

Overview of Nursing Education in the State University System

Existing SUS Nursing Programs

- 10 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) for initial licensure (all but NCF)
- 8 ASN to BSN programs
- 9 Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) (Includes ARNP programs)
- 5 Doctoral programs (Ph.D., DNS, & DNP) (2 new in 2004)

PROGRAM	UF	FSU	FAMU	USF	UCF	FIU	FAU	UNF	UWF	FGCU
BSN Generic	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ASN to BSN	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
MSN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Nurse Anesthetist						x		x		
Nurse Practitioner	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Nurse Midwifery	x									
Nurse Educator*		x		x			x			x
PHD, DNS	X			X	X	X	X			

* A new specialty that has emerged to better prepare clinical faculty and community college faculty, and which does not require ARNP licensure.

SUS Enrollments and Degrees Granted

Enrollments 2005

BSN = 6,626

MSN = 1,175

Doctoral = 131

Degrees Granted 2004-05

BSN = 1,479

MSN = 427

Doctoral = 12

Projected Degrees 2012-13

BSN = 2,066

MSN = 732

Doctorate = 53

In 2004 the SUS produced approximately 27% of the new registered nurse graduates in Florida. Community College ASN = 3,597 (from IPEDS) ICUF BSN = 388 (2004 accountability report)

Nursing Shortage

Key Issues are:

- Data indicate a shortage of registered nurses in the state and national workforce (see below)
- Low faculty to student ratio required for nursing instruction limits program enrollment capacity
- Shortage of faculty and clinical sites are prime factors inhibiting expansion of capacity
- As a result, nursing programs nationwide turn away thousands of qualified applicants
- SUS nursing programs unable to admit 3,144 qualified applicants in 2005-06
- Community college nursing programs unable to admit 6,753 qualified applicants in 2005-06.
- Independent institutions have a similar problem, but data is not available as yet

Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation occupational projections:

3.14 percent annual growth rate in RN openings to 2013 (2005 projections)

7,158 annual RN openings to 2013 (2005 projections)

2.9 percent annual growth rate in Nursing Educators to 2012 (2004 projections)

360 new Nursing Educator positions by 2012 (2004 projections)

Florida Hospital Association annual survey of member hospital registered nurse vacancies:

2,987 openings during week of February 22, 2004

8.2 percent statewide vacancy rate (varies by region from 1.5 to over 20 percent)

Steady decline in vacancy rate from 15.6 in 2001 (appears to cycle somewhat)

10.8 percent annual turnover rate statewide (also varies by region)
21 percent taking more than 90 days to fill positions (down from 45 % in 2002)
93.1 percent of member hospitals agree there is a nursing shortage
49.3 percent consider it severe

Florida Center for Nursing used the following projections in its 2004 fact sheet on the Nursing Faculty Shortage:

41,584 RNs needed in Florida by 2011 (2003 AWI data)
8,060 RNs needed annually through 2011 due to growth and separation (2003 AWI data)
Twice as many RNs licensed by endorsement of out-of-state credentials than by new graduate examination (8,690 vs. 4,677 per Florida Board of Nursing in 2002-03)
One million plus new and replacement nurses needed nationally by 2012 (US Labor)

SUCCEED Grants

The 2005 Florida Legislature created SUCCEED Grants for Nursing, Teacher Certification, and High School Career Academies. The grants were administered out of the Department of Education with assistance from BOG staff. Out of \$10 million available for nursing, the SUS was awarded \$4,544,369 for five projects (FIU, FSU, UCF, UNF, USF) that focused primarily on increasing graduate enrollment and fast-track BSN enrollments. Although the stated purpose was to increase program capacity; funding for the grants was non-recurring and the grant period was established as ending June 30, 2006. For this reason the state universities proposed projects that would address the faculty shortage. Some of the funding received by the state universities passed through to community college partners, either as payment for contracted instruction or to support community college faculty in upgrading their educational credentials.

NET Gains Legislative Budget Request

The Board of Governors approved the NET Gain LBR for Nursing at its July 2005 meeting to request \$13,793,500 in year one and \$18,960,000 each year thereafter to increase enrollment capacity in BSN, MSN and doctoral programs. If fully funded, the NET Gains LBR for nursing is expected to be producing by year 2011 an additional 506 BSN graduates, 94 MSN graduates, and 25 doctoral graduates annually.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

At least three state universities (UF, USF, and FIU) are planning to implement a DNP for their nursing programs leading to Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) licensing. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has issued a position statement in support of elevating advanced practice nursing programs from the MSN to the DNP. In justification, the AACN cites the increased educational requirements that have expanded most advanced practitioner MSN programs up to 60 credit hours (three years), the trend towards doctorate level education in allied health programs (Pharmacy, Audiology, Physical Therapy, etc.), and the need for a terminal degree as an alternative to the Ph.D. for practicing nurses so that they may be better prepared to assume faculty positions (an effort at expanding the potential faculty pool).