School of Professional Studies Draft Report for the MSCHE Self Study

**I. Program Development**

**A. Introduction: Program Development**

Trinity has a long history of providing market- relevant academic programs through its School of Professional Studies (formerly the Weekend College). Over recent years, the School of Professional Studies (SPS) has developed the School of Nursing and Health Professions and the School of Business and Graduate Programs. Middle States Standard 11 expects an institution to have quality programs that display academic sufficient content, rigor, and coherence with the mission of the institution. Through the self-study process, the School of Professional Studies (SPS) analyzed its academic offerings and made critical decisions about existing programs, while working to develop new programs for working students at the undergraduate level. Some of the programs are the result of critical partnerships with the School of Education and the School of Nursing and Health Professions. These new programs are market- relevant, mission driven, and have clearly defined academic standards and outcomes. They meet the needs of the community of learners that Trinity serves and will drive enrollment growth.

**B. Data Snapshots and Discussion**

1. Trends of Enrollment for Undergraduate Academic Programs (Fall 2007 to Fall 2014)

This chart shows the enrollment trends for the past seven years in the traditional programs in the School of Professional Studies. Due to challenges with the passage rates for part- time adult transfer students on the NCLEX, the test for Registered Nurses, the School of Professional Studies discontinued new enrollment in the Pre-Nursing (PNURS) program in 2013. This caused the sharp decline in enrollment in that major as noted above. There is also some decline in the Business Administration and Human Relations degrees which indicate a need for a deeper market presence and the further cultivation of these degrees into powerhouses for the university.

2. New Program (Since Fall 2013) Undergraduate Enrollment in SPS

New programs were carefully developed with academic partners and in review of market trends and industry growth. The needs of the target population of urban adult minority learners were also taken into consideration in the development of new programs, and they are aligned to industry standards (i.e. SHRM) or certifications (i.e. the CPA license).

**C. Findings and Action Steps**

Key Findings:

* SPS needed to discontinue its Pre- Nursing Program due to challenges with the passage rates for the NCLEX
* SPS needed to develop new programs to offset the loss of the Pre- Nursing Program, and those programs needed to be market- relevant and targeted to the working student population
* The Business Administration degree needed revitalization to regain market share
* The Human Relations program is losing market share and needed further revitalization

Action Steps:

* SPS collaborated with the School of Nursing and Health Professions (NHP) to deliver the Health Science degree with tracks in Health & Wellness, Pre- Occupational Therapy and Pre- Physical Therapy
* SPS also delivers the pre-requisite courses for the NHP Occupational Therapy Assistant degree; this is the POTA program.
* SPS revitalized its Human Relations program was revised to offer tracks in pre- counseling and pre- social work and realigned with the CAS program for consistency
* SPS developed degrees in Accounting, Human Resource Management, and Hospitality Management that align with top twenty industries in the District of Columbia
* SPS collaborated with the School of Education (EDU) to capitalize on new regulations in the District of Columbia requiring childcare workers to obtain an Associate’s degree with the development of the AA and BA degrees in Early Childhood Education

**D. Recommendations**

The School of Professional Studies does not have any recommendations at this time.