

## Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template

**Institution Submitting Request:** *University of Utah*

**Proposed Title:** *Combined BS Completion to MS Degree in Nursing*

**Currently Approved Title:** *NA*

**School or Division or Location:** *College of Nursing*

**Department(s) or Area(s) Location:** *MS in Nursing Program*

**Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code<sup>1</sup> (for new programs):** *51.3818*

**Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs):** *00.0000*

**Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs):** *Fall 2013*

**Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:** *4/09/2013*

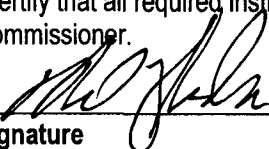
**Proposal Type (check all that apply):**

R401-5		R401-6	
<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>		<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>	
4.1.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor*	
5.1.1.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Emphasis on an Existing Degree*	6.1.1
5.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Proficiency Not Eligible for Financial Aid	6.1.5
5.1.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
5.1.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Programs	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Unit
5.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Consolidation	
5.1.6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension	
5.1.7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Creation	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Transfer	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Consolidation	
5.1.8	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Center	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Institute	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Bureau	
5.1.9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate Certificate	

\*Requires "Section VI: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

**Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:**

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

**Date:**

**Printed Name:** *Michael Hardman*

<sup>1</sup> CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

**Program Request – Abbreviated Templates**  
**University of Utah College of Nursing**  
Combined BS Completion/MS Degree in Nursing  
11/12/2012

**Section 1: Request**

The College of Nursing at the University of Utah requests permission to establish a BS Completion to MS program option. The target audience is Registered Nurses (RNs) with associate degrees who are interested in pursuing graduate education in any of the college's master's degree emphases areas: Nursing Informatics, Nursing Education or Care Management. The purpose of the proposed program is to offer opportunities for students to move seamlessly from their baccalaureate program to a master's program, thus accelerating the transition into advanced nursing roles by eliminating the usual gap between BSN completion and graduate admission.

The faculty within the College of Nursing have reviewed and unanimously endorsed this proposal within the standing committee structure. Approval was obtained from both the BS Program Committee and the MS & Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program Committee. After presenting and reviewing the courses and accompanying documentation, these two standing committees recommended full approval on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012. This new BS/MS combined program option was then presented and supported at the College Council on November 9, 2012.

**Section II: Need**

The Institute of Medicine's (IOM) 2010 report, *The Future of Nursing*, recommends increasing the proportion of nurses with baccalaureate preparation. It encourages schools and colleges of nursing, funders, accrediting entities, and academic nurse leaders to collaborate on reaching a goal of having at least 80% of the nursing workforce with a minimum of a baccalaureate degree by 2020, up from the current level of 50%. Specifically, the IOM suggests that health care organizations support nurses with associate and diploma degrees to begin a baccalaureate program within five years of graduation by fostering a culture of continuing education, offering tuition incentives, and providing employment and salary incentives to people who obtain advanced degrees (IOM, 2010).

The increasing complexity of medical treatments & therapies, growing numbers of persons with chronic health conditions, and the rapid expansion of technological innovations mandates that nurses be highly educated and capable of navigating multiple systems of care. Nurses who are well prepared in baccalaureate and higher degree programs are better prepared to use a systems approach in addressing quality outcomes (Tri-Council report on education advancement of RNs, 2010). Coupled with the need for a more highly-educated workforce, there is a growing faculty shortage, complicated by the increasing age of current faculty. The average age for a master's degree prepared professor is 58 years of age. Critical shortages and increased demand are anticipated for nurse informaticists, nurse educators and care managers.

The College of Nursing currently offers an RN – BS program, and an MS program with three emphases: Nursing Education (formerly Teaching Nursing), Care Management, and Nursing Informatics. The MS program in nursing prepares nurses to fill critical shortages in the U.S. and worldwide, including roles as nursing faculty, expert care managers in a variety of clinical settings, and nurses prepared in informatics.

