**CLASSIFIED STAFF NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPLICATION**

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| Name of Person Submitting Request: | **Priscilla E. Taylor**  **Tamara Maurizi** | | | |
| Program or Service Area: | **Nursing** | | | |
| Division: | **Science** | | | |
| When was the last Program Efficacy document completed? | **Spring 2008** | | | |
| What rating was given? | **continuation** | | | |
| Current number of Classified Staff: | 2FT |  | PT |  |
| Position Requested | **Simulator Technician Support Specialist (lab tech)** | | | |

1. Provide a rationale for your request.

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| One teaching method that is receiving increasing interest from nursing educators is computer-integrated simulation. Two of the major challenges that confront nursing educators are the accelerating need for education of students and the imperative to maintain and improve patient safety in a rapidly changing healthcare milieu. This educational mission will not be achieved with traditional approaches alone. The educationalists tell us that adult learners absorb and retain more knowledge and are able to apply their understanding to new problems if their learning is experiential and immersive. Simulation in its many forms and faces offers incredible promise for advancement of education technique in nursing. Patient safety depends on the performance of highly skilled individuals.  For simulation to be successful it requires a Simulator Technical Support Specialist, the instructor, and students. The specialist is responsible for getting the simulator ready, this includes preparing the scenario on the computer, getting the supplies, references, and special directions and planning from the instructor. The specialist actually runs the scenario on the computer and the instructor is with the students, directing and guiding them. The specialist would have the responsibility of ensuring that computer programming, the video camera, audio, hand held controller, and any other equipment necessary to that scenario are operational. The specialist would ensure the coordination of scenarios “go live” checklists and be familiar with each simulator and scenarios that will be used. It is impossible for just the instructor to run a successful simulation scenario because the responsibility of the instructor is to guide the student through the scenario and not run the computer based simulator.  A Simulator Technical Support Specialist, an expert in this field, would be able to assist the nursing students with this learning style. The Specialist would remain current in the field of simulation and regularly attend classes. As new simulators are purchased, additional training would be required. Nursing instructors do not have the freedom to devote all their time to simulation. It is often a hit-and-miss situation, only being able to use the simulators when the instructors have time. The future of nursing education will rely more heavily on patient simulators due to limited clinical experiences in the hospital. |

1. Indicate how the content of the EMP One-Sheet and latest Program Efficacy Report support this request. How is the request tied to program planning? (*Reference the page number(s) where the information can be found on the EMP and Program Efficacy).*

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| According to page 52 of the EMP, the number of graduating students continues to increase with a low number in 2007-2008 but overall, increasing with each year. In order to meet the needs of the growing number of students, simulation with case scenarios are necessary to enable all students to become involved. A program goal is to improve the success rate of students to 90% by 2011. Simulation, bed side experiences will instill the hands-on knowledge needed by the students to succeed, not only in the clinical settings, but on the state board exam.  Reviewing the Program Efficacy from Spring, 2008, page 9, it states that patient care scenarios on computer software and simulation mannequins are being used to supplement, improve, or provide access to nursing situations. On-going training is necessary to utilize these simulation mannequins successfully. A simulator technical support specialist would be available to continue with this training and provide the latest nursing changes occurring everyday. Faculty has other student responsibility that makes it impossible to attend the necessary training classes that are offered each month. |

1. Indicate if there is additional information you wish the committee to consider *(for example: regulatory information, compliance, updated efficiency and/or student success data or planning etc).*

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| Simulation is an event or situation made to resemble clinical practice as closely as possible. Simulation can be used to teach theory, assessment, technology, pharmacology, and skills. The emphasis in simulation is often on the application and integration of knowledge, skills, and critical thinking. Simulation allows learners to function in an environment that is as close as possible to an actual clinical situation and provides them an opportunity to “think on their feet.” Learning in adults is most effective when the environment is both participative and interactive and learners receive immediate feedback from a technician. |

1. Evaluation of related costs (including any ongoing maintenance or updates) and identification of any alternative or ongoing funding sources. (for example Department Budget, VTEA or Perkins)

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| There would not be any alternate or ongoing funding sources. |

1. What are the consequences of not filling this position?

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| In the clinical setting, instructors do not have control over the types of experiences a learner will have or the conditions under which skills can be observed, learned, or practiced. As technology advances, our ability to simulate patients’ situations will become more sophisticated. Virtual reality is a reality in many aspects of education and training. Nursing is fast paced and requires a high level of attention to details, quick assessment skills, and critical thinking. These skills are difficult to teach and are best learned through experience and practice. Simulations allow the opportunity to learn and practice nursing skills in a controlled and safe environment. Simulation incorporates the concepts of communication, caring, team work, collaboration, prioritization, and safety into the nursing courses.  Without a highly trained, simulator technician specialist, the nursing students will not gain this one on one experience. The nursing instructors are trained to use the simulators but do not have the specialized training needed and are unable to attend the monthly updating classes due to class responsibilities. |