

## Program Array at UW-La Crosse



### Program Review and Planning



**Program Review and Planning** has long been an essential element in our oversight responsibilities . Administration and faculty are committed to cooperation both in oversight and planning of programs so that our students have available the most **current programs**. Thoughtful innovation combined with on-going assessment of traditional programs offers students the best education possible.

# National Recognition



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# Program Assessment



POSITIVE

PROACTIVE

UW-La Crosse is justly proud of our record in program array, program review and program development. UW-La Crosse operates in a **positive, proactive** manner in this important area of university life.

In the short time available, I would like to provide the committee with an overview of where we have been, where we are now, and where we are headed in determining **appropriate program array**.

# Program Accreditation



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# Regular Program Reviews



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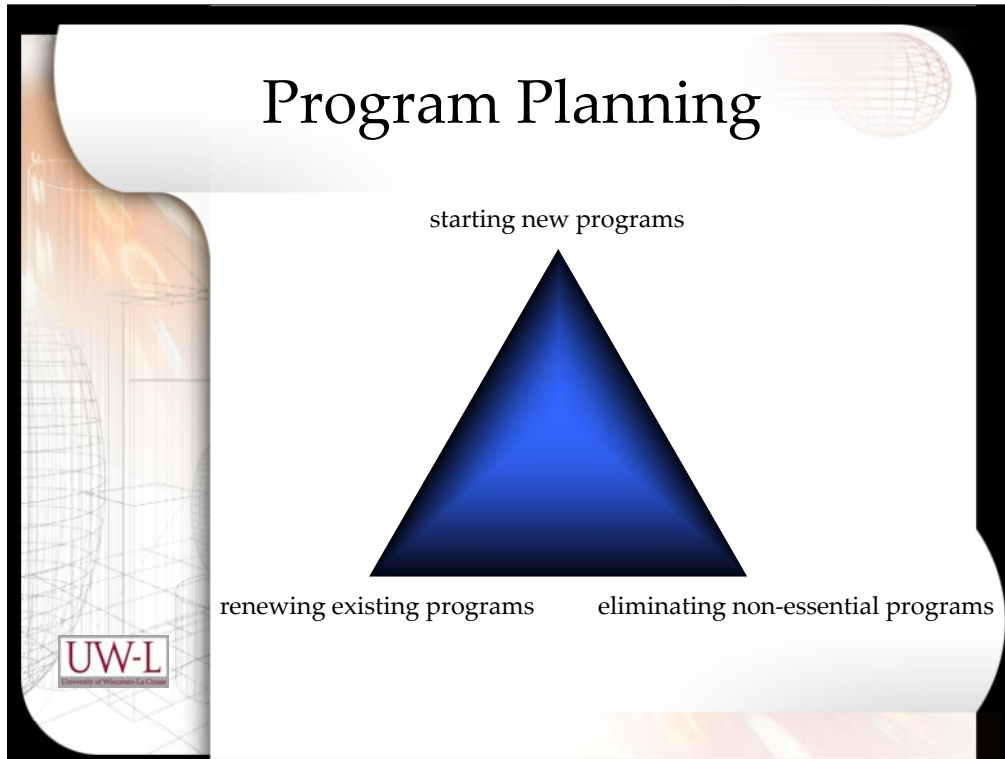
## Creation of Academic Planning Committee



campus mission  
quality curriculum  
market and student demand  
resources  
collaboration  
course delivery

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- On-going Program Review has recently been improved by the creation of a faculty committee on **Academic Planning**. This committee is charged with reviewing new program early in the university review process to insure that overall program array concerns are being considered with every new proposal.



UW-La Crosse is proud of the high standards that our programs meet in national **accreditation** reviews. Accreditation reviews are an important **assessment tool** we use to review programs. Of the many accredited programs on campus, I would like to mention **two new programs** that have already established an excellent record with accreditation agencies:

**Radiation Therapy** completed its review cycle in March 2002 and was given the longest possible accreditation term by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic technology (JRCERT)

**Physicians Assistant Program** has just undergone the third accreditation visit. The initial two accreditations have been for three years. This three-year cycle for a newer program represents the high degree of success of the program in the eyes of the accreditation team.

# Excellence in programs



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# Program Renewal

Physics  
German Studies  
Major



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**Program array** considerations have resulted in **program renewal** in key areas of the curriculum. Two examples are worth noting.

**Physics.** In 1988 this program had fewer than five majors and was targeted for elimination by System. Yet UW-L considered the program vital to program array in science and determined to revitalize the major. This success story has been studied by the Task Force on Undergraduate Physics (TFUP) and will be featured in the September 2003 issue of "Physics Today." Currently 42 incoming freshman have declared a physics major and the program boasts 121 majors. The department has gone from \$0.00 in Grants to \$500,000. Faculty and students cooperative in undergraduate research projects. This department is UW-La Crosse's nomination for the 2003 Regents Teaching Excellence Award.

