

**USC LANCASTER
FACULTY MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 26, 2013**

*****SPECIALLY-CALLED MEETING TO DISCUSS AND VOTE ON MOTION TO MAKE TEAS TEST AN
ADMISSION REQUIREMENT FOR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN NURSING*****

Dispensed with approval of minutes from April 5, 2013 faculty meeting , reports of officers, and committee reports, and the meeting began with consideration of the TEAS motion.

New Business

Discussion of Motion from Associate Degree Nursing Program (see Appendix #1)

(Cox) TEAS is a good indicator of success; USCL currently administers test after admission to A.D.N. program; York Tech administers test earlier. USCL students aren't taking it until after they've been admitted to the program; students are passing general education courses, but scoring "remedial" on test (3rd grade level or lower on reading section). Perhaps students aren't taking the test seriously. There's no clear pattern—some pass TEAS and don't do well in their courses. The hope is that we can offer courses and academic support to help those students who don't pass the test. If TEAS is required prior to entering A.D.N. program, we can recommend courses to help students catch up. Students could take TEAS as soon as they self-identify as nursing majors. The Office of Academic affairs will develop a mechanism for administering the test. There is a \$50 fee for each attempt, and our goal would be to allow students to take the test for free the first time and pay for subsequent attempts.

(Scarlett) What is the current time line?

(Cox) Most nursing students take a full year of general education courses before admission to A.D.N. program—then they take the TEAS.

(Jones) TEAS is usually take during the first week to identify areas of weakness. New this year: Academic Bootcamp to help those scoring below proficient. Bootcamp is offered by York Tech for free and lasts 5 weeks—it is currently optional.

(Van Hall) This is not just a skills test—it's a hurdle for admission?

(Cox) Proficient=10th grade level

(Van Hall) Will one semester help those students testing below proficiency?

(Cox) Some won't make it, but we have people on a waiting list who can.

(Pangburn) Is TEAS required for 4-year nursing program?

(Cox) No

(Bundrick) The numbers on the chart suggest that the TEAS may cut out students who could be successful in the A.D.N. program. Is this the best idea?

(Sellhorst) There are currently no consequences for poor performance on TEAS.

(Cox) You can't tell me that a student has gotten through general education courses and scores "remedial" on the test. This tells me that the student isn't taking the test seriously.

(Biggs) The test might inaccurately measure ability.

(Sellhorst) Students could take TEAS as many times as they want to. So poor performance doesn't necessarily mean that the student can't enter the A.D.N. program.

(Cox) Students have until May of first year to meet all requirements for admission into A.D.N. program.

(Bundrick) The motion indicates that the TEAS will be offered five times per year—proctored by USCL faculty/staff.

(Cox) The Academic Affairs Office will proctor test. We still need to become an "approved TEAS testing site"; Open to suggestions for improving passing rate.

(Johnson) It's good to take the test at the beginning of the program—saves student wasted time and money.

(Sellhorst) Right now, students go straight into 241, 243—without knowing if they're prepared for these courses. TEAS could help with advising students into appropriate classes.

(Catledge) Students say they're prepared, but they don't know what "prepared" means.

(Cox) TEAS could be administered during orientation.

(N. Lawrence) Is there a consensus among Nursing faculty?

(Cox) The faculty of the joint nursing program have already approved this motion

(Jones) Yes—just waiting for USCL approval.

(Catledge) Most nursing programs require TEAS for admissions.

(Jones) Students come to USCL because we don't require it.

(Golonka) For how long is TEAS score valid?

(Jones) 3 years

(Golonka) That should be stated in the document.

(Cox) Move to make friendly amendment to add 3-years clause to motion.

(Cox reads motion)

(Yingst) Further discussion? Put to vote.

Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned—12:21p.m.

Attending

Biggs, Bonner, Brown, Bundrick, Bundy, Burgin, Burke, Castiglia, Campbell, Catalano, Catledge, Coe, Covington, Cox, Davaut, Gardner, Golonka, N. Guittar, Harris, Holland, Holloway, Hold, Jackson, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones, Kendrick, Kendrick, D. Lawrence, N. Lawrence, Martek, Pangburn, Parker, Polenski, Protz, Rutledge, Scarlett, Scott, Sellhorst, Taylor, Van Hall, Yingst.

