

Revised 12/2/94

Effective Fall, 1994

**MAJOR FIELD ASSESSMENT PLAN
for
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM**

The **mission** of Southeastern Louisiana University is to meet the educational and cultural needs, primarily of Southeast Louisiana, to disseminate knowledge and to facilitate life-long learning through quality instruction, research, and service in a safe, student-centered environment.

The **purpose** of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program is to prepare students for advanced nursing practice.

GOAL 1

To provide the skills and knowledge needed to function in the field as advanced practice nurses.

A. Expected Outcome

Graduates of the MSN program will be prepared to function in advanced practice nursing roles.

Assessment

a. **Comprehensive Examination**

MSN students will satisfactorily complete the MSN departmental Comprehensive Examination. Group results will be reviewed every three years by the faculty.

Result: From fall 1994 to spring 1996, sixteen students took the written Comprehensive Examination with 100% pass rate. There was one successful oral examination follow-up; no retests were required. Results were reviewed by faculty in spring 1995, as to the adequacy of critical thinking and communication (results reported below).

b. **Critical Thinking**

MSN students will demonstrate competency in critical thinking as indicated on the Assessment of Outcomes of Critical Thinking tool. Group results will be reviewed every three years by the faculty.

Result: In 1995, graduate faculty reviewed nine Comprehensive Examinations and Thesis reports of students over the previous three years and rated them on the departmental tool, Assessment of Outcomes of Critical Thinking (attached). Students received a mean rating of 91% on critical thinking ability for the three year period. Also, students rated their satisfaction with critical thinking instruction at 93% on the MSN Alumni Survey (attached).

c. **Communication**

MSN students will demonstrate advanced skill in the area of communication as indicated on the Assessment of Outcomes of Communication tool. Group results will be reviewed every three years by the faculty.

Result: In 1995, graduate faculty reviewed nine Comprehensive Examinations and Thesis manuscripts of students over the previous three years and rated them on the departmental tool, Assessment of Outcomes of Communication (attached). Students received a mean rating of 78% on communication outcomes over the three year period; the lowest component was written communication (75%). Departmental requirements for increased emphasis on professional communication and writing style were implemented; technological communication was integrated into each course.

B. Expected Outcome

Employment profiles, as indicated on the MSN Alumni Survey, will indicate that at least 80% will be employed in advanced practice nursing roles within one year of graduation.

Assessment

Employment Profiles

Result: The Alumni Survey indicated that 100% of graduates were employed in advanced practice roles within a year of graduation. Ninety-three percent indicated satisfaction with the congruency between their career goals and work roles.

GOAL 2

To provide a foundation for advanced professional certification and doctoral education.

A. Expected Outcome

At least 50% of MSN alumni will achieve national certification in an advanced specialty area within three years of graduation.

Assessment

Certification

Result: The 1995 Alumni Survey indicated that 23% of graduates had achieved certification as advanced practice nurses; however, 54% of respondents were only one year past graduation. The Alumni Survey will be administered again in 1998 and certification rates at that time will be more valid to allow practice requirements to be met.

B. Expected Outcome

At least 20% of MSN alumni will express an interest in the pursuit of doctoral education.

Assessment

Doctoral Education

Result: The 1995 Alumni Survey indicated that 30% of graduates were interested in pursuing doctoral education. Forty-six percent of alumni indicated interest in some type of post-master's study. Since the survey was administered four years after the first graduates, it is early to assess follow-up on continued study.

GOAL 3

To foster and develop the values and attitudes needed to become leaders in the profession.

Expected Outcome

MSN alumni will demonstrate professional activity and leadership.

Assessment

Professional Activity and Achievement

Result: The 1995 Alumni Survey indicated that 50% of graduates were members of professional organizations, 50% were members of professional committees, and 30% held leadership positions in professional organizations. All alumni (100%) indicated agreement that the MSN program had created opportunities for professional growth and opportunity.