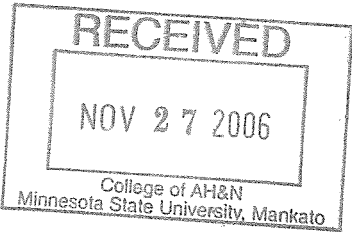


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**IPESL Grant Application**  
**(Initiative to Promote Excellence in Student Learning)**  
**Minnesota State University, Mankato**

**PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

Title of Project: Advancing Critical Thinking in the School of Nursing

Name: Dr. Sandra K. Eggenberger

Are you full-time faculty in 2006-2007? Yes  
(fixed-term faculty are not eligible to apply)

Do you plan to return to MSU in 2007-2008? Yes

e-mail: sandra.eggenberger@mnsu.edu

Campus Address: 360 Wissink Hall

Campus Phone: 389-6821

College: College of Allied Health and Nursing

Department: School of Nursing

Spring Semester Schedule:  
List times when available to participate in Learning Communities and workshops.

Mondays: none

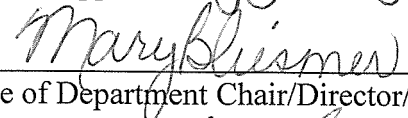
Tuesdays: 10-9pm

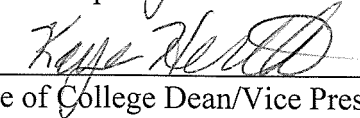
Wednesdays: 10-9pm

Thursdays: 10-9pm

Fridays: none

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Department Chair/Director/Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of College Dean/Vice President

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**IPESL Grant Application**  
(Initiative to Promote Excellence in Student Learning)  
Minnesota State University, Mankato

**PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

Title of Project: Advancing Critical Thinking in the School of Nursing

Name: Dr. Norma Krumwiede

Are you full-time faculty in 2006-2007?                      Yes  
(fixed-term faculty are not eligible to apply)

Do you plan to return to MSU in 2007-2008?                      Yes

e-mail: norma.krumwiede@mnsu.edu

Campus Address: WH 360

Campus Phone: 507-389-6822

College: College of Allied Health and Nursing

Department: School of Nursing

Spring Semester Schedule:

List times when available to participate in Learning Communities and workshops.


Mondays: 1-4


Tuesdays: Not available


Wednesdays: 1pm-9pm

Thursdays: Not available

Fridays: 8-12

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Department Chair/Director/Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of College Dean/Vice President

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**IPESL Grant Application**  
**(Initiative to Promote Excellence in Student Learning)**  
**Minnesota State University, Mankato**

**PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

Title of Project: Advancing Critical Thinking in the School of Nursing

Name: Dr. Patricia Young

Are you full-time faculty in 2006-2007? Yes  
(fixed-term faculty are not eligible to apply)

Do you plan to return to MSU in 2007-2008? Yes

e-mail: patricia.young@mnsu.edu

Campus Address: WH 360

Campus Phone: 507-389-6824

College: College of Allied Health and Nursing

Department: School of Nursing

Spring Semester Schedule:

List times when available to participate in Learning Communities and workshops.

Mondays: none

Tuesdays: 10am-9pm

Wednesdays: 1pm-9pm

Thursdays: 10am-2pm

Fridays: none

Patricia Young 11/27/06  
Signature of Applicant

Mary Blaesmer 11/27/06  
Signature of Department Chair/Director/Supervisor

Kyle Skott  
Signature of College Dean/Vice President

**IPESL Grant Application**  
(Initiative to Promote Excellence in Student Learning)  
Minnesota State University, Mankato

1. Title of Project: Advancing Critical Thinking in the School of Nursing
2. Explain the purpose of your project:

This collaborative project addresses curricular and programmatic needs in the School of Nursing (SON). The project aims to enhance critical thinking in 250 undergraduate students through clinical nursing courses; cultivate nursing faculty knowledge, skill, and competency in advancing students' critical thinking; and explicate a new assessment strategy for SON program evaluation.