Submitted by Dana Lawrence, Faculty Secretary

APPENDIX #1:

York Technical College/University of South Carolina Lancaster Associate Degree Nursing Program

Subject: YTC/USCL Associate Degree Nursing Admission – Request for Change

The Associate Degree Nursing program is a collaborative program between the University of South Carolina Lancaster (USCL) and York Technical College (YTC). Any changes in admission criteria for one facility initiates a change for the other facility as required by the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation Board of Nursing and National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. To maintain consistency between institutions in implementation of the Associate Degree Nursing program, the faculty seek approval of changes to the program admission requirements.

A critical component of success in nursing school is academic achievement, and one essential determining factor of academic achievement is academic preparation. In our nursing program, a certain minimum level of academic competency and skill is required for success. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the nursing student's academic preparation when making admission decisions and evaluating the student's prospects of success.

In addition to the current admission requirements for the nursing program, the faculty propose that the *Test of Essential Academic Skills, (TEAS® V)* be part of the admission requirements. The main purpose of the *Test of Essential Academic Skills, (TEAS® V)* assessment is to assess academic preparedness in the areas of reading, mathematics, science, English and language usage. The test is a basic aptitude test designed to identify students who would succeed in nursing school and who have the ability to think like a nurse. The objectives assessed on the TEAS test are those which nurse educators deemed most appropriate and relevant to measure entry level academic readiness of nursing program applicants. The test has five (5) criterion-referenced overall academic preparedness categories: Exemplary, Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Developmental. The total composite score would be the benchmark for the admission criteria. **The faculty propose that students entering the nursing program achieve a composite score at a proficient level or higher** on the five (5) criterion-referenced overall academic preparedness categories. There are a variety of learning resources available to the student to prepare for the *TEAS* test. Sample questions (self-assessment modules) for each content area may be found online at http://www.testprepreview.com/teas_practice.htm.

There are currently forty three (43) colleges and universities in North and South Carolina that require the *Test of Essential Academic Skills, (TEAS® V)* as part of their admission criteria. (See attachment)

Justification for Admission Requirement Changes:

Data collected from the YTC/USCL Associate Degree Nursing program from 2008-2012 support the faculty's recommendation to require the **TEAS** test as part of the admission criteria. In addition, the data were analyzed by Dr. Mary Beth Schwartz on September 19, 2012 and she concluded the data were significant to require the **TEAS** test as part of the admission criteria for the nursing program. The following table supports the **TEAS** test predictability of student success.

Correlation of <i>TEAS</i> Test to Student Success in the YTC/USCL AD Nursing Program	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
# students who took the NET Test (ERI predictor equivalent to <i>TEAS</i>)*	76				
# students who took the <i>TEAS</i> Test (ATI)**		76	71	76	80
# students who <u>scored at or above</u> the proficient level	43	36	29	51	53
# student who <u>were successful</u> that <u>scored at or above the proficient level</u>	43	36	18	51	33
Percentage of students <u>predicted to be successful</u> and <u>were successful</u>	100%	100%	62%	100%	63%
# students who <u>scored below the proficient level</u> (basic or developmental)	33	40	42	25	27
# students who <u>were unsuccessful</u> in the nursing program who <u>scored below the proficient level</u> (basic or developmental)	28	35	33	21	24
Percentage of students <u>predicted to be unsuccessful</u> and <u>were unsuccessful</u>	85%	87.5%	78%	84%	89%
# students who <u>were successful</u> in the nursing program who <u>scored below the proficient level</u> (basic or developmental)	5	5	9	4	3
Percentage of students <u>predicted to be unsuccessful</u> and <u>were successful</u> in the nursing program	15%	12.5%	22%	16%	11%
# students who <u>were unsuccessful</u> in the nursing program who <u>scored at or above the proficient level</u>	0	0	11	0	10
Percentage of students <u>predicted to be successful</u> and <u>were unsuccessful</u>	0%	0%	38%	0%	19%

*In 2008, the Nursing Program utilized ERI as part of the total testing package. The NET test was ERI's predictor for student success in nursing. In 2009, ERI was bought by ATI. ATI became part of the total testing package. The **TEAS** test from ATI replaced the NET test.

