Creighton University’s School of Nursing
Fact Sheet
2007

Overview:

Creighton University School of Nursing has achieved a national reputation for its innovative programs that keep pace with the ever-changing field of nursing. Begun in 1958, the School is dedicated to continuing a legacy of providing excellence in nursing education and commitment to service.

The nursing faculty has developed a comprehensive baccalaureate program that teaches the skills, knowledge and lifelong learning proficiency necessary to practice in a myriad of clinical settings. The curriculum emphasizes care management and outcomes improvement in relation to health promotion, restoration, rehabilitation, self-care, acute care and tertiary care.

There is also a focus on health care policy and economics, research methods, quality indicators, outcome measures, financial management and management of data and technology.

A Creighton education helps develop and refine the leadership, critical-thinking and clinical-judgment skills that allow graduates to participate as full partners in health care delivery and the shaping of health policy.

Faculty:

- The School of Nursing has a faculty-student ratio of 1:8-10 in clinical experience.

- There are currently 45 full-time faculty members, six part-time faculty members, and three clinical teaching assistants. Thirty individuals service as contributed-service faculty; present on various specialized topics.

- Seven faculty members have given presentations outside of the United States. Sites included the Ukraine, Canada, United Kingdom, Hungary and Italy.

- Dr. Beth Furlong completed a Fulbright Fellowship in Hungary during the spring semester of 2006, teaching nursing students about health policy.

- Eleanor Howell, Ph.D., RN, has been the dean of the School of Nursing since 2003. Other members of the administrative team include three associate deans. Joan Norris, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, is associate dean for research and evaluation; Mary Kunes-Connell, Ph.D., RN, serves as associate dean for academic and clinical affairs, and Linda Lazure, Ph.D., RN, is associate dean for student affairs.

- Creighton is represented professionally at the state level. Dr. Linda Lazure is chair of the Nebraska Board of Health, Dr. Nancy Shirley is president of the Nebraska Nurses Association, and Assistant Dean Joyce Bunger is a consumer member of the Nebraska State Board of Nursing.

August 2006
• Faculty member Joan Lappe, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, internationally recognized for her research in osteoporosis, was asked by the American Nurses Association to participate on an Osteoporosis Technical Advisory Panel for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization (JCAHO). The panel’s mission is to improve the quality of osteoporosis management by assembling a set of performance measures related to osteoporosis to be used in a variety of health care settings, and to develop an accompanying monograph that addresses improving the quality of osteoporosis care overall.

Students:
• There were 92 freshmen enrolled for 2006; 78 percent have grade point averages of 3.5 or higher.

• Thirty-seven percent are from Nebraska; other states well-represented include Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Idaho.

• Eight percent are minorities.

Curriculum:
• The school has three curricula tracks in the BSN program: a traditional curriculum which is designed for the high school graduate; an accelerated nursing curriculum which is designed for persons with non-nursing degrees; and a RN-to-BSN curriculum. A pilot curriculum, the Clinical Nurse Leader™, is offered as a post-baccalaureate masters for RNs. The graduate program in nursing offers the opportunity to prepare for the roles of nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nursing systems administration, and nurse educator.

• The accelerated nursing program is 3-years-old. It is one of the oldest second-degree, accelerated programs in the United States. Each year, approximately 100 accelerated nursing students graduate. Many come to Nebraska from the western part of the United States. Students’ backgrounds are diverse in terms of previous degrees and occupational backgrounds. They consistently demonstrate a high level of success on national licensing exams and are sought after for employment upon graduation.

• Overall, more than 550 students are enrolled in these programs.

Nursing as a Career:
• Nursing is an excellent career choice for many reasons. Well-educated nurses are in high demand. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the need for more than 1 million new and replacement registered nurses by the year 2012. Well-paying positions for nurses are available in almost every city in America and beyond.

• It's not just the job market that makes nursing a good career choice. Nurses have the opportunity to save and improve lives, to teach people how to achieve better health, and

August 2006
to advocate for patients to make sure they have the best health care.

- In addition to work in hospital settings, there is a growing need for nurses in home-health agencies, mental-health settings, long-term-care facilities such as nursing homes, managed-care centers, and in community health. The demand for nurses with advanced degrees, such as nurse anesthetists, nurse practitioners, educators and scientists, is also growing.

Points of Pride:

- Creighton University School of Nursing’s four-year BSN curriculum will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2008. The Hastings Campus opened in 1986.

- 2005 graduates averaged a 94 percent on the national licensing exam, as compared to the national average of 87 percent. (these are the most recent figures available)

- The School of Nursing, through a creative collaboration with 40 private and parochial schools in Omaha, provides health assessments for 9,000 children. This enables children to get health assessments that are mandated by law, and the School of Nursing to have additional well-child and adolescent clinical sites.

- Creighton is one of 90 national pilot sites for the Clinical Nurse Leader™. A revolutionary new nursing role, CNLs are master’s degree-prepared clinicians who provide leadership in outcomes-based practice and quality improvement within a specific health care delivery area. The program prepares nurses to become generalists with advanced nursing knowledge and provides the skills for clinical leadership within a specific health care unit or area.

- The Health Assessment Lab is equipped with adult and pediatric Human Patient Simulators — mannequins that are life size with pulmonary, cardiovascular and other systems mimicking human physiology — that respond automatically to a user’s interventions and to the environment. Students are able to do physical exams, airway manipulations, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and trauma-care procedures.