**German Studies Major:** The last two strategic planning processes have identified international education as a top priority at UW-L. In light of this emphasis, the German program was redesigned in 1998 to offer an interdisciplinary major in German Studies in addition to the minor. This new program combines traditional language instruction with classes in allied departments in history, business, political science, geography and linguistics. The required study abroad component insures that students graduate with the highest linguistic skills and cultural understanding possible.

**Certificate Programs.** Last fall UW-La Crosse drafted guidelines for a two-year pilot project in credit-bearing certificate programs. In June Chancellor Hastad approved the certificate program in **Medical Dosimetry**. Other credit-bearing certificate programs are being developed in other programs ranging from Holocaust and Genocide, Alternative/Complimentary Health Care, At-Risk Teacher Education, Geographical Information Systems.

# Program Elimination

## Mass Communications



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**Program Elimination.** In recent years UW-La Crosse eliminated two programs: Mass Communication and Social Work. Faculty in Mass Communication were assigned to allied departments for better curriculum delivery. We felt that the social work program was a duplication of effort in the system.

## Excellence in Program Array and Review



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Among the health science programs available through the consortium, the following are **either new or revised programs** that enhance the offerings in this vital area: **Radiation Therapy (undergoing the initial five-year review), Physicians Assistant (Before the Board as a new masters program), and Physical Therapy (currently under the initial five-year review).**

# La Crosse Medical Health Consortium

Gundersen  
Lutheran.



The La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium (LMHSC) is an alliance of two comprehensive medical centers and three higher education institutions: Franciscan Skemp Healthcare/Mayo Health System and Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center; and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Viterbo University, and Western Wisconsin Technical College (WWTC). In 1993, the five partners formed the Consortium to address workforce issues, because they realized that by pooling their resources, they could achieve more than any one of them could do independently.

## La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium



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Today, the collaboration is not only focused on creating a skilled healthcare workforce, but also on facilitating improvements in regional health and healthcare and supporting applied research in health and medically-related disciplines. It serves a 23-county area in Western Wisconsin, Northeastern Iowa, and Southeastern Minnesota.

## UW-L Health Science Programs

- Clinical Laboratory Science
- Occupational Therapy
- Nuclear Medicine Technology
- Radiation Therapy



We are before you today to request implementation of a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. This program fits well in our array of other health science programs. The undergraduate Health Science programs include

- Clinical Laboratory Science (Medicine Technology)
- Nuclear Medicine Technology (the only NMT degree program in the state)
- Occupational Therapy
- Radiation Therapy – a program developed in response to requests from University Hospitals and Clinics and several hospitals in the Milwaukee and Twin Cities area. Currently, this is the only radiation therapy program in the state.

## UW-L Health Science Programs

- Physical Therapy
- Nurse Anesthesia
- Clinical Microbiology
- Medical Dosimetry  
Certificate



Our Graduate programs in the Health Sciences include Physical Therapy, as well as two other graduate programs offered as concentrations under our M.S. in Biology umbrella – the Nurse Anesthesia program offered as a cooperative program between UW-L and Franciscan Skemp Mayo Health System and the Clinical Microbiology program which is a cooperative program between UW-L, Gundersen Lutheran, Marshfield Clinic, and the State Lab of Hygiene. Last spring, we completed the approval process for a 40-credit Certificate program in Medical Dosimetry. We hope to add the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies to this list.

# Physician Assistant Studies

- Physician Assistant B.S. - 1995



Gundersen  
Lutheran.



- Tri-partnership



In 1995, the first 12 students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Physician Assistant Studies at UW-L. This very unique program represents a Tri-partnership between UW-La Crosse, the Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation, and the Mayo School of Health Sciences. These three institutions jointly hold the program's accreditation and provide the instruction for the program.



# Physician Assistant Studies

- Graduates have scored in the top 10% on PANCE for 3 of last 5 years
- Last (8<sup>th</sup>) class graduates in 2004



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All of the students from the first six graduating classes have passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination, or PANCE.

Graduates have distinguished themselves by consistently scoring among the top 20% of programs nationally and in the top 10% for 3 of the past 5 years.

The eighth, and final class, of Physician Assistant students will graduate next fall (2004). The Physician Assistant baccalaureate program will be eliminated following their graduation.

## Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

- ARC-PA accreditation standards
- Curricular intensity - grad level
- Degree acknowledge academic rigor
- 65% programs award grad degree



The accreditation standards set forth by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistants (ARC-PA) now reflect a graduate level of curricular intensity. The standards also state that programs should acknowledge the academic rigor of the program by awarding the appropriate degree, which in this case is the Master's degree.

Nationally, 65% of the Physician Assistant Programs award a graduate

# WI Physician Assistant Programs

UW-Madison,  
College of  
Medicine  
B.S. Degree



Marquette  
University  
-MPAS



In addition to the Physician Assistant program at UW-L, there are two other programs in the state. The College of Medicine at UW-Madison offers a baccalaureate program and Marquette University offers a Master's degree.

