



A Strategy to “Grow Our Own” DNP Faculty

The faculty at the University of South Alabama College of Nursing have approved a curriculum for a post-masters DNP program with the goal to seek state approval for the program. With this approval the program will be officially launched in the fall of 2006. To ensure adequate faculty for the DNP program, the College will begin the summer of 2005 to “grow our own faculty”.

The mechanism by which we will do this is as follows:

Although the College does not offer a doctorate degree, the College has approval to offer doctoral level courses. These courses are a component of the curriculum for the Ph.D. in Education. The PhD in Education admits nurses and our courses provide an opportunity for these students to take doctoral level nursing courses for a cognate area. During the summer of 2005, two DNP courses will be taught under a Special Topics course designation. These two courses will be open only to our faculty and to selected practice partners at our hospitals. Two of our doctorally prepared faculty will co-teach the courses. In addition the college has engaged a nationally recognized consultant to provide two days of consultation as part of the course. Since our university provides tuition reimbursement for up to 5 credits per semester for faculty, the faculty will not have to pay tuition for the courses. In each following semester, additional DNP courses will be offered to our faculty. Once the college is approved to offer the DNP, the credits earned by these faculty will be transferred into the DNP program.

Should the program not be approved, the faculty will still have benefited by the knowledge gained and will have more than met the continuing education requirements for renewal of their RN licensure. They may also be able to transfer the course(s) to another DNP program.

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