DEPARTMENT
Nursing & Allied Health

PROGRAM/FUNCTION
Nursing Program:
Critical Thinking

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

LSUE STRATEGIC PLAN: Academic Programs: Objective 1.2: Maintain
high quality associate degree programs through annual outcomes
assessment & conduct program reviews of all academic disciplines on
a three-year cycle.
Academic Programs: Objective 3.2: 80% of the faculty, students,
graduates, employers and advisory committees will rate LSUE
curricula as meeting workforce needs of the service area.

LSUE OPERATIONAL PLAN (FY 2001-2002):

OTHER:

EXPECTED RESULTS:
100% of the graduating students will achieve >77% score in lecture
component of Nursing 2501, grade of pass on clinical component of
Nursing 2501, and the class mean score on the ACT Critical Thinking
Test will be > the National mean score. 80% of the graduates and
employers will rate the graduates’ critical thinking skills as
average or above on the 6 month surveys.
ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES:
The following measurements are utilized to assess critical thinking abilities of the students:

- Teacher made examinations.
- Evaluations of clinical performance.
- ACT Critical Thinking Test.
- Graduate and Employer 6 month post-graduation surveys.

Data from the assessment methods is gathered by the Program Standards & Evaluation Committee annually in January. The Committee utilizes a table (see attached) to compile the data. After review and analysis of the data, the committee presents data with any recommendations to the full faculty.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSESSMENT:

DIVISION HEAD
Mail graduate and employer surveys 6 months post-graduation.

PROGRAM STANDARDS & EVALUATION COMMITTEE
Compile and review data. Make recommendations to full faculty.

USE OF ASSESSMENT FINDINGS:

Assessment findings will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in developing students’ critical thinking abilities. Findings will be utilized to effect changes in the curriculum as needed.
SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT FINDINGS:
See attached table. The nursing program had 57 graduates in May of 2002. Graduate and employer surveys were mailed in November of 2002. 21 (36.8%) graduates returned surveys. 33.3% reported their skills as above average and 66.7% as average. Employers returned 22 (38.5%) surveys. 50% reported graduates’ skills as above average and 41% as average and 9% as below average.
The National Mean Score for the ACT Critical Thinking test was 61.0%. The 2002 graduating class mean score was 60.89%. The range of scores was from 50-71, with 42.1% of the students scoring at or above the mean score.
The portion of the outcome related to the ACT critical thinking examination was not met.

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAM/FUNCTION IMPROVEMENT:

05/2003: Program Standards & Evaluation Committee reviewed data. Outcome met. The committee recommended no action, continue to monitor data.

05/12/2003: Full faculty meeting. Decision to continue to monitor data was agreed on.
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.