



Senior College and  
University Commission

# Substantive Change Action Report

## Proposal Information:

Proposal Review Date	December 06, 2016
Institution	United States University
Type of Substantive Change	Distance Education
Program Name / Location	MS in Nursing (FNP)
ALO	Steven Stargardter
WASC Staff Liaison	Karen Graham
Committee Reviewers	JoAnn Carter-Wells, Vicky Bowden, Philip Greiner

## Committee Action and Date (See Attached)

## Additional Information<sup>1</sup> (See Attached):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interim Approval on <u>12/6/2016</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to Commission (No visit) on _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notification of Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Site Visit Required <input type="checkbox"/> International Visit Required <input type="checkbox"/> Fast Track <input type="checkbox"/> Non Compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Competency Based Degree
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<sup>1</sup> Items checked or listed above must be fulfilled in order to finalize Substantive Change Approval

## Commission Approval and Date (For Institutional Tracking)<sup>2,3</sup>:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved on <u>12/12/2016</u> Implementation of an approved change must occur within two years of Commission approval. If the change will be implemented more than two years after the approval date, contact your WASC Staff Liaison to determine if the change requires re-approval.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved on _____

<sup>2</sup> Commission approval of a new degree program signifies that the program is covered by the WASC accreditation of the institution as a whole. Approval by WASC should not be represented, in marketing materials or any other forms of communication, as program-specific accreditation, such as that bestowed by specialized, professional, or programmatic accrediting organizations.

<sup>3</sup> Record the date that the Commission took action on this Substantive Change proposal for your records.

## Findings of the Committee:

### Commendations:

- The institution is commended for significant improvement to WSCUC prior recommendations.
- The proposed program demonstrates advanced and thoughtful implementation of online pedagogy and best practice.
- Program faculty are commended for their understanding of the target populations for the proposed program and for providing accommodations to support the unique needs of those populations, especially the needs of ESL students.

### Recommendations:

- The institution should continue its current efforts to monitor the effectiveness of innovative programs (such as the Weaver Reading Program, TeleHealth, and the Skills & Simulation laboratory) in increasing retention, graduation rates, and student learning. (CFR 2.10, 4.1)
- Future substantive change proposals must include comprehensive budget information which is aligned with enrollment projects for faculty, overhead costs, and staff support. (CFR 3.4, 3.5)

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3. Faculty and administration should carefully review the adequacy of faculty, workload, and online training as program enrollment increases. (CFRs 2.1, 3.1, 3.3)

**WASC Liaison Signature:**

*Karen Graham / KC*

Date: 12/6/2016

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