I. SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT (suggested length of 1-2 pages)

A. Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

List all your PLO in this box. Indicate for each PLO its alignment with one or more institutional learning outcomes (ILO). For example: “PLO 1. Apply advanced computer science theory to computation problems (ILO 2 & 6).”

Students graduating with a M.S. in Nursing will be able to:

| PLO 1 | ILO 1 Thinking & Reasoning  
ILO 6 Specialized Education | Integrate theoretical and scientific knowledge of ethical/legal principles, advanced nursing practice and clinical excellence in professional practice and role development in clinical, organizational, and academic settings. |
| PLO 2 | ILO 2 Communication  
ILO 6 Specialized Education | Lead change to improve quality outcomes and demonstrate effective leadership in advanced practice roles in nursing our diverse multicultural community. |
| PLO 3 | ILO 1 Thinking & Reasoning | Critically analyze evidence in the advanced practice of nursing and in the planning, delivery, |
| PLO 4 | ILO 2 Communication  
ILO 4 Collaboration  
ILO 6 Specialized Education | Integrate healthcare technologies in collaboration with interdisciplinary teams to improve clinical practice, education and organizational management. |
| PLO 5 | ILO 3 Diversity  
ILO 5 Sustainability  
ILO 6 Specialized education | Design culturally inclusive, ethical, and comprehensive nursing care practices and systems in clinical prevention and population care for individuals, families, and communities across the health care system. |
| PLO 6 | | Develop and cultivate inter-professional partnership that foster a culture of lifelong learning and professional development to advance excellence in nursing practice. |

**B. Program Learning Outcome(s) Assessed**


**C. Summary of Assessment Process**

**PLO #3:** Critically analyze evidence in the advanced practice of nursing and in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of quality care in clinical, organizational and academic settings.

**Instrument(s):**

To assess students’ ability to analyze evidence in the advanced practice of nursing and in the planning, delivery and evaluation of quality care in clinical, organizational and academic settings, we looked at student performance in both NURS 602, Scientific Inquiry, Methods & Scholarship, a course taken in students’ first semester in the Masters program and student performance in NURS 693, Master’s Synthesis, taken in the students’ final semester of the program.

In NURS 602, we used the average score on the final paper as an indicator of students’ ability to competently search for healthcare research literature; read, understand, and analyze evidence; and synthesize evidence in a logical, concise way that informs their future NURS 693 synthesis.
project. This assignment also strengthens their ability to convey their analysis using a clear, professional writing style.

In NURS 693, students produce a culminating synthesis paper that incorporates research evidence that formed the foundation of their practicum project, and describes the implementation and evaluation of their master’s project in a clinical, organizational or academic setting. Students must score 80% or higher on this assignment in order to pass the course.

**Sampling Procedure:**

The faculty member teaching NURS 602 was asked to average the scores from all students taking the course in fall 2021. Student completion rates in NURS 693 from both the Nursing Education and the Leadership and Administration tracks in spring 2022 constituted the assessment sample.

**Sample Characteristics:**

Twenty students were enrolled in NURS 602 in fall 2021. A total of 31 students were enrolled in NURS 693 in spring 2022, 13 in the Nursing Education track and 18 in the Leadership and Administration track.

**Data Collection:**

Data were collected for NURS 602 at the end of fall term, 2021. Completion rates for NURS 693 were assessed at the end of spring.

**Data Analysis:**

In NURS 602, the average score on the final paper was 90% (A-), demonstrating a high level of achievement and strong demonstration of students’ ability to analyze evidence in advanced practice nursing from research conducted across a range of clinical, organizational and educational settings.

In NURS 693, 96.8% of the students successfully completed the synthesis assignment. One student did not complete the assignment due to complications with his practicum site resulting in the inability to complete his project rather than a reflection of his competencies in NURS 693. The student received an Incomplete and a plan has been developed to help him complete his project and synthesis.

**Summary of Assessment Results**

**Main Findings:**
In both the first and second years of the masters program students have the opportunity to strengthen and demonstrate their ability to analyze evidence in advanced practice nursing and utilize it in a range of clinical, organizational and educational settings.

**Recommendations for Program Improvement:**

While students’ ability to analyze evidence appears to be strong, their ability to convey that knowledge and understanding in written formats is an area where masters students have continued to seek mentoring and support. A writing workshop was offered in summer 2021 for students preparing for their 2nd year of the program. Feedback from students and faculty members who participated was positive and we made plans to offer it again in 2022. However, too few students signed up to participate, so the summer 2022 event was canceled. We will compare the outcomes from NURS 693 in 2023 to those in 2022 to see if having or not having the writing workshop had any noticeable impact on students’ final synthesis papers.

**Next Step(s) for Closing the Loop:**

At a faculty meeting at the end of fall 2022 or the start of spring 2023, it would be useful for the NURS 602 faculty member to summarize for the larger faculty group the strengths and areas for growth of the current cohort, focused on research, analysis, and writing skills. This will help us develop customized plans to assist students in making a successful transition into the final year of the program. During spring 2023, we will ask students whether they would participate in a summer writing workshop focused specifically on cohort needs. By planning early, it will allow us more time to secure a date that works for more students and faculty members.

**Other Reflections:**

**Assessment Plans for Next Year**

*Summarize your assessment plans for the next year, including the PLO(s) you plan to assess, any revisions to the program assessment plan presented in your last five-year plan self-study, and any other relevant information.*

We will gather data to assess PLO 4 during fall 2022 and spring 2023 semesters through the NURS 603 Healthcare Informatics course, which is taken by students in both Nursing Education and Leadership and Administration tracks in their 1st semester of the program.