College of Health & Human Services
2005-06 Annual Achievement Report

The College of Health & Human Services is constantly striving to improve its academic programs, support services, and facilities. Routine review and assessment help to identify areas that could be improved. This report will summarize items identified during routine assessments as needing improvement, and the plan implemented to improve the item. The report will focus on those implemented plans that resulted in improvements during the AY 2005-06.

1. MSN faculty identified that student lack of computer skills were deficient to successfully navigate and feel comfortable completing a online course. A plan to implement a tutorial course in computer literacy was proposed and developed. After graduate academic council approval, the course (NSG 5520) was offered to MS Nursing students on a voluntary basis in the fall 2006. Students who opt for the course are doing well online.

2. Declining graduation and retention rates of BSN students indicated a need to explore strategies to improve the success of students. Students were experiencing the greatest difficulty in the first and last semester of the program. Approximately 50% of students were failing skills performance check-offs in NSG 3314 - Nursing Concepts I Practicum - even after mandatory practice time was instituted in the course. Students were requesting to take Public Health Nursing in the summer to minimize their academic load in the subsequent fall or spring semester. NSG 4406 Public Health Nursing is a higher level course designed to teach students how to care for the community as the patient. To address these concerns the BSN Curriculum Committee and faculty reviewed the overall BSN curriculum in an attempt to improve student retention and graduation rates. First, the BSN curriculum was revised in relation to the new general studies guidelines and then recommendations were made and approved by the Transitional Undergraduate Academic Council. A new course NSG 3306 Perspectives of Professional Nursing was added to Semester I, and NSG 3315- Pathophysiology was moved to the general studies requirements for admission to the BSN clinical nursing sequence. NSG 3323 Maternal Infant Health Nursing, NSG 3334 Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, NSG 3332 Child Health Nursing and NSG 4405 Public Health Nursing were changed from 2 to 3 hour courses. Also, an additional hour was added to NSG 3326 Nursing Concepts II Practicum. The sequencing of courses in the BSN clinical nursing sequence was revised for completion over 5 rather than 4 semesters. These changes were also submitted to NLNAC for approval. The new plan would not require students to complete NSG 4413/4414 Concepts III, NSG 4405/4406 Public Health Nursing, and NSG 4421 Preceptorship, NSG 4407 Clinical Nutrition, and NSG 4417 Senior Seminar in one semester. Additionally, NSG 3314 Nursing Concepts I Practicum underwent a major revision with faculty leading and directing simulation labs and skills performance. Faculty guide, supervise, and evaluate groups of 10 students each in the simulated lab setting. A phase-in of the revised curriculum began in fall semester 2005. Results indicate an improved progression rate. Approximately
77% of the students admitted in Fall 2005 were successful in progressing to Semester II up from 50% the previous Fall. Only one student during 2005-2006 AY was unsuccessful in completing the skills requirements for NSG 3314. Graduates of the five semester sequence will complete the program in Fall 2007. Graduation rate will be assessed during the 2007-08 AY. Student comments have been positive about the five semester sequence so far.

3. Curriculum revisions of the undergraduate SFM curriculum since the semester conversion in 2000 had render the departmental exit exams antiquated. A plan to revise both exit exams to more accurately reflect the objectives of the current curricula was implemented during the 04-05 AY. The revised exam was given to students in the fall of 2005. Pass rates improved from 54% in 2004-05 to 90% in 2005-06.

4. Recognizing the benefits of outside accreditations of programs, the SFM faculty sought to apply for accreditation by NASSM. Curriculum revisions were needed to narrow the scope of the program to meet accreditation standards. New courses were developed and approved through appropriate channels. Others courses were eliminated from the program. The revised SFM major received the appropriate approval in 2005, and the new curriculum was implemented in the Fall of 2006 for all incoming freshman. Accreditation application will take place in the Spring of 2008.

5. Clinical Proficiency test outs seemed to overwhelm ATE students when tested all at one time. A plan to test out of proficiencies over time was developed. Faculty developed a curriculum map and identified courses where final mastery was expected. Students were tested for proficiencies in the designated courses across the curriculum. The plan went into effect in Spring 2006. The result has been a 30 % improvement in cognitive psychomotor skills on the departmental exit examination in Fall 2006.

6. Visual inspection of faculty offices and student meeting areas in the Department of Human Services and Social Work suggested a need for updating and unifying departmental space. Following approval protocols, the offices were repainted and new furniture was purchased and delivered in Fall 2006. The result is a much more student friendly and aesthetically appealing work space.