SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REVIEW
Western Nevada College
Associate of Applied Science, Nursing

I. Description of Program Reviewed
The program prepares qualified students to function as entry-level registered nurses and transfer to higher degree programs. The curriculum incorporates the National League for Nursing core components of nursing practice that are essential to the work of registered nurses. Graduates are prepared to function in a variety of health care settings, providing culturally sensitive, holistic nursing care to individuals and families across the lifespan. The nursing faculty supports graduate competency in an evolving and complex health care environment by facilitating the students' development of clinical judgment, promoting professional behaviors, and fostering lifelong learning.

II. Review Process and Criteria
At the halfway point through the program’s eight-year accreditation cycle (WNC’s nursing program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission), nursing faculty examined enrollment data, course content, curriculum, and program costs. All nursing faculty were involved in setting goals, assessing outcomes, and identifying program strengths and weaknesses.

III. Major Findings and Conclusions of the Program Review
The following are the major strengths of the program that were identified during the review process:
- The program continues to have a high retention and graduation rate.
- The pass rate on the NCLEX-RN examination remains at 90% or better.
- The program has state-of-the-art equipment and supplies for medical, surgical, pediatrics and maternal/child health courses.
- Program faculty generate and analyze data in order to make informed decisions and changes.
- Two faculty members are enrolled in PhD programs, and one already holds a doctorate degree.
- Faculty approved increasing Mental Health and Illness Theory course credits from one to two in order to better address the mental health needs of patients.
- Pharmacology content that was previously taught entirely in the first semester will now be taught over two semesters so that pharmacology instruction coincides with medical surgical nursing courses in the second semester.
- Faculty are undertaking a curriculum-mapping project to ensure that recently implemented curriculum changes remain in compliance with the Nevada State Board of Nursing curriculum requirements and that content outlined in the National Council State Board of Nursing Test Plan is embedded in the curriculum. The faculty on the College’s Curriculum Committee are well-qualified to assist in this effort.

The following are challenges facing the nursing program and recommendations (in italics) related to the challenges:
- The increased use of part-time faculty over the last three years has created a need for a more formal orientation and mentoring process for new faculty.

*The Nursing Program Faculty Committee will develop a formal orientation and mentoring program and a Nursing Program Faculty Handbook to go into effect in fall 2009.*
• The operations budget for the Nursing & Allied Health Division was reduced by 5% and then an additional 5% in the fall of 2008 due to decreased funding from the state. 
  *Continue to pursue private funding for the nursing program.*

• The program lacks adequate laboratory space to house its state-of-the-art supplies and equipment for pediatric and maternal/child health learning experiences. 
  *Nursing faculty will make the case for additional laboratory space to the WNC Facilities Committee.*

• Return rates for graduate and employer surveys need to be improved. 
  *Nursing faculty will phone survey participants to encourage better response rates.*

### IV. Descriptive Statistics

A. **Number of students with declared major in the program area:**

   2008-09*  
   58

B. **Number of graduates from the program for the following years:**

   - 2006-07  
   45
   - 2007-08  
   50
   - 2008-09*  
   45

C. **Headcount of students enrolled in any course related to the program (duplicated):**

   - Fall 2008  
   288

* Does not include summer 2009.