

Notification of Request for Authorization under the Degree-Granting Institutions Act

Date posted: November 7, 2011

Institution: Grand Canyon University

Current status: Authorized to advertise and recruit in Washington State for degree programs offered via distance learning

Nature of request: Authorization to advertise and recruit in Washington State for an additional degree program emphasis offered via distance learning

Program to be offered:
Emphasis in Health Care Informatics within the Master of Science in Nursing

Background:

Grand Canyon University is a private, for-profit university located in Phoenix, AZ. It has been accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools-Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC) since 1968.

Nature of the review:

Prior to granting authorization to advertise and recruit for new degree program emphases in Washington State, the Higher Education Coordinating Board/Degree Authorization reviews elements such as program outcomes, course requirements, method of course delivery, faculty credentials, and student services.

The program emphasis to be advertised by Grand Canyon University appears to meet the requirements of the Degree-Granting Institutions Act.

Information on the additional program emphasis can be found at the end of this notice.

Timeline:

The HECB will accept comments on this application until November 21, 2011.

Any individuals with knowledge that may indicate the institution and/or the program does not meet the authorization requirements of WAC 250-61 are requested to submit comments to: <mailto:DegreeAuthorization@hecb.wa.gov>.

If you would like to know more about the current law and regulations that govern the program, the statute is RCW 28B.85 and the regulation is WAC 250-61. They can both be found at the following link: [Statutes and Regulations](#).

Program Title:

Master of Science in Nursing with an emphasis in Health Care Informatics

Program Outcomes:

“Health care informatics is a rapidly emerging discipline that offers new frontiers requiring innovative leadership. As health care reform begins to impact all areas of the health care system, greater attention is being focused on the value of health informatics in reducing health care costs, increasing access to health care, and improving the quality of health care services. Health care

informatics is quickly becoming vital to the growth and security of the United States' health care system. The integration of information technology into health and the continuous changes in patient-care systems require professionals and leaders with training in clinical operations, data management systems, health care system operations, project management, decision making, and quality assessment. Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing: Health Care Informatics program may perform a variety of function for the organization, such as automating clinical care, building new operational data systems, training health care workers in the use of computer systems, collecting and analyzing data to improve patient care, etc. Depending on their areas of strength and focus, graduates may serve as project managers, project designers, researchers, systems analysts, or administrators and executives at all levels of the organization. Graduates may work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, primary care facilities, doctors' offices, insurance companies, pharmacies, technology suppliers, consulting firms, and more. Potential employers for graduates of this program include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, clinical data exchange insurance sites, the government's Military Health System (hospitals), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, state health care organizations, and informational technology vendors."

Number of Credits: 36 semester credits

Admission Requirements *unique* to this program:

- Associates/bachelors degree in nursing from a NLNAC/CCNE accredited program with a GPA of 3.0 or above
- Courses in statistics, research and health assessments
- Valid, unrestricted, unencumbered U.S. RN license with no history of discipline in state of practice

Required Courses: (all courses are 4 credits each)

Core Courses for the MSN program: (16 credits)

NUR 502 Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Roles and Practice
NUR 504 Health Care Research Analysis and Utilization
NUR 508 Ethics, Policy and Finance in the Health Care System
NUR 699 Evidence-Based Practice Project

Emphasis Courses: (20 credits total)

HIM 515 Foundations and Concepts of Health Care Informatics
HIM 615 Health Care Information Systems and Technology
HIM 650 Health Care Data Management
HCA 620 Business/Project Plan Evaluation and Development
HCA 675 Health Care Innovation