A. **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Provide advanced nursing care to improve patient and population health care outcomes in various direct and indirect settings.

2. Take leadership roles in the analysis, delivery, and management of nursing care and health care systems.

3. Provide evidence-based practice through the application of analytical methods, information systems technology, and clinical research.

4. Collaborate with interprofessional teams to meet the healthcare needs of culturally and ethnically diverse individuals and populations.

5. Act as change agent, leader, and advocate in the design, implementation, and evaluation of health care policy as it affects populations and the nursing profession.

B. **Learning Outcome Assessed:**
1. Provide advanced nursing care to improve patient and population health care outcomes in various direct and indirect settings.

C. Learning Outcome Assessment Plan:

Learning Outcome 1 was intended to be assessed based on the evaluation criteria identified below, and performed on students admitted to the new UNLV DNP program. The first group of students were anticipated to be admitted into the new UNLV DNP program in fall 2015 and assessment of these students would have begun at that time. However, the implementation of the new program is now scheduled for fall 2016 and assessment of these students will be delayed accordingly.

Students currently enrolled in UNLV courses in the UNDNP program, assessment based on these same four criteria for Learning Outcome 1 elicited the following outcomes:

a. Ninety percent of students successfully pass (grade of “B” or better) courses identified in the curriculum map as applicable to this student learning outcome.
   
   Assessment: Criteria MET.

b. Graduates’ professional performance will be elicited from employers based on employment information provided by the graduates.
   
   Assessment: Criteria NOT MET. Employment data was requested from all UNLV graduates of the UNDNP program (see below). Specific information from employers was not obtained. Graduates and employer data will be obtained from graduates of the new UNLV DNP program on graduation of the first cohort of students.

c. Students will complete the final course in the DNP Program culminating with the successful defense of a DNP Project and paper (NURS 788).

   Assessment: Criteria MET. All students (N=7) who defended (oral and written) his/her DNP Project as a part of the NURS 788 course were successful in their attempt. Committee member’s evaluations indicated that five students were rated as “Pass” and two students were rated as “Exemplary” in all criteria of both the written and oral portions of the defense with the exception of four students who were rated as “Exemplary” in the criteria, “Give meaning to the data”.

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d. Students will successfully complete (80%) NURS 765 Residency and NURS 768 DNP Forum and Roles, demonstrating knowledge and skills of an advanced practice, DNP educated nurse.

Assessment: Criteria MET. Only one student was unsuccessful in her attempt to pass NURS 788 and has since been separated from the DNP program by the Graduate College.

A total of six students graduating in 2015 from the UNDNP program completed a graduate student exit survey developed by faculty from the program. For the five UNDNP Program Outcomes, all students rated each of the outcomes as either “Met” or “Strongly Met”. Separate questions sought information on the graduates’ satisfaction with the program by asking the graduates to rate his/her preparation for advanced clinical practice and leadership roles to serve the health care needs of the people of: 1) your home community (mean 5.0/5); Nevada (mean 4.83/5); the nation (mean 4.675), the international community (mean 4.17/5), and the professional community (mean 4.67/5). Eighty-three percent of graduates indicated that they would advise other students to attend the UNDNP program. The ratings are consistent with ratings graduates gave on exit interviews in prior years. Faculty discuss these data in the spring semester of each new year to contribute to the ongoing assessment as to whether any changes in the program or individual courses should be considered.

In response to Learning Outcome 1, criteria “b” above and to gain more understanding of graduates of the UNDNP program and the role the DNP degree has played in post-graduation employment opportunities, an online survey of all UNLV graduates of the UNDNP program (since inception) was completed in October, 2015. A response rate of 11 of 26 possible graduates was realized. Data of interest to this assessment include: 7 of 11 graduates have changed employment status since completing the DNP degree and 50% of those changes were possible because of earning the degree, with one other graduate being offered a change in employment, which was declined; one student is considering a change in employment, but is unsure if the offer is dependent on having earned the DNP degree; and two graduates are considering the DNP to PhD bridge program.

As a part of the assessment process for the original UNDNP program (currently closed to new admits and being phased out), a Continuous Improvement Assessment Report (CIPR) was submitted to the program and discipline’s accrediting body, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), in June 2015 with additional addenda provided as recently as October 2015. The CIPR report is attached as Addendum A in an effort to provide a cumulative assessment of the UNDNP program for the previous three years.
Application of Assessment Information:

Assessment efforts required to prepare the CIPR, review of multiple BSN to DNP programs nationally, regular discussions about student progress and curriculum evaluation at DNP faculty meetings allow for ongoing assessment of the program and appropriate course and content modification. Further, faculty and (2015) UNDNP Advisory Board meetings have allowed for assessment of current and future advanced practice nursing needs of the Las Vegas area, the state of Nevada, and the region. These discussions lead to the development of the new UNLV BSN to DNP and post-masters DNP program curricula and the three focus tracks to be implemented in fall 2016, specifically: Advanced Practice (Family Nurse Practitioner [FNP]), Academic Leadership, and Nurse Executive. Two tracks (Advanced Practice, FNP) and Academic Leadership have been approved by the School of Nursing faculty, appropriate Graduate College Councils, and the NSHE Board of Regents in 2015. The third track (Nurse Executive) has been approved by the SON faculty and will be submitted to the necessary Graduate College Councils in spring 2016. It should be noted that all future assessments will be of the UNLV DNP program and will not include evaluative information from the UNDNP program or students currently being phased out.

Addendum A: 2015 CIPR Report