Advancing Academic Progression in Nursing

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Purpose

Present and promote dialogue of creative and practical strategies for advancing seamless academic progression of registered nurses through BSN degree completion and MSN graduation via collaborative partnerships.
Objectives

1. Identify key components to developing and sustaining successful community college and health care partnerships.
2. Describe the need and approaches to advancing diversity in nursing education programs.
3. Discuss strategies and processes to expedite MSN degree completion.
4. Examine strategies to promote academic progression relative to one’s own setting.
## Activity

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Benedictine University

- Private, Roman Catholic
- Founded in Chicago in 1887 originally for men of Czechoslovak descent
- Became coeducational in 1968
- Comprised of 6 colleges
- Enrollment
  Approximately 6500 students
Benedictine’s Reach

• Main Campus
  Lisle, IL
• Moser Center
  Naperville, IL
• 2 Branch Campuses
  Springfield, IL
  Mesa, AZ
• 42 Illinois class sites
• 8 China class sites
• 2 Vietnam class sites
Academic Offerings

• 55 Undergraduate Degrees
• 15 Graduate Degrees
• 36 Graduate Certificates
• 4 Doctoral Degrees
• Ranked #1 Among the Country’s Fastest-Growing Private Nonprofit Research Institutions
1980: RN-to-BSN launch
2007: COD & Triton partnerships
2009: MSN launch & Springfield partnership
2012: Morton & Richland partnerships
Institute of Medicine 2010

The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health

Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
Institute of Medicine 2010
The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health

• Increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80% by 2020.

• Double the number of nurses with a doctorate by 2020.

• Ensure that nurses engage in lifelong learning.

• Prepare and enable nurses to lead change to advance health.
Joint Statement on Academic Progress for Nursing Students and Graduates

“Our common goal is a well educated, diverse nursing workforce to advance the nation’s health.”
Illinois Board of Higher Education

*Nursing School Expansion Grant*

- Provides financial support to high-quality nursing programs to help increase the number of degrees in a critical needs area

- Award amounts
  
  - FY 10 - $239,000
  - FY 11 - $362,000
  - FY 12 - $331,000
Illinois Board of Higher Education
Nursing School Expansion Grant

• Increase the number of students admitted to, and graduating from a quality Benedictine RN to BSN Program that addresses the nursing shortage.

• Address meeting the need for BSN completion among Hispanic registered nurses.

• Incorporate simulation into the RN to BSN curriculum.

• Implement substantial web-enhancement learning experiences in all nursing courses.
Illinois Board of Higher Education

Nursing School Expansion Grant

• Addition of four full-time faculty
• Stipends for curriculum revision
• Addition of two staff positions
• New lab equipment, online tutoring services, faculty development, technology, and travel
# Illinois Board of Higher Education

## Nursing School Expansion Grant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Number of Students Admitted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>84</td>
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**IBHE Expansion Grant Awarded**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Number of Students Admitted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>135</td>
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</table>
RN to BSN Program

- Adult accelerated
- 120 credits
- 12-16 months
- Cohort model
- Five week courses
- Scheduling options
Community College Partnerships

2007
• College of DuPage
• Triton College

2009
Springfield campus
• Memorial Medical Center
Community College Partnerships

2013

• Morton College
  – Hispanic Serving institution
  – Achieving the Dream participant
  – Comprehensive community college

• Richland Community College
  – Cohort site of Springfield campus
Collaboration in Action

- Leverage existing relationships
- Travel to community sites
- Establish 3+1 partnership agreement
- Revise marketing and communication plan
- Coordinate academic advising
- Support partners
- Nurture relationships
Online MSN Program

• Launched 2009
• 8 week courses offered in 3 semesters/year
• Curriculum revised in 2012 to align with AACN Essentials (2011)
• Two concentrations
  – Nurse Educator
  – Nurse Executive Leader

Benedictine University®
MSN Foundation Courses

Health Promotion and Interprofessional Collaboration
Ethical and Culturally Competent Health Care Professional
Evidence-Based Nursing Practice: Research and Process Improvement
Health Care Informatics and Emergent Technologies
Health Care Policy and Advocacy
Quality Improvement and Safety in Health Care Systems
Nurse Executive Leader

- Building Effective Communication and Relationships
- Professionalism and Executive Career Development
- Advanced Knowledge of Health Care Systems
- Nursing Leadership and Systems Thinking
- Financial Management and Resource Allocation in Health Care Systems
- Evidence-Based Nursing Practice Capstone Project

Nurse Educator

- Advanced Health Assessment
- Advanced Pathophysiology
- Advanced Pharmacology
- Instructional Strategies in Nursing Practice
- Learning and Curriculum Development in Nursing Practice
- Evaluation Strategies and Methods in Nursing Practice
- Evidence-Based Nursing Practice Capstone Project
RN to BSN to MSN
Academic Progression Bridge

- Cross listed foundation MSN courses
- Up to 12 semester credits
- Undergraduate tuition rate
- Success Strategies
- Integrated with MSN students
- Student support

Benedictine University®
Bridge Eligibility Criteria

Student has:

• fulfilled RN to BSN Program requirements
• a cumulative GPA of 2.75
• a need for baccalaureate credit
• been recommended by a full-time faculty member
Benefits to Bridge Students

- Cost savings
- Expedites MSN program completion (8 - 32 weeks)
- Exposure to graduate and online education
- Advanced knowledge
- Mentoring

![Diagram showing dollars saved across courses]
Composition of BSN and MSN Graduates

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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian/P. Islander</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/AA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>140</td>
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Long-term Goals

Increase:

• partnerships
• number of Bridge students
• diversity and number of BSN and MSN graduates
• employment opportunities
• cadre of nurse educators and nurse executive leaders
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Discussion

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Benedictine University®
Resources


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Resources


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Resources


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