



SARANAC LAKE . MALONE, TICONDEROGA

February 21, 2023

Dr. Fatemeh (Shadi) Shahedipour-Sandvik, Ph.D.
Provost-in-Charge
SUNY System Administration
H. Carl McCall Building
353 Broadway
Albany, New York 12246

Re: North Country Community College –*Associate Degree in Nursing*

Dear Dr. Shahedipour-Sandvik:

I hope this finds you well. On behalf of North Country Community College, I am writing with regard to a proposal to expand the college's current *AAS- Associate Degree in Nursing Program* (HEGIS 5208), which would provide additional opportunities for licensed practical nurses to become registered nurses. The proposed changes will increase the capacity of NCCC's current Associate Degree in Nursing program from 72 to 104 students accepted annually.

North Country Community College's administration and nursing faculty recommend this expansion to help meet the demand for registered nurses in the North Country region. Approved by our governance structure, the proposed expansion is ready for your office's review. Attached to this cover letter is a narrative that outlines the details of the proposal.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Maroun'.

Sarah Maroun
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
North Country Community College
23 Santanoni Ave
Saranac Lake, NY 12983-0089(518)
891-2915 ext. 1203
smaroun@nccc.edu

Attached Appendix 1: Narrative Re: Proposed Expansion



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Proposed Program Expansion: Associate Degree in Nursing

North Country Community College proposes to expand the Associate Degree in Nursing program (*HEGIS 5280*) beginning in January of 2024. This proposal would allow the college to train up to 32 new students through remote, synchronous lectures combined with a traditional clinical experience.

Currently, NCCC's nursing program consists of a one-plus-one format with a one-year Practical Nursing Certificate that prepares students to either enter the workforce or continue for one more year to complete the Associate Degree in Nursing program (AAS). The current program is offered in a traditional, face-to-face format with in-person clinicals scheduled at area healthcare facilities. The Practical Nursing program generally admits 104 students across three campuses in Saranac Lake (40 students), Malone (40 students), and Ticonderoga (24 students). The AAS Nursing program admits 72 students across those same three campuses with 24 students admitted at each campus.

These two programs have successfully provided qualified and competent nurses to fill the open positions in communities across the North Country region. Despite those successes and robust numbers of nursing graduates, regional healthcare partners still struggle to fill open nursing positions in the region at both the practical and registered nurse levels. Limitations to expanding the programs primarily exist with clinical placement options for the traditionally scheduled nursing program. The other limiting factor for the AAS program is the requirement to attend classes during the day, when many of the LPN candidates have employment at local physician offices and healthcare facilities. Forced adjustments to instructional practices during the COVID-19 pandemic provided some models for how the College can deliver quality didactic instruction within healthcare programs such as nursing outside of the traditional model. One of those models is proposed here to expand the AAS Nursing Program.

All aspects of the current AAS Nursing program would remain with this expansion with two exceptions: 1) acceptance of 30 applicants to begin the AAS program in January as opposed to August, and 2) Didactic instruction will be provided in a synchronous, remote format during the evening hours. The curriculum and clinical framework will remain the same as will all other expectations and requirements. The only adjustments will be adding the delivery modality of remote, synchronous instruction.

An important note to address is the curricular changes to both the PN and ADN programs that were approved in December of 2022. In the original submission, we indicated that the PN program change would take effect in August of 2023 while the ADN program changes would go into effect in August of 2024. If approved for this expansion, we request that the curriculum changes begin in January of 2024.