

**Dixie State College of Utah  
Discontinuance Item for Consent Calendar  
October 2009**

**Section I: Request**

Dixie State College requests approval for discontinuation of its Practical Nursing (PN) certificate program in spring 2011. The discontinuation was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_.

Discontinuation of the PN program is being sought as the Nursing Program revises its curriculum to a straight Associate of Applied Science degree. The current nursing program is a 1 + 1 PN + ADN program. Students are considered practical nursing program students during their first two semesters after acceptance into the program. Students are eligible to take the PN licensing exam to become employed as PNs following successful completion of the PN program. If they wish to do so, students who successfully complete the PN program also may continue on into the ADN program (an additional two semesters). In the past 3 years, 95-100% of PN students continued on into the ADN program. Additionally, increasingly smaller numbers of students are electing to take the PN licensing exam, 48% and 40% of graduating students in 2007 and 2008 respectively. Upon completion of the AAS degree, students are eligible for the registered nurse (RN) licensing exam and employment as an RN.

In anticipation of continued student needs for a PN license and in order to meet community needs for PN-trained nurses, the revised AAS curriculum will offer students a PN transitions course after completion of the second semester for those students who wish to take the PN licensing exam. This is a model common to ADN programs including those at Salt Lake Community College and Weber State University. Approval for the PN program discontinuation first was sought and granted from the Utah Board of Nursing on September 10, 2009. This step was necessary before entering the consent process for the Board of Regents.

**Section II: Need**

Discontinuing the PN program in order to offer a straight Associate of Applied Science degree program will result in several advantages for the College, students, and faculty. They are:

- Students will be able to complete the nursing courses in three semesters instead of the current four semesters required for the 1 + 1 program.
- Nursing courses will be full time to the students each semester thus eliminating the need for students to take additional courses to reach full time credits for financial aid.
- Within a 3-year period, the program will graduate an additional 48 students compared to the current 1 + 1 program.
- As three simultaneous groups of students will be enrolled instead of the current four groups, clinical learning sites will become available. As a result, the program will be able to provide students with more clinical hours.
- NLNAC PN Program accreditation will be eliminated resulting in a savings of approximately \$9,200 in 8 years.

- Students will be able to learn RN skills in the nursing arts laboratory and begin to use these skills in clinical learning experiences immediately upon enrollment in the program. Currently, students must wait until the third semester of the program when they become RN/ADN students.
- Faculty workload will be adjusted so that current faculty can be reassigned to teach RN to BSN program courses more frequently; thus, providing for faster degree completion for students enrolled in the RN to BSN program.

### **Section III: Institutional Impact**

The revised AAS program will remain within the Division of Nursing and Allied Health, School of Science and Health. The proposed PN program discontinuance should have no effect on enrollments in instructional programs of affiliated departments; i.e. those providing prerequisite courses for the nursing program. Prerequisite courses for the revised AAS program will not change. No changes in faculty and staff will be required. Current nursing program faculty will continue to teach in the revised AAS program. As well, no modifications to the Russell Taylor Health Science Center or purchase of additional equipment will be needed.

### **Section IV: Finances**

Discontinuance of the PN program will not require new funds nor will it have any budgetary impact on other programs within Dixie State College with the exception of advantageously being able to allot more faculty workload to the RN to BSN program and eliminating the accreditation fees for the PN program as described above.

Revised Curriculum					
	Spring 2010	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Fall 2011	Spring 2012
1 <sup>st</sup> semester			Pharm Concepts I Intro to Health Concepts Health Illness Concepts I	Pharm Concepts I Intro to Health Concepts Health Illness Concepts I	Pharm Concepts I Intro to Health Concepts Health Illness Concepts I
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester				Pharm Concepts II Health Illness Concepts II Family Health Concepts*	Pharm Concepts II Health Illness Concepts II Family Health Concepts*
3 <sup>rd</sup> semester					Pharm Concepts III Complex Health Concepts Health Systems Concepts
Current Curriculum (Teach-out Plan)					
1 <sup>st</sup> semester	NURS 1100 Med-Surg I NURS 1120 Pharm I	Completed			
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester	NURS 1200 Mat/Newborn I NURS 1250 Peds I NURS 1260 Psych I NURS 1300 Entry into Practice I NURS 1220 Pharm II	NURS 1200 Mat/Newborn I NURS 1250 Peds I NURS 1260 Psych I NURS 1300 Entry into Practice I NURS 1220 Pharm II ( <b><i>PN Program ends</i></b> )	Completed		
3 <sup>rd</sup> semester	NURS 2100 Med-Surg II NURS 2120 Pharm III	NURS 2100 Med-Surg II NURS 2120 Pharm III	NURS 2100 Med-Surg II NURS 2120 Pharm III	Completed	

<b>Current Curriculum (Teach-out Plan)</b>					
4 <sup>th</sup> semester	NURS 2200 Mat/Newborn II NURS 2250 Peds II NURS 2260 Psych II NURS 2300 Entry into Practice II	NURS 2200 Mat/Newborn II NURS 2250 Peds II NURS 2260 Psych II NURS 2300 Entry into Practice II	NURS 2200 Mat/Newborn II NURS 2250 Peds II NURS 2260 Psych II NURS 2300 Entry into Practice II	NURS 2200 Mat/Newborn II NURS 2250 Peds II NURS 2260 Psych II NURS 2300 Entry into Practice II <b><u>(Current ADN Curriculum ends)</u></b>	Completed

\*PN Transition Concepts after 2<sup>nd</sup> semester for those students wishing to take the PN-NLCEX