**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

**Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing**

**New Program Proposal**

**Program Title:**

Undergraduate Honors in Nursing

**Background:**

The Undergraduate Honors in Nursing has been developed to recognize excellence in and enhance scholarship in nursing students. The Honors Program is reserved for the College of Nursing’s most distinguished undergraduate students and offers an exceptional and academically enriching experience to the students accepted into the program. Upon successful completion of all requirements the student will be awarded a baccalaureate degree in Nursing with the designation of Honors in their major on their transcript.

**Entry Requirements:**

The College of Nursing’s selection process for the program targets students who have identifiable potential for graduate study as demonstrated by a statement of interest in research, leadership capability, volunteer service, and exemplary academic achievements. Students whose official cumulative GPA is 3.8 or above **and** who have achieved a minimum of an A- in Nursing Research (NUR 4165) are eligible to apply to this competitive honors program. Admission to Honors in Nursing requires acceptance by the College of Nursing Committee on Students. Each applicant will be required to submit a one-page, single-spaced personal statement addressing the following: interest in research, leadership experience, service and academic achievement. A limited number of students (no more than 20% of any student cohort not to exceed 15 students per year) will be accepted to the Honors in the Nursing Major.

**Nursing Honors Standards:**

Students in Honors in Nursing must maintain their GPA at 3.8 or above to graduate with the designation of Honors in the Nursing Major. In addition, students in the Honors in Nursing must adhere to the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses.

**Honors-Level Enrichment:**

Requirements for the Undergraduate Honors in Nursing are as follows:

* Each student will take an inquiry accepted in the Honors in the Nursing Major program will participate in the Honors Seminar (3 credit hours). The Honors Seminar provides an opportunity for students to benefit from scholarly enrichment. The seminar, facilitated by an active nurse scholar, is designed to promote student-faculty interaction around the scholarship of nursing and caring science. Students will develop foundational knowledge, skills and attitudes essential to future success in scholarly pursuits.

Following the Honors Seminar (NUR 4816 Nursing Situations: Undergraduate Honors Seminar Grounded in Caring, 3 credit hours), each student will take an inquiry application independent study (2 – 6 credit hours) over two semesters, with 1 – 3 credits being taken each semester. In the inquiry application, students will be assigned to a faculty member as a mentor to assist them in the development of a project of scholarly inquiry directly related to ongoing faculty research. Examples of projects may include Addressing the Needs of Parents Who Receive A Prenatal Diagnosis of Down Syndrome, Recent Baccalaureate Nursing Graduates’ Perceptions of Their Education in Spirituality, Educating Pregnant and Parenting Teens about Nutrition, or The Use of Physical Restraints with the Hospitalized Geriatric Population.

* -The mentor shall guide, direct and challenge the student to achieve their greatest potential in development of the project. For the remainder of the student’s academic program, the student and the mentor shall meet at least monthly and as needed for consultation and on-going project evaluation.
* In addition, Honors students will be expected to fully participate in relevant scholarly activities such as lectures and programs presented by distinguished scholars and nursing leaders in our community at least twice per semester.

**Honors Project Requirements:**

* Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, honors students will complete an independent project reflecting scholarly immersion that is agreed upon by the mentor and mentee prior to graduation. The project will address a contemporary issue related to clinical nursing practice. Depending upon the project focus in nursing, the faculty mentor may require community service as integral to the immersion.
* Final results of the project must be: 1) developed into a paper that demonstrates breadth and depth of substantive achievement, and 2) presented in a scholarly forum, such as regional conferences, research days that are open to the university community, or at special events held at the College of Nursing to advance and publicize student scholarship.

**Rationale:**

Nationally, honors programs have demonstrated significant effects of development of research and scholarship skills in undergraduate students. Students in honors programs are more likely to continue with graduate education. Similar honors programs at FAU, including the Innovation Leadership Honors Program for engineering students and the Psychology Honors Program, have met with significant success.

Strategies that promote advanced studies in nursing are particularly important. Given the significant shortage of educators and researchers in nursing, strategies that facilitate early advancement of students in research and scholarship are essential

**anticipated benefits:**

The anticipated benefits of the Undergraduate Honors in Nursing include:

* Supporting development of scholarship in talented and highly motivated undergraduate nursing students;
* Promoting preparation for graduate education
* Facilitating student experiences with multiple ways of knowing.

**Effect on FTE Generation**

Students in the Undergraduate Honors in Nursing will enroll in 2 to 6 credits of inquiry application independent study with their mentor. We anticipate that there would be 5-10 students in the course generating 10-60 credit hours.

**When program will be offered:**

Honors program will be announced to students enrolled in the upper division program in May 2011 to anticipate initiation in May 2012.

Sharon L. Dormire, PhD, RN January 24, 2011

Signature and Date

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| ***Approved by:*** | ***Date:*** |
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| Chair, Committee on Programs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** |
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| Honors Council\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |
| UUPC Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
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