The College long ago recognized that students from rural and/or under-served areas of the state often face difficulties with expenses and traveling long distances, which is why it instituted its successful distance learning opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate level students. This allows enrollees to stay with their families and communities while earning their degrees, and increases the likelihood that graduates will practice in rural and underserved communities. In recent years, the MS degree has become highly desirable for nursing practice. A combined BS/MS degree program intended to accelerate progress toward the MS degree and that includes possible distance learning is both timely and attractive for undergraduate students interested in pursuing employment in an advanced nursing role.

### **Program Description and Procedures**

This program is designed specifically for individuals who have earned an associate degree in nursing and have a valid RN license. Students will complete the combined degree program, as described below, in three years and receive a simultaneous conferral of the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees. The program is adapted from and builds upon an existing courses and programs of study in the College of Nursing. Students in the combined program will begin some of their graduate level courses during the final semester of their undergraduate program. These activities can accelerate completion of the combined program by a full year as compared to sequential BS – MS programs. The following outlines the minimum requirements and application process:

1. Interested undergraduate students apply to the program through the College of Nursing. At the time of application, students will be able to indicate/select an RN-BS or RN-MS educational track.
2. Application for admission to the University Graduate School will be submitted at the end of a student's third semester of their upper division program of study.
3. Consistent with University policy, students entering the combined BS/MS must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Students must be enrolled in the RN – BS program at the time of applying for the MS degree option.
4. Students will follow the regular University of Utah Graduate School application processes and deadlines. All university requirements for graduate admissions must be met except posting of undergraduate degree. (Note: On the referral sheet that the College returns to graduate admissions, it will note that the student has been accepted to the combined BS/MS program. Graduate Admissions will then approve admission without the BS completed.)
5. Students may begin graduate level nursing courses in the final semester of their BS Completion program. No more than 9 semester hours of credit may be taken prior to admission to the graduate school.
6. The BS and MS degrees are conferred simultaneously following completion of the program. No student will be awarded an MS degree without satisfying all requirements for the BS degree.
7. Students wishing to exit the combined program before completion can apply qualified coursework toward a BS degree in Nursing.

### **Section III: Institutional Impact**

The College of Nursing at the University of Utah is the premier nursing education institution in the state. The College anticipates recruiting from currently enrolled RN – BS students and among recent graduates of the RN associate degree programs at community colleges, particularly those in rural and underserved areas. The project also encourages post-school employment in these regions. The College of Nursing anticipates increased enrollment in the combined BS/MS degree program due to the inclusion of distance

learning and the strong possibility of jobs after graduation. Instituting this program will not necessitate changes in existing administrative structures at the University. Reporting procedures to various University departments already exist for similar programs. This request does not require any changes in faculty, staff, or physical facilities. Further, no student will be adversely affected by this change as any student can complete his or her BS degree in nursing under the existing RN – BS program.

#### Section IV: Finances

No additional costs are anticipated to result from this change. The College of Nursing has the faculty and resources to accommodate this combined degree option.

#### Section V: Program Curriculum

##### BS/MS Nursing Informatics

	Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
BS Completion	NURS 3106	Complex Concepts of Health Assessment for RNs	3
	NURS 3107	Nursing & Health Promotion	3
	NURS 3108	Evidence Based Practice in Nursing	3
	NURS 3113	Nursing Across Systems & Populations for RNs	4
	NURS 4110	Global Health Nursing	3
	NURS 4116	Public Health Nursing for RNs	3
	NURS 4140	Enhanced Professional Nursing of RNs	5
	NURS 4150	Nursing Initiatives	3
	NURS	Upper Division Elective	3
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>30</b>
Masters Core	NURS 6000	Evidence Based Practice	3
	NURS 6809	Nursing Informatics Role & Collaboration	3
	NURS 6002	Health Care Delivery	2
	UUHSC 6600/6700	IPE Hospitalized Patient Care/IPE Ambulatory Patient Care (Inter-Professional Exp)	.5 / .5
	NURS 7505	Biostatistics	3
	NURS 6888	Masters Synthesis or Thesis Option	2 / 6
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>14-18</b>
Track/Options	NURS 6801	Clinical Systems Analysis	3
	NURS 6802	Clinical Design Support	3
	NURS 6803	Clinical Database Design	3
	NURS 6804	Successful Implementation of Systems in Health Care	3

	Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
	NURS 6806	Computer Science Fundamentals for Clinicians	3
	NURS 6810	Foundations of Health Care Informatics	3
	NURS 6661	Project Management in Health Care	3
	NURS	Electives	3-6
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>21-27</b>
	<b>Total Number of Credits</b>		<b>65-75</b>

### BS/MS Nursing Education

	Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
BS Completion	NURS 3106	Complex Concepts of Health Assessment for RNs	3
	NURS 3107	Nursing & Health Promotion	3
	NURS 3108	Evidence Based Practice in Nursing	3
	NURS 3113	Nursing Across Systems & Populations for RNs	4
	NURS 4110	Global Health Nursing	3
	NURS 4116	Public Health Nursing for RNs	3
	NURS 4140	Enhanced Professional Nursing of RNs	5
	NURS 4150	Nursing Initiatives	3
	NURS	Upper Division Elective	3
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>30</b>
Masters Core	NURS 6000	Evidence Based Practice	3
	NURS 6001	Professional Role & Collaboration	2
	NURS 6002	Health Care Delivery	2
	NURS 6004	Intro to Information & Technology	3
	UUHSC 6600/6700	IPE Hospitalized Patient Care/IPE Ambulatory Patient Care (Inter-Professional Exp)	.5 / .5
	NURS 6007	Advanced Pathophysiology Across the Lifespan	2
	NURS 6888	Masters Synthesis or Thesis Option	2 / 6
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>15-19</b>
Track/Options	NURS 6XXX	Core Principles & Theories of Nursing Education (replacing NURS 60110 Teaching Learning)	3
	NURS 6011	Curriculum & Classroom Instruction in Nursing Education	3
	NURS 6013	Clinical Instruction n Nursing Education	3

	Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
	NURS 6015	Faculty Roles, Rights & Responsibilities in Nursing Education	3
	NURS 6017	Nursing Education Residency	3
	NURS 6XXX	(NEW)Simulation Instruction in Nursing Education	3
	NURS	Electives	3-6
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>18-24</b>
	<b>Total Number of Credits</b>		<b>63-73</b>

### BS/MS Care Management

	Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
BS Completion	NURS 3106	Complex Concepts of Health Assessment for RNs	3
	NURS 3107	Nursing & Health Promotion	3
	NURS 3108	Evidence Based Practice in Nursing	3
	NURS 3113	Nursing Across Systems & Populations for RNs	4
	NURS 4110	Global Health Nursing	3
	NURS 4116	Public Health Nursing for RNs	3
	NURS 4140	Enhanced Professional Nursing of RNs	5
	NURS 4150	Nursing Initiatives	3
	NURS	Upper Division Elective	3
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>30</b>
Masters Core	NURS 6000	Evidence Based Practice	3
	NURS 6001	Professional Role & Collaboration	2
	NURS 6002	Health Care Delivery	2
	NURS 6004	Intro to Information & Technology	3
	UUHSC 6600/6700	IPE Hospitalized Patient Care/IPE Ambulatory Patient Care (Inter-Professional Exp)	.5 / .5
	NURS 6007	Advanced Pathophysiology Across the Lifespan	2
	NURS 6888	Masters Synthesis or Thesis Option	2 / 6
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>15-19</b>
Track/Options	NURS 6003	Program Planning Development	3
	NURS 6009	Intro to Clinical Epidemiology & Population Science	1
	NURS 6772	Quality Improvement in Health Care	3
	NURS 6390	Care Management: Clinical Issues	2

	Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
	NURS 6392	Care Management: Professional, Legal, Financial & Business Issues	2
	NURS 6XXX	(NEW) Care Management Residency/Immersion Experience	4
	NURS 6006	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics Across the Lifespan	1
	NURS 7020	Advanced Physical Assessment	3
	NURS	Electives	3-6
		Sub-Total	19-25
	Total Number of Credits		64-74