



Senate Committee on Academic Development
Report to Senate - Meeting of March 27, 2012

Proposal to introduce a Master of Science in Healthcare Quality, Risk and Safety

Introduction

The proposal to introduce a Master of Science in Healthcare Quality, Risk and Safety in the School of Nursing and the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences and the School of Graduate Studies was reviewed by the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) at its meeting of February 29, 2012. D. Rappaport, (Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies), D. Edge, (Graduate Coordinator, School of Nursing) and J. Medves, (Vice-Dean Health Sciences and Director, School of Nursing) attended the SCAD meeting to speak to the proposal and to answer questions from members of SCAD. Members of SCAD were also provided with background documentation provided by the School of Nursing and the School of Graduate Studies including the External Reviewers' report. A copy of the proposal is attached.

Analysis and Discussion

The following highlights are noted:

- The proposed M.Sc. (HQ) is unique to Canada and is aimed at consolidating and promoting the development of a discipline encompassing three distinct areas of healthcare that are rarely linked – quality, risk and safety;
- The proposed M.Sc. (HQ) is designed to attract professionals from a variety of fields including (but not limited to) healthcare, law, public administration and business;
- To maximize accessibility, including for individuals in more northern and isolated communities, the proposed program is comprised of eight on-line courses (to be completed over a 2-year period, including a major project course) plus two required intensive, on-site face-to-face components – each one week in length (to be held in Kingston): one at the beginning of the program and one in the second year. A third face-to-face course (to be held at the Bader International Study Centre) is offered as an optional course;
- Graduates of this program will be prepared to pursue doctoral studies in several disciplines;
- The conceptual frameworks used to design the curriculum are national (CPSI) and international (WHO) in scope, and highlight the key elements of quality, risk and safety;

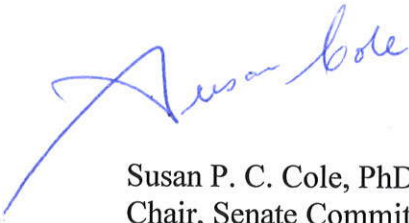
Page 2

- Several organizations involved in quality, safety and risk in healthcare are actively supporting the program, including serving on a program Advisory Committee;
- The program is intended to be self-funded; it is anticipated that in many cases, employers will provide financial assistance to their employees who are admitted into the program.

M o t i o n

that Senate approve the introduction of a Master of Science in Healthcare Quality, Risk and Safety in the School of Nursing and the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine (Faculty of Health Sciences) and the School of Graduate Studies, to commence September 2012 pending approval by the COU Quality Council.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan P. C. Cole, PhD, FRSC
Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Development

Committee Members:

M. Baird, Department of Chemistry
A. Brown, School of Nursing
S. Cole, Deputy Provost (Chair)
J. Emrich, Faculty of Law
D. Garvie, Economics
K. Gossen, J.D. '12
U. Iqbal, Ph.D. '12 Candidate, Engineering & Applied Science
I. Johnsrude, Psychology
L. Long, Computing B.Sc. '13
P. Oosthuizen, Academic Colleague
P. Watkin (Secretary)



NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Submission Form

This template is to be used when seeking approval for new Graduate programs of study leading to a degree. New program submissions must receive the approval of the Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC) prior to being externally reviewed. The submission, external review, and the internal response to the review will, as a package, be submitted by GSEC to the Senate Office for referral to the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) which will then make their recommendations to Senate. Academic Units are strongly advised to contact the Director of the Office of the Vice-Provost and Dean SGS or the appropriate Associate Dean in the SGS with any questions that arise during this proposal development. Refer also to the QUQAP website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/provost/responsibilities/qualityassurance.html>.

NOTE: the textboxes in this template will expand as needed.

