

DATE: January 26, 2017

SUBJECT: New Academic Program
 East Tennessee State University
 Tennessee Technological University
 Tennessee Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, DNP

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The proposed joint doctoral program in Nursing Practice at East Tennessee State University and Tennessee Technological University seeks to award the Nursing Practice degree with an advanced focus. Both East Tennessee State University and Tennessee Technological University baccalaureate and master’s degree nursing programs are accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE); East Tennessee State University has an existing Doctor of Nursing Practice program which is also CCNE accredited. The institutions have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support a joint Doctor of Nursing Practice, to be known as the Tennessee Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program, in which both institutions will admit students and jointly confer a single DNP degree. Both institutions will offer the core courses for the degree with the concentrations offered by each campus in their areas of unique strength.

The proposed on-line and blended Tennessee Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice program will allow for the sharing and the efficient use of resources as it seeks to prepare Doctors of Nursing Practice in unique specialties to bridge the gap in healthcare created by the physician shortage in the Upper Cumberland and East Tennessee and the need for additional faculty. East Tennessee State University will continue to operate its approved institutional Doctor of Nursing Practice program in addition to participating in this joint degree.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Fall 2017

1.1.20A MISSION: The proposed Tennessee Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice program supports East Tennessee State University’s mission to produce “productive, enlightened citizens who serve their community and the world” and Tennessee Technological University’s mission with “a special commitment to enrich the lives of people and communities in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee”.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The proposed program will be offered online and through a blended delivery. Week long intensives will be held three times a year at each campus to provide courses-related instruction and scholarship presentations. The

curriculum is designed to educate nurses at the highest level of advanced practice with entry at both the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) level with an area of added expertise through one of six concentrations. East Tennessee State University will teach the concentrations in Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, and Executive Leadership in Nursing. Tennessee Technological University will teach the concentrations in Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care, and Adult Gerontology-Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. Students may be admitted to either institution regardless of the concentration selected.

The program will require completion of a core of 28 semester credit hours in addition to concentration requirements for a total of 40 credit hours for Master of Science in Nursing entry students and a core of 45 semester credit hours in addition to concentration for a total of 74-90 credit hours for Bachelor of Science in Nursing entry students, dependent on concentration selected. Students are required to complete one-third or more of the credits at each institution in keeping with *SACSCOC Policy: Agreements Involving Joint and Dual Academic Awards*.

	East Tennessee State University DNP Concentrations			Tennessee Technological University DNP Concentrations		
	Family NP	Psychiatric/ Mental Health NP	Executive Leadership in Nursing	Women's Health Care NP	Pediatric NP Primary Care	Adult Gerontology- Acute Care NP
Major Field Core						
MSN-DNP	28	28	28	28	28	28
BSN-DNP	45	45	45	45	45	45
Concentration						
MSN-DNP	12	12	12	12	12	12
BSN-DNP	38	36	41	40	42-45	37
TOTAL						
MSN-DNP	40	40	40	40	40	40
BSN-DNP	83	81	86	85	87-90	82

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: The admission, readmission, retention, and graduation requirements are the same as those described in the East Tennessee State University and Tennessee Technological University *Catalogs*. Students will be admitted with a master’s degree to the Master of Science in Nursing-Doctor of Nursing Practice or with a baccalaureate degree to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing-Doctor of Nursing Practice program. An unencumbered license as a Registered Nurse in the United States and eligibility for licensure in Tennessee or equivalency for international students are required

for admission. Differences in institutional academic policies have been amended to provide consistency for students enrolled within this program.

Projected Program Enrollment and Productivity

Enrollment projections were developed based on associate and baccalaureate of nursing degree nursing program student interest surveys.

Year	Headcount	Graduates
2017	31	--
2018	62	--
2019	93	15
2020	109	15
2021	125	15
2022	132	24
2023	134	29

1.1.20D FACULTY: The instructional workload for this program will be continued by the existing 16.6 full-time equivalent faculty at both institutions. Six new full-time faculty will be hired at each institution: East Tennessee State University will hire one new faculty member in each of the first three years of operation; Tennessee Technological University will hire three new faculty members in year one.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: Both universities have significant library holdings for the proposed DNP program. All students enrolled in the program will have access to library resources at both institutions. In addition to electronic access, interlibrary loan of materials will be available at no cost to students.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: No new organizational unit will be required. The proposed DNP program will be housed at East Tennessee State University within the College of Nursing. At Tennessee Technological University, the proposed DNP program will be located in the existing Whitson-Hester School of Nursing. Student records will be maintained at the student's application institution. The Chief Nurse Administrator for the joint program (currently the East Tennessee State University Dean of Nursing), the Tennessee Technological University Nursing Dean, Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Director and Concentration Coordinators and other official university administrators will have access to students' records as needed. The operations of the program will be conducted through a committee structure with representation from each institution and led by the Chief Nurse Administrator with regularly scheduled meetings.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: The proposed Tennessee Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice Program will utilize faculty at each institution to provide initial advisement to students on curricular and career issues. Advisement records will be maintained at the student's institution of application. Registration for classes will occur through the institution of application which does not have to be the institution overseeing a specific concentration. Courses will be listed in both institutions' schedule of classes to facilitate student registration. Institutions will work together to support students use of on-line platforms for course delivery. A Student Handbook is in development. An administrative assistant will be hired in year one at each institution. East Tennessee State University will also hire an advisor/recruiter in year one.

1.1.20H FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: Instructional facilities and equipment are adequate to support the proposed program at each institution. Simulation labs are available on both campuses and the East Tennessee State University Center for Nursing Research will provide statistical and research support for students in the proposed program.

1.1.20I NEED AND DEMAND: The proposed Tennessee Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice Program will provide the opportunity for specialized educational training not currently available in the Upper Cumberland and East Tennessee regions. A shortage of physicians is present in Tennessee (The Methodist Le Bonheur Center for Healthcare Economics and The Sparks Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Memphis, 2011) and advanced practice nurses with Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees can help meet the need. An increase in the number of Doctor of Nursing Practice graduates will meet the workforce needs for advanced practice nurses in Tennessee as well as the need for additional faculty needs. Currently, no public Doctor of Nursing Practice programs offer the Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner which will be available through this joint program.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: There are currently eight accredited Doctor of Nursing Practice programs in Tennessee of which four are at public institutions (East Tennessee State University, University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center, University of Tennessee Chattanooga, University of Tennessee Knoxville). These existing programs are not currently able to meet the health needs of Tennesseans.

1.1.20K COOPERATING INSTITUTIONS: None at this time.

1.1.20L DIVERSITY AND ACCESS: East Tennessee State University and Tennessee Technological University both embrace diversity as a core value and the proposed Tennessee Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice Program is consistent with the institutions' Diversity Statement with a focus on student success, faculty recruitment and curricular content.

1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: The SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy indicated that a joint program with another SACSCOC accredited institution requires a Procedure 2 substantive change report and that prior approval is required prior to the implementation of the program. A copy of the signed agreement and the contact information for each institution has been provided to the SACS Commission. The Tennessee Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice Program will seek accreditation through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and will be evaluated on student success indicators such analysis of content of the Doctor of Nursing Practice project, residency portfolio, clinical evaluations, care delivery, participation in formal Inter-Professional Education activities, alumni surveys, national certification examination pass rate, and employer surveys. Assessment results from both internal and external evaluations will be used for program improvements.

1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGEMENT: An external review of the proposed program was conducted during a site visit to both institutions on July 26-29, 2016. Dr. Linda Streit, Dean and Professor of the Georgia Baptist School of Nursing at Mercer University and Dr. Dee Baldwin, Associate Dean and Director, School of Nursing at University of North Carolina-Charlotte served as the external reviewers. They recommended approval of the proposed Tennessee Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. They stated that the proposed program is "...a joint, creative, and innovative approach to nursing education. Following a review of all online documents provided as well as supporting documents, including clarifying information from an on-site visit, [we] find this program option to be of importance for both institutions and recommend moving forward through the approval process."

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT: The Doctor of Nursing Practice has significant long term potential for both institutions. The proposed Tennessee Joint Doctor of Nursing Practice Program will be funded through additional tuition revenues generated by the program and institutional reallocations. In each of the first five years, East Tennessee State University will be required to reallocate funds from the general fund to support establishment of this program. Tennessee Technological University will reallocate resources from the general fund to cover losses incurring in years one through three.

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first seven years following program approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved proposal. At the end of this period, the campus, institutional governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation, and other metrics set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. If benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the institutional governing board terminate the program. If additional time is needed and requested by the institutional governing board, the Commission may choose to extend the monitoring period.