***In progress – class began 08/2012

Per Academic Regulations of the University of South Carolina, any changes to admissions requirements apply only to students enrolling at USC in FALL 2013 and thereafter. However, students already enrolled at USC who have not yet entered the clinical component of the A.D.N. program will be STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to abide by the new admissions criteria.

Step 1: Upon approval of the proposed changes, faculty and administration will communicate to students the following timeline and qualification criteria:

- a) The USC Lancaster *Bulletin* will be updated and A.D.N. Program information amended to include new admissions criteria.
- b) Academic Advisors for the A.D.N. Program will modify advisement information for all students who have indicated the A.D.N. as their major. These will be distributed to students during the academic advisement process.
- c) In their letters of acceptance to USCL, students who have indicated A.D.N. as their major will receive additional information explaining the revised criteria and the process by which they become eligible to enter the clinical component of the program.
- d) Students admitted to USC prior to FALL 2013 are eligible to enter the A.D.N. clinical component under the criteria in effect at the time of their admission to USC. However, they will be strongly encouraged to follow the revised criteria before attempting any LANU courses. Students scoring less than Proficient on the TEAS will be encouraged to seek remediation before entering the clinical component.

Step 2: Implement the new admission requirement for students admitted to USCL in Fall, 2013 and thereafter.

- a) USC Lancaster receives permission to serve as a TEAS testing site.
- b) The TEAS will be administered on the USCL campus at least five (5) times a year, including:
 - 1) At the beginning and mid-term of each Fall semester
 - 2) At the beginning and mid-term of each Spring semester
 - 3) Each May after Spring semester grades have been reported
- c) The TEAS will be administered in a designated USCL computer lab/classroom and will be monitored/proctored by USCL faculty or staff.
- d) Students who have indicated A.D.N. as their major will be required to pre-register for the test. There is no limit to the number of attempts a student may make on the TEAS.
- e) Students pre-registering for the test will pay a fee of \$_____ to the University Business Office and will be required to present a paid receipt in order to gain admission to the test.
- f) Per USC Academic Regulations, students absent from the University of South Carolina for a period of three years or more must meet all admissions criteria in effect at the time they re-enroll at the University.

- g) Students re-merging into the first year of the A.D.N. Program are strongly encouraged to meet the revised admissions requirements but are not obligated to do so unless they have been absent from the University for a period of three years or more.
- h) Students re-merging into the second year of the A.D.N. program will be required to meet the revised admissions requirement ONLY if they have been absent from the University for a period of three years or more.
- i) Any transfer or LPN transition student entering the University in Fall 2013 or thereafter must meet the revised admissions requirements.

The York Technical College/University of South Carolina Lancaster Cooperative Associate Degree Nursing Program seeks to contribute to the economic growth and development of York, Lancaster, and Chester counties and of the State and to respond to the education and public service needs of the community. The proposed change will enhance student success in the Cooperative Associate Degree Nursing Program and, therefore, contribute to better utilization of state funds in educating the work force.

Attachment

Colleges and Universities in North and South Carolina utilizing the ***Test of Essential Academic Skills, (TEAS® V)*** as part of their admission criteria.

AB Technical College
 Blue Ridge Community College
 Carteret Community College
 Central Piedmont Community College
 College of the Albemarle
 Denmark Technical College
 Forsyth Tech Community College
 Greenville Technical College
 Halifax Community College
 James Sprunt Community College
 Lenoir Rhyne University
 McDowell Tech Community College
 Mitchell Community College
 Nash Community College
 Piedmont Community College
 Roanoke Chowan Community College
 Sampson Community College

Aiken Technical College
 Carolina College of Health Sciences
 Catawba Valley Community College
 Coastal Carolina
 Craven Community College
 Edgecombe Community College
 Gaston College
 Guilford Tech Community College
 Isothermal Community College
 Johnston Community College
 Mayland Community College
 Mercy School of Nursing
 Nash Community College
 Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College
 Richmond Community College
 Rowan Cabarrus Community College
 South College Asheville

South Piedmont Community College
Surry Community College
Tri-County Technical College
Wake Tech Community College
Wilson Community College

Stanly Community College
Technical College of the Low Country
Vance Granville Community College
Wilkes Community College