

ARCASN Annual School Report 2015-2016

Name of the School: Cape Breton University

School rep at ARCASN: Odette Griscti

1. Number of new graduates from all programs

This year we had 318 students pursuing the degree program in nursing. We were pleased to see 69 of these students graduating in May 2016.

2. Preparation for NCLEX

We are pleased that the overall pass rate for the NCLEX exam (January to December period) was 89%. Most of the students sat for the exam in the second quarter it was offered, whilst some chose the third quarter. In the intermit, we continue with our efforts to improve our success rates through various efforts. These include:

1. Most of the faculty and NPEs now offer computerised midterms and final examinations.
2. Students are asked to purchase the online consult exam package (which consist of HESI and RN EXIT tests) as part of one of their course requirements (Nurs 4990 : NURSING PRACTICUM II).This exam package has been very valuable in preparing students for their NCLEX exam
3. The major of the faculty and NPEs who have attended the webinar that was offered by CASN *Transitioning to the NCLEX RN* that was offered in September 2014, have changed their exam questions to follow the NCLEX question format.

3. Accreditation information

Dr.Gail Rudderford from the University of Alberta graciously accepted to be the external reviewer of our currently modified curriculum prior submitting it to MPHEC. She approved the changes and her suggestions were also addressed. The application was sent to the MPHEC board in March and we are currently awaiting approval.

4. Special projects (e.g. international, nursing education)

Two Nurse Practice Educators Kim Lake and Belinda Andrea accompanied 21 fourth year nursing students to Quito, Ecuador where they spent 10 days immersed in the culture and providing nursing care at a public clinic and private hospital. Also spent time with children at a public daycare and orphanage and visited a university to learn about their nursing education. This experience was credited towards nursing practice hours for N4990. One student did an advanced major on this topic and presented it at SURF, 2 students presented to the university and several students were interviewed by media prior to and after this experience. A group of 40 third year students have started fundraising to go next year.

5. New programs

This year has been a busy year as we are replacing our current curriculum with the concept based model. These new curricular changes have been approved by CBU Academic Committee and by Senate. The MPHEC document has been completed and submitted.

This change has necessitated major structural changes to our current courses and to our ways of teaching. It involved numerous discussions with faculty, NPEs and various stakeholders. We are particularly grateful and we would like to acknowledge to the hard work of the curriculum committee who worked arduously towards this end.

As part of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC)* mandate we are happy to be introducing a new course *Integration of Mi'kmaq 2701* into curriculum this fall. The course will be a mandatory requirement for students pursuing their nursing degree at CBU. This course may be taken in class; however it is also offered online and may be accessed at:

<http://www.cbu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/MIKM-2701-Brochure.pdf>

This coming fall we will be offering a fast track BSN program for students who are in good standing and who have taken previous university courses in sciences, psychology and sociology. We will be taking a small cohort in fall 2016. Those who fit the criteria will be able to join the course as third year students and they will be required to take nursing courses as pre-requisites in part for their degree completion.

Finally, work is also in process for developing LPN – BSN pathway bridging program. This work is still in its preliminary stages.

6. Staff development

Various efforts are in place to prepare Nursing faculty and NPEs for this curricular transition towards a concept based curriculum. This included 3 nursing retreats which were held every six months in June 2015, December 2015 and an upcoming retreat in June 2016. In this daylong retreat various speakers gave presentations relating to the concept based curriculum. There were also numerous breakout sessions during these retreats, where faculty and NPEs put their heads together and discussed pertinent issues relating to this change and its application in practice.

A list of webinars (OLC innovate 2016) to support understanding and implementation of a concept-based curriculum was offered to all members of the department and was well attended.

Representatives from Elsevier and Pearson will be visiting CBU in May to give a demonstration of resources available for students and educators to help in implementing the concept based model in practice.

7. Full time new employees including names, PhD's, tenure track or contract

This year we are happy to have a new Dean Carolin Kreber overseeing the program. Dean Kreber has been involved in various consultations with the department and has been very supportive of the nursing program and of nursing faculty /NPEs. She has also implemented a number of positive changes in her role as a Dean. We thank her and welcome her.

We also would like to thank our faculty member Helen Fraser who will be retiring in June 2016. Helen has been a hard working faculty member and has made significant contributions towards nursing education and the nursing profession. She has served on various committees and has been the ARCASN representative for these last two years. We wish Helen a happy retirement and we thank her for her hard endeavors.

Finally a search is in place for a new FT tenure track assistant professor position. We hope to have this position filled in fall 2016.

8. Research contribution

Nursing Faculty and NPEs continue to be involved in various scholarly and research activities. Research interests and publications are available on the CBU website.

Respectfully Submitted

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