Questions and Answers about Boise State School of Nursing
January 2012 Update

FACULTY

1. Why do you need more doctoral prepared nursing faculty?

   a. Helps immensely in recruiting faculty – sends very powerful message – speaks volumes about the University’s commitment to nursing education. Boise State currently has 39 full time faculty; 38% with PhD and an additional 15% enrolled in a doctoral program.

   b. Enhances faculty as a whole, especially in the areas of research and scholarship.

2. Why do you want to get up to 50% of faculty with PhD?

   We believe in a balanced approach to school goals for high quality teaching and scholarship. Our masters prepared faculty tend to focus on being expert clinicians while faculty prepared with PhDs are more research focused. We have thus chosen a goal of having half of the faculty prepared with PhDs.

3. What is a DNP?

   A new degree (the practice doctorate), DNP is becoming more the norm in nursing. Nurses with the DNP are considered to have the highest clinical expertise in the profession.

   The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) focuses on providing leadership for evidence-based practice. This requires competence in translating research in practice, evaluating evidence, applying research in decision-making, and implementing innovative clinical innovations to change nursing practice. The DNP degree will be the new educational standard for advanced practice nurses in the future. An advanced practice nurse practices in clinical, educational and administrative settings.
4. What are Adjunct faculty? …..Affiliate Faculty?

Adjunct faculty include persons hired by Boise State for the specific purposes of:

a. classroom teaching and for the performance of duties associated with the classroom teacher; OR

b. performing duties of an Official Faculty member on a temporary basis, OR

c. performing practicum, laboratory, or classroom teaching in which his/her primary functions are in clinical skills instruction.

Affiliate faculty are un-paid faculty who do not have direct teaching responsibilities for students on or off campus but who provide instruction in off-campus settings such as medical centers, public schools, and outside government agencies.

5. What is your FACULTY:STUDENT Ratio?

a. The ratio at Boise State is 1:10 and meets the minimum required by the State Board of Nursing.

b. Maintaining enough faculty is the main limiting factor in expanding to take more qualified nursing applicants.

6. How do the salaries of Nursing Faculty compare?

Master’s prepared Nursing Faculty make 1/3 less than their counterparts working in the private sector (hospitals, etc).

Why are Nursing Faculty salaries so much lower and what can be done about it?

a. Since Boise State is a state school, the salaries are set by the University based on the budget.

b. Legislative support is needed to change the budget.

7. What is ISU doing in Boise, offering nursing programs, and why isn’t Boise State partnering?

a. BSU and ISU do collaborate as needed to ensure high quality nursing education for the State. For example, ISU offers an undergrad program focused on
students with a BS degree in another area in Boise thus allowing Boise State to focus on other areas.

8. What is NNU’s nursing school capacity?
   a. NNU accepts 30-50 students per year in the pre-licensure program depending on faculty availability.
   b. NNU offers a MS program in Nursing Education.

NURSING STUDENTS

1. How many nursing students are enrolled?
   a. BS: 350 across all years; estimated annual new enrollment of 140-150
   b. RN to BS Online/Distance Option - new 2009: 350 enrolled
   c. MS: 30 enrolled; annual new enrollment of 10-15

2. How many more nursing students can you enroll with the new building?

We increased our new enrollments from 120/year to 140-150 per year in anticipation of occupying the new building. When the building opened, we were already at capacity. A larger building was desired, but unfortunately was cost prohibitive. As the need arises we will search for ways to increase our enrollments to help with increased demands.

3. How many qualified applicants are you turning away?
   a. 2007-2008: Boise State turned away more than 300
   b. 2008-2009: Boise State turned away over 100 applicants
   c. 2009-2010: Boise State turned away over 100 applicants
   d. 2010-2011: Boise State turned away over 100 applicants
   e. Why the Difference? In Jan. 2008, Boise State changed to accepting only BS applications and began taking 20-30 more BS applicants. The AS degree applicants are shifting over to the College of Western Idaho (CWI).

CLINICAL SITES

1. How many clinical sites and where are they?
   a. Over 200 health care organizations including: 6 major hospitals, clinics, public health agencies, long-term care facilities, schools and corporations.
b. State-of-the-art Simulation Lab in the Norco Building.

c. The number of available clinical sites will be an issue with an expansion of the number of students.

2. Why are you doing international health care programs?

International travel allows students to experience different types of health care systems. During the study abroad we introduce students to health care that appears to be very different from what we have in the US. This helps students understand differences they may see in patient expectations. The more we can have students experience differences the better prepared they are for the global world in which we live.

3. Where is your presence in our rural communities?


b. The School of Nursing recently began offering a master’s degree in Population Health Nursing. The national accreditation process for the program is underway.
   - Focuses on assisting and partnering with populations to promote health, prevent disease and address health inequities.
   - This advanced practice nursing ranges from population health needs to policymaking to foster improved health status and optimal well-being.

c. Jody DeMeyer Endowed Chair:
   - Focus: Dr. Jeri Bigbee: Research on issues affecting Rural Nursing

THE NEED FOR NURSES

1. Articles in the paper talk about layoffs, hiring freezes, etc, YET, you say we need more nurses?

a. The layoffs, hiring freezes, etc are TEMPORARY measures during this economic downturn: nurses who had retired have gone back to work as their spouses have lost their jobs or pay has decreased; we assume they will return home or reduce their hours as the economy recovers.

b. As more people put off “routine, preventive type health care” for financial reasons, they are setting themselves up for the “ER crisis visit” and hospitalization.
c. In Idaho: increase in population, increased age of population, increased # of nurses retiring means we need 7,500 more nurses by 2016.

d. If we continue along as is, IDAHO’s nursing workforce for our population will be 20% BELOW the National average.

2. Why do we need BS nurses vs. AS nurses?

   a. First, the major hospitals prefer to hire baccalaureate prepared nurses.

   b. Second, associate-degree nurses are prepared to work in the structured setting of a hospital – their education focuses mostly on hands-on nursing skills.

   c. Bachelor’s prepared nurses are given the theory and principles behind the care and are better prepared to adapt to the changing environments where nursing care can and will be occurring….e.g. homes, “supermarket clinics”, rural areas, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, etc.

   d. BS prepared nurses have experiences in public and community health as well as leadership.

   e. BS education prepares our students for graduate school. We need more graduate prepared nurses.

3. Where did you get your numbers?

   a. Governor Otter’s “Nursing Workforce Advisory Council” commissioned research data through the Idaho Dept of Labor.

   b. Boise State’s School of Nursing.

FINANCIALS

What is the financial picture for the Friends of Nursing?

   a. Total Friends of Nursing Funds (Endowed and Current Use*) = $9.3 million.

   b. Total FON investments in the university’s endowment = $5.3 million
c. Total Scholarship money = $3.2 million, including endowed and current use scholarships.

d. During the last university comprehensive campaign, $4.2 million was raised to help build the new Norco (Nursing) Building. The rest of the funding came by bonding against students fees.

There are 326 Nursing students in the college of Health Sciences, 169 of those received 237 nursing scholarships for the 2011 – 2012 academic year totaling $476,174.

[*Current Use Funds in the BSU Foundation (can be scholarships, faculty support or administrative funds) are not invested in the greater endowment. Current Use Funds are invested with the Foundation’s other short term investment funds. Donors wish the entirety of their gift to these funds to be spent for students, faculty, etc., on a yearly basis. Any earnings or losses on Current Use Funds are “swept” by the BSU Foundation.]