



Annual Report
2009 – 2010



Annual Report for Academic Year 2009 – 2010

2009 – 2010 was a year of growth, development, and preparation for Methodist College of Nursing (MCON). The Bachelor of Science (BSN) program experienced growth through the development and implementation of two additional tracks in 2010. The first new track, the Second Degree Accelerated BSN, began January 2010 with an enrollment of 22 students. The second newly developed track, the Pre-Licensure Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing was implemented Fall 2010. Thanks to these new programs, the college experienced astonishing growth in the number of students enrolled. A great deal of preparation was undertaken to ready the college for doubling the number of students from Spring semester 2010 to Fall semester 2010.



Academics

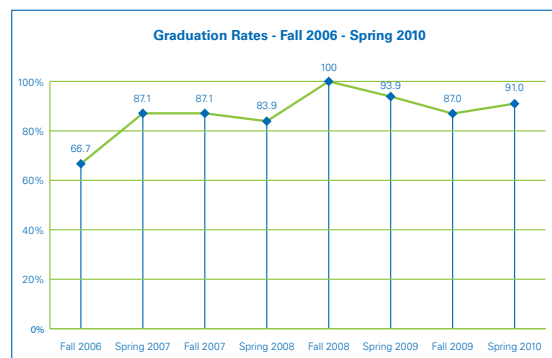
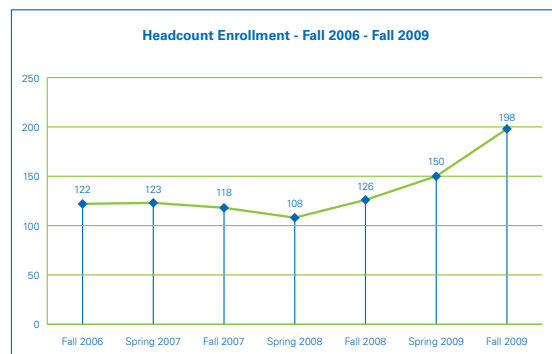
The first class of 22 students entered into the new Second Degree Accelerated BSN track this past January.

Five articulation agreements were signed with local community colleges to facilitate transition of the associate degree in nursing graduates into the RN-BSN track.

12.6 contact hours of professional education were offered through our continuing education program in the 2009-2010 academic year. This exceeded the goal of 10 contact hours.

95% of full-time faculty participated in the Graduating Student Mentoring Program. This contributed to the 91% passing rate for MCON fall and spring graduates on the NCLEX licensing exam.

Four faculty members began, or continued, pursuing their doctoral degrees. These faculty members will add to the 21% who already hold doctorates.



Faculty professional development highlights are:

1. Dr. Nancy Novotny was selected as an IBHE Nurse Educator Fellow. She was selected as one of 18 nurse educators from across the state to receive a \$10,000 award to participate in statewide nursing advocacy to address the nursing shortage in Illinois.
2. Dr. Novotny also attended the 29th International Conference on Critical Thinking.
3. Dr. Pam Ferguson attended and presented at the Teaching Professor Conference in Cambridge, MA in May 2010. Ms. Julie Mattingly attended the same conference.
4. Dr. Eli Collins-Brown and Ms. Jill Pegg presented at the December 2009 Nursing Education technology Conference in Peoria on "Using Google Docs in Courses and Clinical."
5. Ms. Jill Pegg attended the 10th Annual Nurse Educator Institute: Striving for Evidenced-Based Practice in Nursing Education in Branson, Mo. Ms. Pegg also attended "Legal Issues in Nursing Education" sponsored by the Missouri League of Nursing in Branson, Mo.
6. Dr. Linda Pendergast, Dr. Pam Ferguson, Dr. Nancy Novotny, Ms. Barb Hekel, Ms. Val Ragon and Ms. Andey Scholl attended a conference on "Redesigning Nursing Education: Challenges and Opportunities" sponsored by St. Louis University School of Nursing in St. Louis, MO.
7. Ms. Dixie Reynolds attended the American Holistic Nurses Association meeting and conference in Colorado Springs, Co. In June 2010.
8. Ms. Theresa Schwindenhammer received a University Research Grant (URG) of \$4,000.00 to fund her Lesbian, Gay, BiSexual, Trans-Sexual (LGBT) research project and submitted an article on this project. She also attended the Midwest Nursing Society Conference and presented the LGBT study.

