further invited to provide a response to the recommendation that SON faculty members be encouraged to pursue doctoral study.

Alice J Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic
April 2015