This project is significant for the SON because it responds to faculty concerns about using part-time faculty to teach clinical courses. Prepared as advanced practice nurses to think critically in patient care situations, most of the 29 part-time fixed-term or adjunct SON faculty are not prepared to teach in higher education, specifically, to hone critical thinking in others. One aspect of this project addresses this situation through the development of two resources: 1) specific modules to enhance student critical thinking through nine different clinical courses, and 2) a "tool kit" to cultivate faculty knowledge, skill, and competency for advancing critical thinking.

Furthermore, this project is significant for the SON since critical thinking, currently defined as "the application of purposeful and self-regulatory judgments in analysis, interpretation and evaluation," is one outcome measure for undergraduate program evaluation. The California Critical Thinking Dispositions Inventory has been administered to students on beginning and ending the curriculum for the past 15 years. Responding to faculty concerns about the appropriateness of this instrument for nursing

students, another aspect of this project analyzes research findings and develops an assessment tool for program evaluation that reflects the kind of critical thinking advanced through contemporary nursing education.

3. Describe your project and how it will enhance students' critical thinking:

This collaborative project advances student nurses' critical thinking through the development, implementation and assessment of new support mechanisms. It creates a comprehensive, curricular approach to teaching critical thinking across five semesters through nine clinical courses that cultivates student critical thinking developmentally in diverse and increasingly complex clinical settings. Individual course modules will support faculty teaching in nine clinical contexts (e.g., child-health, mental-health, community-health) by providing clinical judgment scenarios, reflection on experience activities, questions for post-conference discussion, means of assessing critical thinking, and other active learning exercises that both reinforce and build critical thinking. Additionally, an on-line critical thinking tool kit will provide support for all SON faculty teaching in clinical contexts by providing a template for teaching and assessing critical thinking in clinical; exemplars of excellent teaching of critical thinking; a contrast grid of key differences between critical thinking, clinical judgment, reflective thinking, and coaching; links to significant Internet resources; a list of frequently asked questions; and a bibliography. This tool kit enhances students' critical thinking by providing support and strengthening faculty knowledge, skill, and competency for teaching critical thinking.

Furthermore, this collaborative project develops and implements a new means of assessing student nurses' critical thinking as developed across a curriculum. Conducting a comprehensive review of the literature and evaluating each study for its fit and feasibility

with SON standards provides a basis for developing a new assessment tool to use at the beginning and end of the curriculum in conjunction with a programmatic approach to critical thinking development.

#### 4. How will you assess the results of your completed project?

Formative assessment will be integral in the development of this project. In addition to consulting with the SON Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, proposal collaborators will present the project at two SON faculty meetings during spring semester and elicit feedback through both discussion and a written survey. This assessment data will then be used to guide subsequent development of course modules, a tool kit, and a program assessment tool. Summative assessment will occur in summer following presentation of final course modules, tool kit, and assessment tool and faculty will be given a post-test of their knowledge, skill, and competency for teaching critical thinking. The new assessment tool will be implemented with 250 students as a baseline assessment of critical thinking at the beginning of the curriculum prior to the start of fall semester. Assessment of change in student critical thinking is a long-term process dictated by the SON program evaluation plan.

#### 5. How will you disseminate your project and its results?

The project products reflect local, regional and national dissemination. A continuing education workshop on advancing critical thinking in contemporary nursing students will be held during summer for faculty in the region. This workshop will encompass course module and tool kit content and explication of the new curricular assessment tool. The tool kit itself will be located on the MSU Nursing Faculty Organization Desire2Learn website for access by SON faculty beginning in summer and will be updated annually.

An abstract for project presentation at the college colloquium and the National League for Nursing Education Summit 2007 in Phoenix will be submitted.

6. How will your project support department/university goals?

The strength of this project is the collaboration of three faculty members to address programmatic needs in the School of Nursing. It supports college and university goals of enhancing academic excellence in undergraduate studies and enhancing teacher education offerings, and college goals of supporting on-line initiatives and collaborative scholarship.