

Resolution With Regard to the Implementation of Doctor of Nursing Practice Programs in Florida

The Board of Governors recognizes that the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has issued a position statement in support of elevating advanced practice nursing programs from the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and further projects that the DNP will become the only degree recognized nationally for advanced practice nursing by 2015. The Board of Governors recognizes that there are some individuals and groups who have questioned whether the DNP is the appropriate direction for nursing education, and that various healthcare and nursing organizations in Florida have expressed some concern about the potential impact on existing MSN degree programs which provide most of the advanced clinical nursing workforce and community college nursing program instructors. The Board of Governors realizes that implementation of the DNP program has the potential for creating more and better qualified clinical nursing faculty and for upgrading the level of healthcare provided by licensed nurse practitioners in clinical settings. The Board of Governors also realizes that universities who already offer a doctorate in nursing will have the faculty and other resources in place to support the DNP, while for the others it would be their first doctorate in nursing. The Board of Governors further realizes that the long-term impact that implementing a DNP will have on current graduate nursing programs cannot be ascertained using available data and information. With these considerations in mind, the Board of Governors adopts the following:

- a. Universities that already offer a doctorate program in nursing (UF, USF, UCF, FAU, and FIU) may implement the Doctor of Nursing Practice as a post-master's program with the approval of their Board of Trustees, pending satisfactory review by Board of Governors' staff that all relevant new degree approval criteria have been adequately addressed.
- b. Universities that subsequently wish to offer post-baccalaureate DNP programs will need to secure the approval of their own Boards of Trustees, and then provide a plan to the Board of Governors staff for phasing out existing master's programs (over a period of not less than two years).
- c. Universities that currently offer a master's program to prepare nurse educators will maintain that program, unless otherwise permitted by the institution's Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors.
- d. Universities currently without authority to offer a doctorate in nursing must submit a complete degree proposal first to the Board of Trustees for approval, and subsequently to the Board of Governors for review and consideration in order to implement a Doctor of Nursing Practice.
- e. All Doctor of Nursing Practice degree programs will be implemented under CIP Code 51.1601 or another code assigned by Board of Governors staff so that enrollments can be distinguished from enrollments in research doctorate nursing programs.
- f. Board of Governors staff will report to the Board when a Doctor of Nursing Practice program is implemented and will track enrollments in the Master of

Science in Nursing programs across the system to ensure there are no negative impacts as the Doctor of Nursing Practice programs mature.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Staff White Paper on DNP
UF Information Bullets on DNP

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