Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Program Proposal

University of Saint Mary Nursing Department

Introduction and Need
This proposal is for the development of an on-campus accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in the Nursing Department at the University of Saint Mary (USM).

The United States Department of Labor has projected the need for more than a million new nurses by 2018. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) in conjunction with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recommended in *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* (2011) that the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree be increased from 50 to 80 percent by 2020. Schools of nursing are seeking effective and efficient ways to increase capacity while maintaining program quality and integrity. One approach that has gained momentum is the accelerated BSN program for second-degree students. BSN didactic and clinical experiences are offered in a compressed format. After prerequisites are met, students complete these programs in 12-18 months. Thus, the accelerated BSN offers the quickest route for an individual with a bachelor’s or higher degree to obtain a BSN. Despite the rigors of the program an accelerated BSN is an attractive option for some individuals who are seeking to change career paths.

According to survey data from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) the number of students enrolled in accelerated BSN programs has more than doubled since 2004 when there were 6,090 students enrolled. The 2010 survey found there were 13,605 accelerated BSN students. Accelerated BSN students typically do well in their studies and have high first-time NCLEX-RN pass rates. Because of their maturity as well as education and life experiences employers like to hire these individuals.

The USM Nursing Department already offers two accredited BSN programs, on-campus traditional BSN and online RN to BSN. This proposed accelerated BSN program is designed for individuals who have completed a previous bachelor’s degree in a field other than nursing and have graduated from an accredited college or university. There is a need for the proposed program. The USM Nursing Department has had inquiries from individuals who are interested in an accelerated BSN program. And there is anecdotal evidence that local programs have more qualified applicants than available slots for students in their accelerated BSN programs. Furthermore, for some traditional USM nursing students, the BSN is their second baccalaureate degree. Some of these students would have preferred an accelerated program if it had been an option. Having these students in an accelerated BSN program would free up spaces for more traditional students thus increasing the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses.

**Goal of Accelerated BSN Program**
Offering an accelerated BSN for students who have already earned a bachelor’s or higher degree in another major will increase the supply of BSN-prepared nurses who can serve the health care needs of the population.
**Program Description**

These students will be taught the same nursing content and complete the same number of clinical/laboratory hours as USM’s traditional on-campus BSN students – 58 credits and 772.5 hours of clinical/laboratory experiences. For these second-degree students this will be accomplished in a highly compressed timeframe. Courses will be taught in an eight-week format. Students will begin in Summer II and graduate after completing Summer I the following year. These students would be able to participate in the Nursing Pinning Ceremony and USM Commencement activities. Because of the rigors of the program these students will be required to have a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale from their previous bachelor’s degree, minimum GPA of 2.75 for perquisite courses with a minimum grade of C (not C-) for each prerequisite course. Students will be expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.75 for nursing courses and supporting courses (Mission in Healthcare and if required, Aging: Issues and Perspectives and Biology for Today).

USM Board of Trustees has approved the concept of an accelerated BSN program on campus for individuals who have a previous bachelor’s or higher degree. Application is being made to Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) for approval of this program. The earliest time the Education Committee at KSBN can consider our request is at their December 2011 meeting.

We thank the Academic Affairs Committee for its approval of the Nursing Department’s proposal for an on-campus accelerated BSN program for second-degree students (previous bachelor’s degree or a higher degree). We respectfully request approval from the Faculty Senate. USM cannot begin advertising or recruiting students until we have KSBN and USM faculty approval. USM would like to begin these activities in January 2012. The first cohort of students would begin Summer 2012.
General Education Requirements for On-Campus Previous Bachelor’s Degree - Accelerated Nursing Program Students Seeking a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing
USM Campus Program

General Education Core (3 hours – 1 course)
------Mission in Healthcare

Communications (3 hours – 1 course)
------Communications

Humanities (6 hours – 2 courses)
(Must include courses from 2 different areas)
------Literature/Theatre
------Foreign language
------History
------Humanities: Art, Humanities, Music, Religion
------philosophy (ethics or bioethics preferred)

Psychology/Social Science (9 hours – 3 courses)
------Introduction to Psychology or Introduction to Sociology
------Gerontology course (if none, Aging: Issues and Perspectives required)
------One of the following courses:
       ------Human Growth & Development                   ------Abnormal Psychology
       ------Health Psychology                             ------Social Psychology
       ------Psychology of Childhood & Adolescence or Developmental Psychology

Mathematics (3 hours -1course)
------College Algebra or Introductory Statistics

Science (15-17 hours – 3-4 courses)
(Sciences courses cannot be older than 5 years at start of nursing program. A science course must have included genetics/genomics or Biology for Today is required.)
------Anatomy & Physiology with lab (must include all body systems)
------Chemistry with lab (must include biochemistry; prefer survey course – inorganic, organic, & biochemistry)
------Microbiology
------Biology for Today or comparable