

## CPR Report Submitted!

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5                   **Institution:** Columbus State University  
6    **Review Status:** Non-triggered Review  
7                   **Degree level:** Bachelors  
8    **Degree acronym:** BSN  
9    **Degree/Major:** BS in Nursing  
10                  **CIP Code:** 51160100  
11                  **College,**  
                  **School/Division:** College of Science  
12                  **Department:** Department of Nursing  
13                  **CPR Plan**  
                  **followed:** Yes  
14 **Future institutional**  
    **plans for program:** Maintain at present level  
15 **Plan for resources**  
    **in this program:** maintain  
16 **Supplemental file:** Nursing Findings&Plans.doc  
17                  **File Type:** MS Word  
18 **CPR Web Addr.:**

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# **CPR Findings and Plans for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Columbus State University**

June 24, 2004

## **1. Major Findings of the Program's Quality, Productivity, and Viability**

The Comprehensive Program Review Committee reviewed documentation concerning the courses and programs related to the BSN program at Columbus State University. The Committee noted the clarity of the self-study report prepared by the Department of Nursing, the insightfulness and candor of the report prepared by the External Review Committee, and the succinctness of the department's response to the External Review Committee's Report. The committee concluded that the overall quality, productivity, and viability of the program are strong.

### **1a. Quality**

In October 2002, the CSU Baccalaureate Nursing Program completed a comprehensive self-study and hosted site visitors from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission to evaluate the program for continued national accreditation. As a result, the program was granted continuing accreditation for eight years. The most recent four-year average pass rate on the NCLEX-RN licensure exam is 92 percent. There is a systematic plan for program evaluation and assessment on all aspects of the program. Alumni surveys reflect positive responses on all items relating to the provision of nursing care based on clinical judgment (i.e., 95 percent of the alumni report favorable therapeutic intervention skills. The program meets both Georgia Board of Nursing standards (state board approval) as well as National League of Nursing for Accrediting Commission standards (national accreditation). Every clinical course incorporates teaching of technological skills related to the course content and clinical specialty of the course, including technology used in clinical facilities to provide and document patient care. In addition, the campus lab is equipped with simulations and models for student practice in a safe environment. Nursing faculty members, both full-time and part-time, are academically and experientially qualified and maintain expertise appropriate to teaching, service, and scholarly responsibilities. The Nursing Department has provided paid release time and/or tuition support to five full-time nursing faculty members pursuing doctoral degrees within the last 8 years, two of whom have completed doctorates, one who is completing her dissertation, and two who are currently taking courses. CSU facilities (including technology labs, equipment, and library resources) as well as community clinical facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the program and the students. The campus lab has recently undergone minor renovation and a second satellite lab has been added to accommodate growing numbers of students. Old and outdated equipment is currently being replaced, which has already significantly improved student learning in the campus lab.

### **1b. Productivity and Viability**

The Department of Nursing philosophy and mission statements are congruent with the mission and vision statements of Columbus State University. Both nursing and the University statements

emphasize student-centered programs, academic excellence, critical thinking, effective communication, information and technology literacy, creativity, and life-long learning. The primary reasons for the recent popularity of the BSN program are employer demand and the successful participation in the ICAPP Advantage Health Profession Initiative sponsored by the University System of Georgia. The BSN Program in partnership with local hospitals and the state of Georgia funded additional full-time (two nursing & one biology) and part-time nursing faculty, as well as facility renovations/upgrades and equipment/technology acquisitions, to support teaching and learning for increased numbers of nursing students in the first year of the ICAPP initiative. The BSN program has experienced significant growth over the previous three years (see Table 1: Quantitative Measures). The number of declared majors has increased 89 percent from 236 in Fall 2000 to 446 in Fall 2003. The fall 2003 applicant pool grew to 120 students with higher grade point averages than in previous years. Seventy students were accepted for admission for fall 2003. This increase was made possible through continued ICAPP funding for the second year of the initiative. The number of credit hours generated at the upper level has increased by 157 percent. The student population is diverse in age, ethnic background (37 percent African-American), and gender. The department awarded \$22,440 in scholarships to 31 students during 2002-2003. The number of degrees conferred increased from 28 in fiscal year 2001 to 42 (37 generic and 5 RN-BSN students) in fiscal year 2004. With 48 students enrolled in the senior level and 75 students enrolled in the junior level of the clinical program Fall 2003, the number of graduates will continue to increase.

