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February 1, 1999

Madeline Wake, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Dean, College of Nursing
Marquette University
P.O. Box 1881
Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881

Re: Graduate Entry Nursing Program

Dear Dr. Wake:

In your letter of December 15, 1998, you describe a proposed graduate entry nursing program at the College of Nursing, which would prepare those with non-nursing baccalaureate degrees for advanced nursing roles. Under the proposed program, participants would complete preparation for practice as a professional nurse during the first 15 months, to be followed by two years of MSN coursework. You ask that we confirm that graduates of such a program would meet the intent of sec. N 2.03(1)(e), Code, requiring that applicants for licensure as an RN have "graduated from a board-approved school of professional nursing."

Section 441.04, Stats., includes as a requirement for a license to practice as a professional nurse that the applicant have graduated from an accredited school of nursing. Section 441.01(3), Stats., grants the board authority in part to "establish minimum standards for schools of professional nurses and schools for licensed practical nurses." The latter responsibility is addressed at sec. N 1.06, Code, entitled "Standards for school approval or continuing approval." Sec. N 1.06(2), Code, establishing required curriculum standards, states as follows:

(2) CURRICULUM. The curriculum shall be based on a stated purpose, philosophy, conceptual framework, and program objectives expressed in terms of required student competencies. Clinical and theoretical learning experiences shall be consistent with the stated program objectives. Curricular content shall reflect current nursing practice and encompass health needs throughout the life span.

(a) Professional nursing curriculum. All professional nursing programs shall include correlated theory and clinical experience in at least the following areas. This

shall not prohibit a flexible curriculum that would provide appropriate integration of the various subject areas:

1. Area of general education. The curriculum in the area of general education shall include:

a. Scientific knowledge basic to nursing practice which includes principles from the biological and physical sciences.

b. Human and cultural knowledge which includes currently accepted concepts and principles from the social and behavioral sciences and are basic to understanding motivation and behavior.

2. Area of nursing education. The curriculum in the area of nursing education shall include theory and selected experiences designed to enable students to provide nursing care which shall promote, maintain, and restore physical and mental health of the individual throughout the life span. Upon completion of the program, the graduate shall be able to:

a. Use the nursing process to plan and provide nursing care.

b. Apply knowledge derived from the scientific, human and cultural areas to meet health needs.

c. Individualize nursing care during preventive, maintenance, restorative and terminal phases.

d. Promote positive health practices.

e. Understand the roles and relationship of nurses to other health care providers.


f. Plan for health services with individuals, families, communities and health care providers.

g. Practice professional nursing according to the legal standards of ch. N 6.

h. Function as a responsible, accountable nursing professional.

i. Identify the need for continued competency.

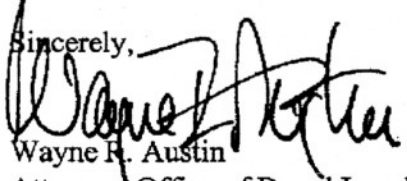
j. Recognize the impact of historical trends in nursing.

Because Marquette University's College of Nursing is already an approved school of professional nursing, other required standards of sec. N 1.06, Code, relating to organization and administration, instruction, faculty, and periodic review have been met. If graduates of the new program will also have completed education and training which conform with the curriculum standards cited above, it is our opinion that graduates of the program would qualify both to sit for NCLEX and for licensure to practice professional nursing. 

On January 28, 1999, the Board of Nursing considered the foregoing response to your inquiry, and concurred in that response.

I hope the foregoing is of assistance.

Sincerely,



Wayne R. Austin

Attorney, Office of Board Legal Services

cc: Board of Nursing
Thomas A. Neumann, MSN, RN