College of Health and Human Services

Office of the Dean 745-8912

Report to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

The following **Consent Item** is submitted for consideration at the Nov. 19 meeting of the UCC:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Consent | Proposal to Revise Course Grade Type  NURS 422 Senior Practicum  Contact: Audrey Cornell, [audrey.cornell@wku.edu](mailto:audrey.cornell@wku.edu), 745-3656 |

Proposal Date: 8/29/13

**College of Health and Human Resources**

**School of Nursing**

**Proposal to Revise Course Grade Type**

**(Consent Item)**

Contact Person: Audrey S. Cornell,audrey.cornell@wku.edu,745-3656

1. **Identification of proposed course**
   1. Course prefix and number: NURS 422
   2. Course title: Senior Practicum
2. **Current course grade type:** pass/fail
3. **Proposed course grade type:** standard letter grade
4. **Rationale for revision of course grade type:** The School of Nursing is proposing a Course Grade Type Revision for NURS 422 Senior Practicum based on the following rationale:

* The revision is requested based on consistent student feedback from SITE evaluations that the course be changed from a pass/fail to a standard letter grade. Students have consistently stated a letter grade would better reflect the efforts and learning outcomes achieved in the course than the current pass/fail designation.
* The revision is requested to maintain consistency in courses within the nursing program. The NURS 422 is an individual course that requires clinical hours as part of the course objective but is not linked to another course like the pass/fail clinical courses within the program. An example is the Cooperative Nursing elective course requiring 120 clinical hours which is offered in the summer and has a letter grade designation.
* In the current NURS 422 course the student completes 120 clinical hours mandated by the Kentucky Board of Nursing. In addition, the student submits the following assignments a) a self-assessment of learning needs b) a health policy and application in practice c) a weekly reflective journal evaluating learning outcomes and d) a final paper describing how course objectives were met during the clinical placement.
* The course currently contains a rubric designating a point value for each assignment throughout the bi-term and an overall percentage that would easily determine a letter grade for the course. This rubric was designed to better represent the student performance and clarify criteria required to pass in the course rather than the pass/fail designation.
* The standard letter grade is a better representation of the overall student performance in the practicum and evaluation of learning outcomes for a senior level capstone course.

1. **Proposed term for implementation:** Fall 2014
2. **Dates of prior committee approvals:**

|  |
| --- |
| Department/ Unit: School of Nursing: \_\_\_\_10/18/13\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: \_\_\_\_10/28/2013\_\_\_\_ |
| Undergraduate Curriculum Committee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| University Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |