

**Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements**  
**School of Nursing**  
**Master's Program in Nursing**  
**Doctoral Program in Nursing**

**Key Assessment Findings**

The School of Nursing has identified two key outcome measures for the graduate programs: performance on comprehensive examinations and the results of certification examinations.

Performance on comprehensive examinations reflect how well the student has understood the material presented during the course of study. Comprehensive examination questions in the School of Nursing are reviewed by graduate faculty and revised each semester. These examinations are graded by two examination readers on a pass/fail basis, and in the case of a disagreement a third reader is requested to review the examination. Grading rubrics are used for all graduate comprehensive examinations. Comprehensive examination results are reported in Table 1.

Table 1 Comprehensive Examination Results AY 2014/15

Category of Comprehensive	Number writing	Number passing	% Passing	<i>Comparison 2013/14</i>
Master's Level	12	11	92%	100%
DNP Level	3	2	67%	67%
Ph.D Level	2*	1	50%	100%

\*Includes one student who took comps twice. This student failed on the first try and passed on the second.

<sup>1</sup>Note

Performance on national certification examinations are the second outcome measure used by the School of Nursing graduate programs. National certification examinations are required in order to be licensed as an advanced practice nurse. The American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP) both administer the Adult Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner, and the Family Nurse Practitioner National Certification examination. The Advanced Public Health Certification Examination administered by the American Nurse Credentialing Center is no longer given to new graduates, the certification process has changed to a portfolio submission process that requires the candidate to have significant employment experience in public health before submitting a portfolio for certification. The School of Nursing has suspended its MSN program in Community Health nursing effective with the graduating class of 2013/14 and will not report certification results for this examination in future outcome reports. The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board administers the examination for the pediatric nurse practitioner. Results of these examinations are reported in Table 2 for the 2013 graduating class. It should be noted that the ANCC does not report results of the examination by graduation date, therefore we can only assume that those who wrote the examination in the current year were 2013 graduates. The School of Nursing has contacted the ANCC with a request to include graduation dates on future

reports and has met with a representative of the ANCC but so far this request has been unsuccessful. This problem has been recognized by the accreditation body for academic nursing programs (CCNE) and is being addressed at the national level.

Table 2 Certification Examination Pass Rates 12/31/2013

Examination	# eligible	# taking	# passing	Pass Rate	2012 comparison
Adult Nurse Practitioner* AANCP		2	Not reported	N/A	
Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANCC)		N/A			
Total Adult Nurse Practitioner	2	2	Not reported small cohort		
Family Nurse Practitioner (AANCP)		3	2	67% <sup>1</sup>	
Family Nurse Practitioner (ANCC)		3	3	100%	
Total FNP	8	6	5	83%	
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner	3	2	2	100%	

The AANCP program reports results if 3 or more students take the examination ANCC.  
<sup>1</sup>Note: Only 3 students completed this exam and the ANCC exam is the preferred examination, where students were 100% successful.

### Curricular Improvements

It should be noted that the small cohorts of students taking the certification examinations are always a factor in judging the results. For purposes of accreditation the School of Nursing requests pooled five year aggregate reports in order to report a more stable rate. The School of Nursing's previous five year (2008/09 to 2012/13) pass rates were as follows: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner 100%; Adults Nurse Practitioner, 83.95%; Family Nurse Practitioner, 92.01%. All of these rates above 5% of the national passing standard.

The curricular improvements which have been made in the past academic year include the following:

#### ***Alignment of the DNP Residency with the DNP Essential Areas of Practice***

Faculty have given significant attention to the design of the residency program for the DNP program which is offered only on-line. The program accreditation guidance contained in the Essentials for Doctoral of Nursing Practice Education (2006) emphasizes preparation for leadership in practice with a focus on eight essential areas of nursing and healthcare. The School

of Nursing DNP courses and residencies are designed to map to these essential areas to assure that DNP students receive both didactic and experiential experience in each of these areas.

### ***Strengthened Doctoral Biostatistics Content***

The School of Nursing doctoral curriculum committee and a subcommittee of faculty who teach quantitative methods have realigned the statistics courses in the doctoral programs to assure that students receive solid grounding in the basic statistical methods necessary for both Ph.D. and DNP courses. They have redesigned the Ph.D. sequence to assure that Ph.D. students gain experience in instrumentation development, statistical modeling, and use of secondary data. The DNP students are provided with a basic introduction to SPSS and applied analysis as well as the principles of epidemiology.

### ***Completed all course designs for on-line DNP***

All on-line Ph.D. and DNP courses have been designed by permanent CUA faculty members working cooperatively with experienced on-line course designers. Once the courses are designed and delivered at least once by CUA faculty, they may be delegated to adjunct faculty. Currently, the School of Nursing is recruiting and mentoring adjunct faculty for both Ph.D. and DNP courses.

### ***Mentoring contracts for Ph.D. students***

Ph.D students in the School of Nursing are required to have a supervised research mentor experience as part of their course work. Mentoring contracts and reports have been redesigned to support analysis of the accomplishments of the mentor experience and the contribution the experience makes to the student's research plan.

### ***Summer clinical residency for on-line Master's students***

The School of Nursing has designed and delivered the first summer clinical residency required of all on-line students. These students are required to come to campus for an intensive week of clinical skills demonstration and evaluation. This experience assures that Master's students are able to demonstrate their clinical skill to CUA faculty prior to completion of their clinical sequence of courses. The placement of the summer clinical residency assures that clinical skills development can be assessed prior to the completion of the clinical course sequence and a remediation plan can be designed if any weaknesses are noted.

### ***Review of Master's curriculum and interdisciplinary content in adult nurse practitioner program***

The School of Nursing in cooperation with the School of Social Work is introducing interdisciplinary education in adult-gerontology practice. Throughout the past academic year adult gerontology nursing students and students in the Master's of Social Work program has worked together in teams to assess, plan and implement care for a variety of clinical conditions. The case-study method has been extensively used in this program and has facilitated group learning and discussion in interdisciplinary practice.