An outcome measure followed closed by the Academic area is mean NCLEX scores of our graduates. Chart 2 demonstrates a decline in our students NCLEX scores from 2007-2009. An action plan was developed to meet the goal of increasing the NCLEX scores. The faculty developed a plan for consistent administration and use of ATI testing outcome data and they developed the Graduating Student Mentoring Program. 95% of full-time faculty participated in this program. These interventions have led to the 91% passing rate for MCON fall 2009 and spring 2010 graduates on the NCLEX licensing exam. These interventions will remain in place and faculty continue to evaluate Methodist to improve the NCLEX scores.

The Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) is administered to students prior to their beginning the upper division nursing courses. These exams identify strengths and weaknesses in the areas of reading, math, science, and English and language usage. Chart 3 below demonstrates that our students consistently scored below the national BSN mean. This is in part attributed to the fact that these scores were from students in the pre-licensure BSN completion program, however, completed prescribed general education courses at other institutions and then transferred the coursework here. This work formed the sole foundation of general education for our students. Our college had no control over these general education courses and therefore could not alter the TEAS outcomes to provide the student with a strong foundation for the nursing courses. This is some of the evidence that led MCON to end this program and replace it with a traditional pre-licensure BSN that would give us greater control over the general education component of the BSN program. The earliest data to measure the effect of this new program on TEAS testing outcomes will not be available until 2012 when the TEAS are administered to students entering the upper division in nursing. To provide all students with academic support and remediation, the Academic Support Center was expanded to add an RN BSN prepared staff member and hire a specialist in remedial education to manage the center. This has led to a much improved support and delivery in the areas of both general education and nursing. This is supported by charts 4 and 5 that show a very low attrition rate and high graduation rate for our students.



Informational Technology

The computer lab was expanded to 52 computers for students' use. Plus, a second computer lab was added to the college providing an additional 48 computers. This also provides us an additional lab for instruction and testing.

Fifty laptop computers and two storage carts have been purchased. These computers are used for classroom testing and instruction. This allows the computer labs to be more accessible for student use and instruction.

An additional Smartboard has been purchased and has been a positive addition to instruction.



Business, Advancement and Alumni Affairs

The college completed the 2009-2010 fiscal year under budget with more than \$500,000 of revenue over expenses. MCON is very reliant on tuition and fees for its revenue and that is the majority of the revenue. A strategic initiative for the 2010-2013 strategic plan is to grow the endowment fund by 100% thus eventually providing an additional revenue stream for the college. MCON's Foundation funds increased by 4% in 2009-10.

Twenty-three scholarships were awarded during the 2009-2010 academic year with recipients and donors being honored at a reception in April.

Ninety-five alumni attended the annual reunion luncheon and events in June. Following the lunch, alumni enjoyed tours of MCON and MMCI, as well as happy hour and a Peoria Chiefs baseball game.

Mary Hunsley, a 1970 graduate, was recognized with the 2010 Alumni of the Year award. Mary is newly retired from MMCI after 30 years of service.

In May 2010, a new campus store was opened. It is located on the first floor of the college and provides apparel, food and other items to our students.

Instructional Technology and Faculty Development

The first Topic in Pedagogy series was offered this year. Each faculty member chose a topic salient to nursing education, researched it and then presented it to his/her peers. Among the topics presented were Student-Centered teaching, Educative Assessment and Conceptual Learning.

Use of a digital clinical evaluation tool was expanded using Google Docs. This has enabled students to be more timely in completing the tool, and faculty more timely in returning the graded tool to the student.

