DEPARTMENT
Nursing & Allied Health

PROGRAM/FUNCTION
Nursing Program:
Completion/Graduation Rates

LINKS (Where appropriate, link the above outcome to Goals, Objectives, and/or strategies found in the plans listed below:

BOARD OF REGENTS MASTER PLAN:
Goal I: Increase Opportunities for Student Access & Success.
Objective IV: Increase the three year graduation rate at community colleges and the six-year graduation rate at baccalaureate degree-granting institutions by a combined total of 5 percentage points by 2005.

Goal II: Ensure Quality & Accountability.
Objective II: Achieve 100% accreditation of “mandatory” programs by 2005.

LSUE STRATEGIC PLAN: (Blueprint for the Future)
Enrollment Management: Objective 1.1: Increase annual retention rate for first year student persistence by 1% per annum and a 3 year cohort graduation rate of 20% for all first-time, associate degree-oriented freshmen.

LSUE OPERATIONAL PLAN (FY 2001-2002):

OTHER:

EXPECTED RESULTS:
75% of the students admitted to the nursing program will graduate within two years. 90% of LPN’s entering through advanced standing will graduate within one year.
ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES:
The Program Standards & Evaluation Committee will determine retention rates by utilizing the following definitions:
- The number of students who entered the nursing program in a given year and completed the nursing courses in sequence and graduated within 2 years divided by the number of students accepted into the program for that given year.
- The number of LPN’s who entered the nursing program in a given year via advanced standing and completed the nursing courses in sequence and graduated within 1 year, divided by the number of LPN’s accepted into the advanced standing option for that year.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSESSMENT:

PROGRAM STANDARDS & EVALUATION COMMITTEE:
- Calculate percentage retention rate for each class admitted.
- Annually in January.
- Committee will evaluate and analyze data and make recommendations to full faculty for approval.

USE OF ASSESSMENT FINDINGS:
Data regarding retention rates will be used to assist faculty in recognizing need for changes in student assistance, tutorials or counseling, and/or curriculum changes to improve retention rates.
SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT FINDINGS:
61 students were admitted into the fall class of 2000. Of these original 60, 42 graduated in the spring of 2002. Therefore, the retention rate for this class was 68.85%. This part of the outcome was not met.

9 LPN’s were admitted into the advanced standing option in the summer of 2001. 8 of these LPN’s graduated in spring of 2002. One withdrew after completing the summer 2001 semester. Therefore, the retention rate of these LPN’s was 88.88%. This part of the outcome was not met. See attached table for trending of data.

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAM/FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT:

05/2003: Program Standards & Evaluation Committee reviewed data. In accordance with last year’s recommendation, data on national retention rates was obtained. NLN did not have data available on retention rates. In surveying schools, most schools average about a 60% retention rate. The Committee feels that changes being instituted in the curriculum, ie Nursing 1000 as a pre-requisite course, dropping pharmacology, pre-requisites for anatomy & physiology classes, may improve retention. Effects of these changes will take several years to be noted. Data will continue to be trended.
Losing one student in the LPN advanced standing option dropped the percentage of completion rate below the expected outcome. This student dropped for personal reasons and plans to re-enter the program. No recommendation for this.

05/12/2002: Full faculty meeting.
Faculty supported the above comments and recommendations. Students admitted into the fall 2002 class will have completed medical terminology and chemistry 1011. It is anticipated that these courses may improve the success rate of the nursing students for that class.
Note: Side 2 of this form is to be completed by the department head by September 15. Assessment results and departmental recommendations will be reviewed by the Administrative Council prior to the end of September.