



July 21, 2021

Utah Board of Nursing
Nursing Education Peer Committee
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Attention: Mr. Jeff Busjahn

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Grand Canyon University, I am excited to inform you of our plans to establish an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program in the Salt Lake City metropolitan area in Utah. Grand Canyon University (GCU) is a private non-profit premier Christian University that has been active in the Phoenix area developing our learners through an integration of Faith, Learning, and Work since 1949. We educate students from all backgrounds and prepare them to become global citizens, critical thinkers, effective communicators, and responsible leaders in their community through the context of our Christian worldview. The College of Nursing and Healthcare Professions has been successful in building on this foundation to develop our graduates with the didactic courses offered online and the clinical, immersive simulation, and laboratory experiences offered in a face-to-face environment.

GCU offers both traditional and accelerated hybrid BSN programs in Arizona, which are fully approved by the Arizona Board of Nursing. GCU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and our nursing program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). We began our Arizona based ABSN program in 2020 in Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona. Our most recent NCLEX pass rates for our BSN program was 96.67% for 2019 and 96.17% in 2020.

We believe there is a student demand for an additional pre-licensure ABSN program in Utah, and our expansion into Salt Lake City can help accommodate those students. Our goals are to increase the supply of graduates who are prepared to practice nursing today and to be tomorrow's responsible healthcare leaders with an educational foundation in GCU's Christian values.

Following our introductory meeting with the Nursing Education Peer Committee on August 5, 2021, our plan is to find a suitable location, lease and initiate the buildout for the learning center, secure clinical agreements, and start marketing the program in the Salt Lake City area for enrollment to begin in Summer 2022. Attached please find information on curriculum, enrollments, and faculty qualifications for your review.

Please let me know if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Lisa G. Smith, PhD, RN, CNE
Dean & Professor of Nursing
College of Nursing & Healthcare Professions

Overview of Grand Canyon University – Utah Expansion

Overview of Program

The ABSN program established in Utah will be identical to the program currently offered at the Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona locations, and is part of the GCU College of Nursing and Healthcare Professions (CNHP) organization and structure. The Dean of CONHCP will oversee the ABSN program in Utah, just as she oversees those in Arizona. GCU's ABSN program in Salt Lake City will be guided by the same mission and philosophy as other GCU BSN and ABSN degree tracks. GCU's program outcomes and curriculum are the same at all sites and will be the same at the Utah site.

The ABSN program is a hybrid design, with didactic courses provided online, and laboratory, simulation, and clinical experiences offered in face-to-face delivery. The program can be completed in 16 months, once all general education and pre-requisite requirements are complete. The same learning management system will be used in Utah as is used for the Arizona ABSN programs. All program policies, including admission, progression, and completion policies will be consistent across all of the ABSN sites in Arizona and Utah.

Grand Canyon University Accelerated Nursing Program Curriculum Description

PREREQUISITES
CHM 101 Introduction to General, Organic and Biochemistry
CHM 101L Introduction to General, Organic and Biochemistry Lab
BIO 202 Human Anatomy and Physiology II
BIO 202L Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab
BIO 205 Microbiology
BIO 205L Microbiology Lab
BIO 319 Applied Nutrition
BIO 322 Applied Pathophysiology
PSY 357 Lifespan Development
SEMESTER 1
NSG 300 Foundations of Nursing
NSG 300C Foundations of Nursing Clinical
NSG 316 Health Assessment Skills Lab
NSG 318 Introduction to Pharmacology
SEMESTER 2
NSG 320 Adult Health Nursing I
NSG 320C Adult Health Nursing I Clinical
NSG 322 Mental Health Nursing
NSG 322C Mental Health Nursing Clinical
NSG 324 Research and Evidence-based Practice
SEMESTER 3
NSG 430 Adult Nursing II
NSG 430C Adult Nursing II Clinical
NSG 432 Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family
NSG 432C Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family Clinical
NSG 434 Nursing Care of the Childrearing Family
NSG 434C Nursing Care of the Childrearing Family Clinical
NSG 436 Leadership, Ethics and Policy in Health Care
Semester 4
NSG 440 Population Health
NSG440C Population Health Clinical
NSG 444 Transition to Practice

NSG 444C Transition to Practice Clinical
NSG 448 Evidenced-based Project Capstone

Faculty Qualifications/Credentials

There will be direct administrative support services at the Salt Lake City learning site. Those positions include a Director of Nursing Academics, Nursing Faculty, a Site Director, and a Clinical Placement Coordinator. Additional support staff to ensure both student success and efficient operations will be: Simulation experts, Academic Success Coaches, Admissions Advisors, and a NCLEX Success Manager.

