

Western Carolina University  
School of Nursing

### **QEP Process and Plan**

The WCU School of Nursing (SON) QEP Plan and Process has two parts focusing on our Pre-licensure and RN to BSN programs. Both programs have the same outcomes but achievements of the outcomes are different based upon the goals of the program. Pre-licensure students are studying to become licensed registered nurses prepared at the baccalaureate level. RN to BSN students are licensed as registered nurses but studying to achieve their baccalaureate degree in nursing. Each plan assesses the learner's achievement of the program outcome in a formative and summative manner using written assignments and a comprehensive exam or portfolio to demonstrate competencies.

### **Program Goals and Learning Outcomes**

The undergraduate nursing program and the RN to BSN program have five program outcomes, which are used to evaluate student progress and measure the acquisition of knowledge. They are aligned with the QEP outcomes. The program outcomes have critical elements each semester or block that represent on a continuum the student's advancement in their abilities to integrate and synthesize knowledge.

### **Outcome Assessment Tool – Pre-licensure**

One of the five domains of the QEP is to “Integrate Information from a Variety of Contexts”. The student will manage information through the process of organizing, storing, retrieving, evaluating, synthesizing, and annotating professionally related information from print, electronic, and other sources to make clinical judgments and solve problems. There are three assignments that give the student the opportunity to demonstrate competency toward this QEP outcome. The three assignments are: patient education video for Nursing Informatics; written clinical practice recommendation summary for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice and Management of Care Learning Module for Practitioners for Concepts of Adult Nursing II. All students demonstrated competency on these three assignments with a passing grade.

### **Outcome Assessment Tool – RN to BSN**

The RN to BSN program has 24 hours of nursing credits that are covered in four blocks: Introductory, Community, Leadership and Research. Each block contains a Professional Synthesis Project that counts as 25% of the grade. The purpose of the synthesis project is to evaluate the students' mastery of the content. Students must score 77% or greater on the Professional Synthesis Project each semester. Each student is evaluated on how well he or she has achieved the learning outcomes at the end of each block.

### **Results of Assessment – Pre-licensure**

The impact of the program's focus on the QEP outcome of “integrate information from a variety of contexts” is evident in the terminal evaluation of the student's ability to pass the national board exam for nursing (NCLEX-RN). The first class that had a curriculum based in the five QEP outcomes graduated in May, 2012 and had a 100% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN.

### **Results of Assessment – RN to BSN**

The first Professional Synthesis project was implemented in the Introductory Block in Spring 2012. Students were randomly selected for evaluation. One hundred percent of the students evaluated met the defined criteria. Beginning in fall 2012 all four blocks have implemented a Professional Synthesis Project in the courses. During the Introductory Block the students focus on professional development related to solving complex problems, communicating effectively, practicing civic engagement and clarifying purpose and values. Students were able to identify areas for career enhancement and advancement, opportunities for professional development and focus on life-long learning through potential preparation for graduate nursing education.