Our faculty continues to assess the learners and strive to provide instruction that best meets the learners' needs. This has led to faculty initiating the utilization of many new teaching strategies many using the latest advances in instructional technology.

Our faculty worked to develop the curricula for the two new BSN tracks while revising the existing BSN completion tracks to assure all of our students receive a cutting edge nursing education.

Student Services

More online processes have been adopted in Financial Aid and the Registrar's office in order to reduce the number of direct mailings to current students.

The Admission's Office recruiting efforts have resulted in 167 qualified applicants for 75 slots for the last class of the pre-licensure BSN completion program, 313 qualified applicants for 90 slots for the new pre-licensure baccalaureate degree program, 89 qualified applicants for 40 slots in the second degree accelerated BSN track, and 28 qualified applicants for 15 slots in the RN-BSN track.

The new Second Degree BSN track was started in the spring semester. There are no RN-BSN admissions in spring as students in that track are only admitted once a year in fall semester. Yield rates are very high at almost 100% for each track, with the exception of the RN-BSN which is 50%.

Student Services continues to work to increase the percent of males and minority students. The percent of males has been at 10% for the past year, but the minority percent has dropped from 15% in spring 2009 to 11% in fall 2009. The present (Fall 2010) minority rate is 13.6%. However, MCON is very typical of most nursing colleges. While nursing programs are made up predominantly of white females, MCON will continue working to increase the numbers of male and minority students.

Institutional Effectiveness

A Director of Institutional Effectiveness was hired and MCON has made developing a true culture of assessment one of our strategic initiatives in the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan. To that end, a new assessment plan has been developed and is driven by the college mission, goals and Strategic Plan, with a well developed planning and institutional effectiveness framework.

In 2009-10 a new strategic plan was developed for 2010-2013. This process included all internal and external constituencies. The new strategic plan has five strategic initiatives. One of the initiatives is to create a culture of assessment and evidence based decision making. An assessment of the 2006-2011 strategic plan was conducted demonstrating 83% of goals and objectives were met.

Planning and assessment are integrated within the budgeting process. The assessment activity includes assessment of major programs, various units within student services, and all other divisions within the college.

These assessments allow us to fulfill our goal of continuous improvement.

Human Resources

With the projected growth for academic year 2010-2011 seven full-time faculty positions and seven part-time staff positions were added. In addition there are fourteen adjunct faculty members who were contracted for work for fall semester. It is important to note that even with the nationwide nursing faculty shortage MCON was able to fill these positions.

Safety was a high priority with the following measures implemented:

- A campus safety survey was developed and administered, thus assisting us in being pro-active on safety issues and creating a safe environment for students, faculty and staff
- Additional parking space acquired to meet student demand
- Installation of an ATM machine in the college to permit students safe access for financial transactions
- Installation of six 911 phones, and additional outdoor cameras for monitoring

Building Additions and Improvements

2009-2010 was a year of significant growth and change within our college building. The following work was completed:

- Acquiring and remodeling sixth floor and moving administrative and academic support offices to this floor
- Remodeling third floor from an administrative to dormitory floor
- Addition of two offices for Instructional and Information Technology Director and staff member
- Addition of a campus store on the first floor
- Addition of six emergency phones throughout the outside campus and parking areas
- Addition of two additional outdoor cameras for safety
- Addition of outdoor lights for safety purposes throughout campus
- Remodeling of first floor restrooms
- Addition of six microwaves in basement commons area for student use
- Addition of tables and chairs in commons areas on main level and basement level for student use



2009-2010 was an exciting year. It was a year during which everyone worked diligently to prepare for the increased numbers of students enrolled for fall semester 2010. The planned growth led to much preparation - from building additions and renovations, to the hiring of additional staff and faculty. While we grow it is always of paramount importance to assure that we are offering the finest nursing education while maintaining our focus on the student as an individual.





College of Nursing

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