## Program Need

- Aging “Baby Boomers”
- Emerging role of the “hospitalist”
- Medical Residents Rule – Gundersen  
added 20 new PA positions last year

The continued need for Physician Assistants is being driven by three major changes in our health care system.

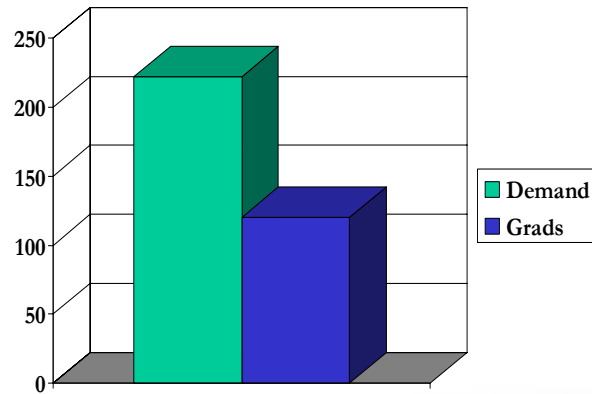
First, the baby boom generation is aging. According to reports by the CDC, the senior population in the U.S. is expected to double by the year 2030. This means that the number of Americans age 65 and older will increase from 35 million to 71 million. Statistics tell us that the demand for health care services doubles or even triples as individuals move into this senior population category.

Second, in order to improve the continuity of care for our sickest hospitalized patients, major medical centers are hiring new physician/physician assistant teams to serve as hospitalists – individuals whose major responsibility is developing and implementing the medical care plan for hospitalized patients.

Third, this past July, a federal law became effective that limited the number of hours a medical resident could work in a particular week to 80 hours. Previously, many residents worked 100-120 hour weeks. Medical centers, with large medical residency programs, have spent the last 12 months preparing for this change by hiring many new physicians and physician assistants.

A case in point -- in the last year, Gundersen Lutheran, added 20 new Physician Assistant positions to accommodate this change.

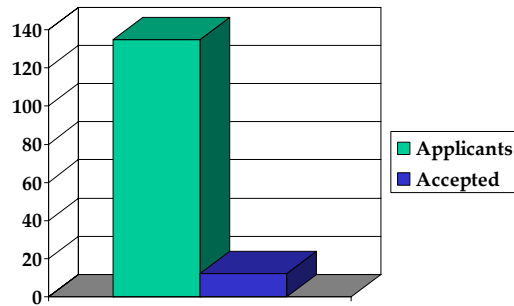
## Regional Service Area Physician Assistant Demand



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In Fall 2002, the UW System Market Research department completed a market analysis of the proposed program. In an area that approximates the regional service area of the program's partner institutions, there are projected to be at least 222 Physician Assistant openings for the 10-year period 1998 to 2008. During this same period, the program is projected to graduate only 120 Physician Assistants.

## Student Demand for Program



10 applicants for each available slot

There continues to be a high level of student demand for the physician assistant program. The program receives approximately 135 applications for the 12 positions available each year. In other words, there are about 10 applicants for each of the positions in the entering class of students.

## Program Design

24-month program, 105 credits

- 12 months didactic, 55 credits
- 12 months clinical rotation & capstone clinical seminar (50 credits)



The Master's Physician Assistant program will be a 24-month program comprised of 105 graduate credits. This includes 55 credits of classroom instruction over a 12-month period, followed by 12 months of clinical rotations at the partner institutions. During the final 12 months, students will also be enrolled in clinical seminar sessions that will serve as a capstone experience.

**Faculty**

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- Biology
- Chemistry
- Microbiology
- Physical Therapy

**Gundersen Lutheran.**

- Medical, nursing, and legal staff
- Clinical rotations

**MAYO CLINIC**

- Clinical procedures
- Clinical rotations

During the first 12 months of the program, faculty from the UW-L departments of Biology, Chemistry, Microbiology and the program in Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant studies will provide course work in Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Infectious Diseases, and patient assessment and treatment.

During this phase of the curriculum, individuals from the medical, nursing, administrative, and legal staff at Gundersen Lutheran will also provide classroom instruction. The staff at Mayo School of Health Sciences will provide the instructional and clinical resources for the clinical procedures course.

Gundersen Lutheran and the Mayo Health System (and their affiliated clinics and hospitals) will each provide 50% of the clinical rotations that occur during the second 12 months of the curriculum.



## Projected Enrollment & Finances

- Enroll 12 students/year
- Students pay 20% tuition differential
- All resources from BS program directed to graduate program
- Won't need additional resources

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We plan to continue with the cohort size we have maintained with the baccalaureate program, which is admitting 12 new students each year.

Students in the graduate program will continue to pay the 20% tuition differential that all students in the UW-L occupational therapy, physical therapy, and physician assistant programs now pay.

All of the resources currently directed toward to the baccalaureate program will be directed toward the Master's program

We don't anticipate needing any new resources to transition to the graduate-level program. We plan to continue with the cohort size we have maintained with the baccalaureate program, which is accepting 12 new students each year.

Questions?



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{End of program}