



Nursing Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: April 4, 2025

External Participants

Jasmine Del Toro-Vietinghoff, Professional Development Coordinator, NM
Kristen Selig - Undergraduate Director, Northern Illinois University
Mary Margaret Evans-Program Coordinator, Northern Illinois University
Holly Kuhn - RN Coordinator, DeKalb County Health Department
Vickie Guthrie - Patient Care Services, NM Kishwaukee Hospital
Abigail Taylor – Student Representative
Kassandra Kirk - Student Representative

Internal Participants

Jessica Berek– Dean of Instruction
Angela Delmont– Associate Dean, Director of Nursing
Kathy Schnier – Instructor, Nursing
Cindy Prendergast – Instructor, Nursing
Sherry Haley - Instructor, Nursing
Cindy Karasewski– Administrative Specialist

- I. College Updates
 - A. Costs to Kish Students
 - i. Reviewed changes that were implemented in the 2024-2025 academic year and discussed proposed changes for 2025-2026 academic year.
 - 1. In 2024-25, College completed the elimination of student fees and provided clarity to students in billing; easier for families to prepare for the costs of college.
 - 2. Textbook costs and affordability have been a high priority for the college. In 2025-26, the College proposed a tuition increase that would cover the costs for textbooks and digital materials for students. This would simplify the process of acquiring books and save students money during their time at the College.
 - a. Summer 2025 semester “All In” program will be implemented. Increased tuition by \$8. The final cost is \$160 per credit hour and will include students’ textbook(s) for the semester.
 - ii. The College also provides support for students in Health Sciences programs. Health Sciences students have other costs involved with enrollment such as vaccinations, background checks, scrubs, and other items. Supports include reimbursement for mileage, internet access, and licensure exam preparation materials.



- iii. Strong enrollment continues to grow college-wide and in many Health Science programs.
- B. Grant funding
 - i. PATH Grant: College is hopeful it will continue into next year. Currently in governor's budget.
 - ii. Other grants at the federal level (Perkins) – likely to continue. Update: Funded with a slight increase.
- II. Program Updates
 - A. Program Outcomes and Current Enrollment
 - i. NCLEX pass rates for 2024 are 91%, up from 87% in prior years.
 - 1. College continues to support a 3-day NCLEX review for students when semester ends.
 - ii. Program completion rates for 2024 are 73.7%.
 - iii. Current student enrollment in the nursing program is 121.
 - 1. 1st semester 43, 2nd semester 24, 3rd semester 30, 4th semester 24.
 - B. Application Process for Fall 2025 Enrollment
 - i. 40 applicants were accepted.
 - ii. Acceptance meetings start the week of April 14th.
 - C. LPN Program (Laddering option) Starting Summer 2025
 - i. Not a separate program. After second semester students can sign up for this optional course.
 - ii. 19 students showed interest this year and will update the committee at the Fall meeting. Update: 10 students enrolled in SU25.
 - D. May Pinning Ceremony – Wednesday, May 14 at 4:30pm
 - E. Mock Interviews for Students
 - i. Pilot project for department.
 - ii. 6 employers and 7 students are participating – students will have at least three interviews.
 - F. Student Feedback
 - i. Pleased with program so far and happy with the choice of Kish for the nursing program.
 - ii. Excited about the inclusion of books in tuition.
- III. Additional Discussion
 - A. Delmont shared that she will be speaking at the Stateline Nursing expo on the topic of preparing new grads for the field new nurse preparation. What do our business partners believe are the critical needs for a new nurse?
 - i. Students need to experience more real-life patient scenarios instructing.
 - ii. Stressed that critical thinking is important but will develop over time; employers recognize they will also have to train new grads.



- iii. Soft skills are still an area for growth. Specifically, students/new grads need to be prepared to hear feedback and give feedback.
- iv. New grads also should be aware of workplace violence/difficult patients. Could this be incorporated into curriculum?