## **2. Plans for Improving the Program's Quality, Productivity, and Viability**

The Comprehensive Program Review Committee's findings are consistent with those of the External Review Team. The Committee noted that the Nursing Department has taken action on all the concerns of the visitation team as follows:

### **2a. Systematic Plan for Program Evaluation**

A sub-committee is reviewing the lack of distinction between measures used for generic students and those used for the RN-BSN students and will develop and recommend tools for use by RN-BSN students. A written procedure for the removal of outdated books and other materials from the library has been developed and approved by the nursing faculty. To address minimal evidence that the data generated by the evaluation plan is being used for program revision, development or maintenance of the program, improved documentation has begun and is reflected in departmental minutes. The overall program evaluation plan is also being updated to become consistent with the new revised NLNAC standards.

### **2b. Key Student Policies**

A policy has been developed and implemented resulting in a more organized paper trail of student complaints and their resolutions. Another policy has been developed and implemented that documents the procedure actually in use to maintain the confidentiality of student records.

### **2c. Marketing and Recruitment**

A part-time pre-nursing coordinator position was created to improve the pre-nursing advisement process. This position has been a tremendous success (students have given very positive feedback) and will be continued.

### **3. New Resource Allocations for Improvement**

The department is in the process of replacing outdated equipment. This is an ongoing need that had been inadequately addressed in the past. The department chair is seeking permanent budgeting in the Department of Nursing for replacement and maintenance of medical models and equipment to prevent this problem in the future. Partial funding will come from the current Nursing ICAPP HPI. The CSU Computer and Information Services has replaced the computers in the nursing computer lab with faster computers. Funding has been approved (through student technology fee) to further upgrade outdated computers next year.

Salary compression for current nursing faculty prevented the institution from raising the entry-level salaries any higher during the previous budget year. The Nursing Department Chair is working with the Dean and VPAA to institute a plan for raising the salaries of existing faculty so that entry salaries can be raised to competitive levels. The VPAA and Dean are aware that if measures are not instituted to increase the number of full-time faculty, fewer students will be admitted into the fall class. The recent approval of the ICAPP Health Professionals Initiative for fiscal years 2005 and 2006 will enable CSU to maintain current levels of enrollment for at least two more years.

### **4. Plans for Increasing Program Productivity Above Threshold**

Not applicable. The System Office did not trigger the BSN program for review.

**Table 1: Quantitative Measures – BSN in Nursing**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>	<b>2002/2003</b>	<b>2003/2004</b>
Number of Declared Majors - Fall Semester	236	279	363	446
Number of Degrees Conferred - Fiscal Year	28	31	38	42
Credit Hour Production - Fall Semester	986	1,023	1,772	1,744
Average Course Enrollment - Fall Semester	9.0	10.9	11.6	8.1
Number of Faculty by EFT - Fall Semester	12	12	12	12
Program-Specific Scholarship Funds Awarded	\$12,200	\$7,111	\$3,040	\$8,100
Averages for Declared Majors - Fall Semester				
Average SAT Verbal Score	478, n=154	478, n=162	478, n=219	477, n=287
Average SAT Math Score	456, n=154	457, n=162	457, n=219	458, n=287
Average Undergraduate GPA	2.75, n=241	2.73, n=276	2.74, n=362	2.69, n=445
Gender				
Female	209	257	332	404
Male	27	22	31	42
Total	236	279	363	446
Race				
International Students	0	1	2	3
Asian	8	9	5	10
Black	89	103	137	179
Hispanic	7	10	15	14
American Indian	2	1	2	3
Multi-Racial	5	9	13	18
White	125	146	189	219
Total	236	279	363	446
Age				
25 and Under	155	186	257	327
Over 25	81	93	106	119
Total	236	279	363	446
Average	25.1	25.1	24.4	24.3