We will recruit qualified faculty in the Salt Lake City area who will teach a combination of didactic, clinical, simulation, and laboratory courses. Some of our currently employed faculty are interested in teaching the didactic courses online, and we also will hire new full-time course leads to guarantee course quality and consistency. Through our access to a large candidate pool of interested and qualified faculty we will be able to hire additional instructors to teach the didactic courses online.

Didactic, Lab, & Immersive Simulation Faculty

Requirements for this role include a Master of Science in Nursing (or higher) degree, a current, active and unencumbered Utah or multi-state RN license, and three years of direct, patient care nursing experience.

Clinical faculty

Fulltime clinical faculty requirements include a Master of Science in Nursing (or higher) degree, a current, active and unencumbered Utah or multi- state RN license, and three years of direct, patient care nursing experience.

Adjunct clinical faculty requirements include a Master of Science in Nursing (or higher) degree and two years of recent direct patient care nursing experience. Minimally, clinical faculty will hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and three years of direct patient care nursing experience (with supervision by an MSN prepared nurse). All nurses must possess a current, active, and unencumbered Utah or multi-state RN license.

Anticipated Enrollments

Once our consultation with the Utah Board of Nursing Education Peer Committee has concluded, GCU will commence the marketing cycle, secure a lease to the site, and build the site according to the specifications mentioned in the “Physical Resources” section below. The first cohort of up to 48 ABSN students at the Salt Lake City site is planned for the summer semester of 2022. Throughout this process we will continue to explore existing demand, while ensuring quality, with a projected increase in the student enrollment for subsequent cohorts.

The GCU plan is to enroll three cohorts of students per year, with up to 72 nursing students per cohort. Any changes to enrollment will be enacted only by first collaborating with our healthcare partners to ensure that there will be sufficient and appropriate clinical placements for all students in accordance with all GCU standards, as well as state laws and regulations. And secondly, to assure that we have an adequate number of qualified faculty.

Clinical Agreement Plans for the Salt Lake City Metropolitan Area

GCU will begin work to secure clinical affiliation agreements with local healthcare partners after the meeting with the Nursing Education Peer Committee. The ABSN program will not admit and enroll

students in a way that diminishes its ability to properly place them for clinical experiences. We have initiated productive conversations with prospective clinical healthcare partners in the area and the results of those discussions have been promising.

Accreditation Status and Plans

Grand Canyon University's (www.gcu.edu) main campus address is 3300 W. Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ, 85017-1097. GCU is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (www.hlcommission.org), 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411, 1-800-621-7440/312-263-0456. GCU was originally accredited in 1968. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is an independent corporation that was founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central region, which includes Arizona. This accreditation covers both GCU's traditional courses as well as online. In 2017, GCU's accreditation was reaffirmed by the HLC after a comprehensive review of the institution's mission; integrity, ethical and responsible conduct; teaching and learning quality, resources, support, evaluation, and improvement; and finances, planning and institutional effectiveness.

The College of Nursing and Healthcare Professions is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). The Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Post-Master of Science in Nursing and the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree programs are accredited through 2031; the Masters of Nursing degree programs are accredited through 2026 by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) (<http://www.ccneaccreditation.org>), 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750 Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

As an Arizona-based institution, GCU is authorized by the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education (AZPPSE), 1740 W. Adams St, Phoenix, AZ 85007, 602-542-5709.

Building Location

The ABSN program's student learning center will be in the Salt Lake City metropolitan area, in a location accessible to students and staff via local roads, highways, and public transportation. This site will offer the necessary learning and working spaces for students, faculty, and support staff, and will have a total internal area of approximately 12,000 square feet. The design will be quite similar to the student learning centers we operate in the Phoenix and Tucson markets. The specifications for the ABSN program are as follows:

Student Spaces

- 2 classrooms
- 1 accommodation testing room
- 2 clinical skills labs (CSL)
- 2 Simulation rooms (SIM)
- 1 shared control room
- 2 debriefing rooms
- 1 CSL/SIM storage room
- 1 student lounge
- 1 student locker area
- Restrooms

Faculty/Staff Spaces

- 1 reception area
- 2 small meeting rooms
- 1 student records/workroom
- 7 private offices
- 4-5 shared offices
- 1 faculty breakroom
- 1 electronic equipment closet
- Restrooms