

Office of Nursing Research & Scholarship

October 24, 2014

To whom it may concern:

I have had the privilege to review the proposed interdisciplinary PhD program in Health Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Nursing, Las Vegas, Nevada. This innovative program considers the complex and unique resources needed to answer complex research questions. This program is bringing together four disciplines, Nursing, Rehabilitation Sciences, Medical Physics and Kinesiology, to work in partnership to create an academic environment that prepares students to work with diverse disciplines to successfully approach a program of study. This PhD in interdisciplinary health sciences also responds to the growing demand from federal funding agencies to have an interdisciplinary team approach to tackle the difficult and complicated problems society and health care are mandated to approach.

According to this proposal the Interdisciplinary PhD program in Health Sciences will provide students from different disciplines opportunities to work together and use the expertise of each other to address complex healthcare problems. More importantly, the curriculum utilizes team science to prepare all students to create functioning teams to solve problems that interface with different disciplines. Again, interdisciplinary research has been the recent focus of federal health funding agencies; however, there are few programs that offer an interdisciplinary educational approach like the one presented in this proposal. Since there are so few programs, this represents a great opportunity for the University of Nevada Las Vegas to be a leader in healthcare innovation.

I think this would be an important contribution to higher education. My experience here with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Translational Science PhD program, an interdisciplinary program linked to our Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA) Institute, supports your anticipated benefits of an interdisciplinary PhD program in Health Sciences at your institution. I wish you success in your development of your program.

Sincerely,



Carrie Jo Braden, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor and Associate Dean for Research