New Undergraduate Degree Program Proposal:

RN to BSN Nursing Degree (NUR)
[Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)]

College of Public Health and Human Sciences
School of Biological and Population Health Sciences
Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2019
CPS Tracking #: 101363

Executive Summary

In alignment with the Institute of Medicine's (2010) recommendation that 80% of the country's nurses be baccalaureate trained, and in partnership with Central Oregon Community College (COCC) and St. Charles Healthcare System, we propose a registered nurse (RN) to bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program that unites industry, education, and the workforce to address the technical and professional skills required in nursing through the development of **Oregon's first state-funded, public RN to BSN program.**

As of 2016, less than 40% of nurses working in an acute care setting in Central Oregon enter the workforce with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. The numbers drop to less than 30% for nurse leaders, nurses at critical access hospitals and long-term care facilities. Currently, there are over 700 acute care nurses in Central Oregon who do not have their BSN and new graduates from RN programs are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of completing their BSN.

Improving human health and wellness is a signature area of distinction for Oregon State University. As such, the RN to BSN program curriculum, with its public health focus, is uniquely designed to improve the quality and delivery of individual and population-focused health care for all Oregonians.

The mission of the RN to BSN Nursing Program is to educate nurses to promote economic, social, cultural and environmental progress for the people of Oregon, the nation, and the world. The BSN nurse advances the discipline through advocacy for access to quality health care and implementation of evidence-based practice. The environment in which this education occurs builds on prior learning and experience. The RN to BSN program is characterized by accountability, collaboration, and integration of technology that promotes student learning and development as a professional nurse.

To accomplish this mission, our fully online program will begin with a part-time, cohort-based program that will enroll up to 30 students each term who already possess an associate's degree in nursing and an unencumbered Oregon nursing license. This program can be completed in as few as 8-10 terms (2-2.5 years), with two classes each term (5-7 credits/term). The program is ideally designed for working nurses who desire to advance their careers while maintaining employment.

Our partnership with Oregon State's Ecampus for program development and delivery will provide students with a high-quality, cost-effective route to their bachelor's degree. OSU's Ecampus is ranked in the nation's top 10 for the third straight year by US News & World Report. This program will join over 45 other fully online undergraduate and graduate programs offered by Ecampus. Advising and leadership for the program will occur onsite on the OSU-Cascades campus with highly skilled faculty providing instruction online from across the United States.