Part A – General Summary

Name of Proposed Program:	Master of Science in Healthcare Quality MSc (HQ)
Unit(s):	School of Nursing and Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine – Faculty of Health Sciences
Proposed Start Date:	September 2012

Contact Information (1)		Contact Information (2)	
Name:	Dr. Jennifer Medves	Name:	Dr. Joel Parlow
Title:	Vice Dean (Health Sciences) and Director of the School of Nursing	Title:	Head
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Executive Summary (1 page maximum suggested – Minimum font size 11 pp)

Briefly summarize the rationale for introducing this new program and how it fits with the academic goals of the Faculty/School and University. Briefly describe: the educational goals and learning outcomes; internal or external collaboration required to deliver this program; how the relevant stakeholders (e.g. faculty, staff, students) were consulted in preparing the proposal; and additional resources required to deliver this program.

This document outlines program plans for the School of Nursing (SON)/Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Queen’s University to introduce a Master of Science in Healthcare Quality [MSc (HQ)]. The proposed MSc degree is unique in that it will bring together and develop a discipline in three areas of healthcare that are rarely linked - quality, risk and safety—with the intent to ensure better quality healthcare minimizing errors for Canadians. As healthcare planning is often conducted in isolation and within narrow parameters, this Master’s degree will prepare professionals to examine quality across a broader spectrum: understanding legal precedence and decisions, linking quality to

beneficence (doing good), minimizing the emphasis on non-maleficence (doing no harm), and recognizing the role of policy, health care reorganization, human factors and engineering to provide excellent care.

The proposed MSc (HQ) program is interdisciplinary in its design, delivery and scope. Use of informational technologies (IT) will permit access for potential students across Canada, and internationally. There is no other comparable program offered in Canada. American programs in patient safety and human factors (e.g. Northwestern University; University of Illinois at Chicago) provide a narrower focus than the proposed Queen's degree, and uniquely including theory, research and practice-based, patient/population oriented versus others being only theoretical with no application to clinical and population settings. We are including the new view of safety that includes resiliency theory. Several members of the team are members of the Resilient Health Care Net (RHCCN) based in Denmark. The program is based on the premise of a just culture, utilizing a human factors paradigm, and universal industrial production theories. The non-thesis, course-based (Pattern II) program will help prepare professionals to engage in research, which is a key strategic direction of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) and the World Health Organization (WHO). This program addresses this gap and is consistent with the academic goals of the Faculty of Health Sciences, as well as the overall goals of the University, primarily those of innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and internationalization. Students in this program will develop and understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of quality, risk, and safety and acquire the skills to: a) design, conduct, and evaluate activities intended to measure and improve healthcare quality and patient safety; and, b) develop, analyze and implement system change relevant to healthcare quality, risk and safety. The program is designed to attract a broad array of professionals in practice (e.g., clinical, policy, engineering, law) and those who wish to continue with doctoral studies and research in this new discipline.

The faculty who will develop, design, teach and share intellectual capacity are from the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Faculty of Law, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, School of Business, and School of Policy Studies. No new faculty positions will be created as faculty capacity currently exists on-campus, and adjunct 1's who are based at other universities. The collaborative effort amongst Queen's faculty will provide new and exciting research opportunities in a new discipline that healthcare is only now embracing.

The School of Nursing, and the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, within the Faculty of Health Sciences will be responsible for the administration of the program. The intention is that the program will be self-funding to build a strong graduate program in Healthcare Quality, and, as well, will provide needed resources that will enhance other programs offered by the School of Nursing. Initial discussions concerning the proposed MSc began in November 2010 between the School of Nursing and the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine. Initial input from the Provost and the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences occurred in December 2010. By mid- January 2011, the core group of interested faculty from across the University had been identified and the School of Graduate Studies was initially consulted. The proposed program has active support from multiple pan-Canadian organizations whose mandate is quality, safety and risk in healthcare. Our Advisory Council members represent Accreditation Canada, Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI), College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), Canadian Nurses Protective Society (CNPS), Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA), Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada (HIROC) and lawyers in practice who both defend and litigate. The curriculum has been reviewed informally by international scholars in the field and has been determined to be unique as there is a strong applied focus as well as theoretical underpinnings.

In summary, the proposed MSc in Healthcare Quality is unique in Canada, provides an interdisciplinary program to prepare professionals and academics in a new discipline, will be accessible to those who cannot move to Kingston, requires no additional faculty, provides an opportunity to increase research strength at Queen's, will increase international collaborations and, will be revenue-generating.