1. Description of the School

The University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Nursing, established in 1924, is the leading nursing research institution in Wisconsin and a crucial part of the state's health care system. As an integral academic partner situated in the health sciences sector of campus with the School of Medicine and Public Health and the School of Pharmacy, the School of Nursing collaborates with scientists and renowned researchers across the UW–Madison campus, the nation, and the world. The school's research is translational in nature and grounded in practical application—the work being done has an immediate impact on Wisconsin's communities, hospitals, clinics, schools, and homes.

The School of Nursing offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BS), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD). Postdoctoral training opportunities are also available. Enrollment in fall 2012 was 842 students, including 380 pre-nursing students.

**Bachelor of Science Program**

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program prepares women and men for careers in professional nursing in hospitals and other health care agencies. The program provides a foundation for progressing to positions of increased responsibility, leadership, and continued education in graduate programs. Upon successful completion of the program at either location, students receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from UW–Madison School of Nursing.

**RN to BS (BSN@Home) Program**

Registered nurses who hold a diploma or a degree from a two-year college and wish to earn a baccalaureate degree can complete the RN to BS program. The BSN@Home program is a collaborative degree offered through the five schools of nursing in the UW-System. Through this program, students deepen their knowledge of nursing theory and practice through both core and elective courses. The program is offered either full-time or part-time via the Internet. A goal of the program is to provide access so that students may pursue their education without having to relocate.

**Early Entry PhD Option**

The Early Entry PhD Option in nursing is an innovative program designed for undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing a research career. With the assistance of a faculty advisory committee, early entry students plan an individualized program of study and research, drawing on existing undergraduate and graduate courses in nursing and related disciplines. The option consists of early and intensive research training, clinical practice, and required and recommended coursework.
Two degrees are awarded to students who complete this option—a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BS), granted by the UW–Madison School of Nursing and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), granted by the UW–Madison Graduate School.

BS in Nursing to Master of Public Health Degree
The School of Nursing and the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program in the School of Medicine and Public Health have partnered to offer an advanced placement BS in Nursing to MPH degree option. The option seeks to strengthen the public health nursing workforce by educating master’s prepared public health nurses to provide population-based services and health education in the prevention of diseases and promotion of health in communities. Graduates of this option are able to complete a BS in Nursing and MPH degree in an accelerated fashion over five years (three years from admission to the nursing major). Graduates are prepared for a wide range of nursing and public health practice positions.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program
The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a clinical doctorate degree. The purpose of the program is to prepare nurses for leadership roles in advanced nursing practice by providing them with the requisite knowledge and skills to influence health care practice for the future. Students prepare for roles as clinical nurse specialists or nurse practitioners in their selected population focus (adult/gerontology, pediatrics, or psychiatric mental health). Those interested in dual preparation as an advanced practice nurse and nurse educator may add a nursing education focus.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing
The purpose of the Ph.D. program in nursing is to prepare nurses to assume major roles in the development, evaluation, and dissemination of knowledge about phenomena of interest in nursing. The program is characterized by early and continuous training in research, a strong scientific base in nursing, and a minor in a related discipline. Graduates with a research doctorate are prepared to assume positions as faculty as well as research scientists and research directors in a variety of educational, clinical and governmental settings.

2. Administrative structure for assessment, including external forces such as accreditation, resources for assessment and audiences for assessment

Internal Structure
The School of Nursing views evaluation as a continuous ongoing process. Faculty, committees, ad hoc groups, students, and staff work together to exchange information, ideas, and opinions and to identify problems, find solutions and disseminate information. Assessment of the curriculum is done in the undergraduate and graduate program committees and brought for review and discussion to the faculty as a whole in the Departmental Council. Subgroups are formed, as necessary, to review specific assessment initiatives. The Student Services Coordinator for Assessment, Career Services, and Special Events coordinates and administers the assessment plan activities.

External Structure
The School has specialized accreditation in the discipline at the national level through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for both the graduate and undergraduate programs. The baccalaureate program is also approved by the Wisconsin State Board of Nursing.

At the graduate level, the School of Nursing provides curriculum information to several professional credentialing agencies that certify graduates for advanced practice. CCNE granted accreditation to the Doctor of Nurse Practice (DNP) program in 2012 for 5 years. The next site visit will be in the fall of 2016. In the Spring of 2012, the PhD program went through a program review conducted by the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee (GFEC). Overall, the committee was impressed with by the high quality of the nursing doctoral program and the faculty and staff’s commitment to PhD education and the training of doctoral students. Though the committee identified many strengths of the existing PhD program, the members had several recommendations to help ensure that the program remains a leader in training the next generation of nursing researchers. The School of Nursing took the recommendations seriously and is responding with care to each issue.

Assessment is valued and recognized as an important function in the School, and therefore, monies are allocated for this purpose on an ongoing basis. The School purchases a commercially developed exit and alumni survey for both undergraduates and graduates through a partnership with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and Educational Benchmarking, Inc. The advantage of this tool is that both over-time and across peer school comparative data are provided.

Audiences for assessment include the Provost, School of Nursing faculty, staff and students, North Central Accreditation, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and Wisconsin State Board of Nursing.

3. Overview of current practice

The School of Nursing has two assessment plans (one for baccalaureate and one for graduate education) that guide activities to assess program effectiveness. Copies of the two documents are included in this report (see pages 4-7).

4/5. Directions for improvement, further development, inquiry or closing gaps and Assessment agenda for the future, next five years

1. Progress report to Graduate School regarding the PhD program (May 2013)
2. Progress report to CCNE regarding the DNP program (December 2014)
3. Progress report to CCNE regarding the Undergraduate program (June 2015)
4. Develop and conduct employer/preceptor surveys
5. Complete ongoing studies of the DNP and PhD programs (Provost/RWJ funded)