

College of Nursing – Post Master’s Certificate Program

Current Catalog Language	Proposed Catalog Language
<p>Post-Master’s Certificate in Nursing</p> <p>The Post-Master’s Certificate, also known as the Nursing Certificate Program (N.U.R.C.P.), offers students who hold a master’s degree in nursing an opportunity to specialize in an area of nursing not covered in their initial master’s program.</p> <p>The program of studies consists of specialty courses in the chosen area (at least 15 graduate credit hours) to be designated by the Concentration Advisor or faculty in the specialty area. Course work must be completed within three years and a 3.0 (B) average is required. Contact concentration coordinator for admission and curriculum details.</p>	<p>Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing</p> <p>The Post-Master’s Certificate, also known as the Nursing Certificate Program (N.U.R.C.P.), offers students who hold a master’s degree in nursing an opportunity to specialize in an area of nursing not covered in their initial master’s program. Please refer to the College of Nursing web site for information about the concentrations currently offered as well as the basic MSN program of studies for each concentrations.</p> <p>Post-master’s students must meet UNM and College of Nursing admission requirements and submit all documents requested for evaluation of previous course work prior to admission.</p> <p>There are 3 distinct tracks within the post-master’s certificate program (see description below). Tracks A and B prepare nurses in one of the advanced practice specialty concentrations (Adult / Gero Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Midwife). Track C prepares Nurse Educators. Students enter Track A, B or C depending on their previous educational preparation and their educational goals. An individualized program of studies is developed by the coordinator of the chosen specialty concentration and is based on consideration of previous coursework work in relation to the requirements of the chosen specialty (gap analysis) as well as recent clinical experience. Sequencing of courses is identical to that of the MSN program of studies for each concentration. Students must complete a minimum of 15 graduate credit hours in the specialty concentration, maintain a 3.0 (B) GPA, and demonstrate achievement of all concentration expected outcomes. Course work must be completed within three years.</p> <p>Track A is for students who have an MSN in an area other than advanced practice (ie, and MSN in Nursing Education, Clinical Nurse Leader, Nursing Administration, Clinical Nurse Specialist) and who wish to become a nurse practitioner or nurse midwife.</p> <p>Track B is for students who already have an MSN in an advanced practice concentration, as either a nurse practitioner or a nurse midwife, and who wish to expand their practice by adding an additional population focus (for example, a Nurse Midwife who wishes to become a Family Nurse Practitioner)</p> <p>Track C is for students who have an MSN in an area other than Nursing Education who wish to add a nurse educator certificate to their credentials.</p>

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Justification for program:

The College of Nursing (CON) currently administers a Master's in Nursing (MSN) program which includes several distinct areas of study: nursing education, nursing administration, and advanced practice nursing (APRN). Within the advanced practice track students can concentrate in the following areas: Adult / Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (A/GACNP), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Nurse Midwifery, and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP). Most students enter one of these concentrations as an MSN student after completing their BS in Nursing. On occasion a student who has previously obtained an MSN wishes to complete additional work in an area that is different from their previous degree. Typically these students have either an MSN in a non-advanced practice clinical area (ie, nursing education or administration) and wish to become a Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Midwife or they are already a Nurse Practitioner / Nurse Midwife and wish to expand their scope of practice through additional education (ie, a Nurse Midwife who wants to add the Family Nurse Practitioner certificate). This leads to a Post Master's APRN Certificate.

Historically, the Post MSN APRN Certificate path was not considered a separate program in the CON. Students studying for a Post-MSN Certificate were admitted as students in one of the concentrations (A/GACNP, FNP, Midwifery, PNP) and their program of studies was individualized, taking into account course work completed in their original MSN program as well as the courses needed to complete the Post-MSN certificate. Recently, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), the accrediting body for the CON MSN programs, changed its requirements for Post-MSN Advance Practice Certificate programs, requiring that they be considered separate programs, distinct from the individual advanced practice concentrations in which the basic MSN students are enrolled. They do not require separate course work, only that there is a unique Post-MSN Certificate Program with a clearly defined mechanism for assessing student's past course work and establishing a program of studies for each post-MSN student.

This form C application reflects the establishment of this certificate as a unique program – the Post MSN APRN Certificate program. An overview of the program, outlining admission criteria and 2 tracks of study, is attached. There are no new courses associated with this program; students will continue to be integrated into the existing master's degree APRN tracks / course work.

Impact for Long Range Planning

This proposal impacts only the APRN concentrations. It is primarily an administrative change and so minimal impact is expected. We have long admitted post-MSN students, almost always in very low numbers of 1 – 5 per year in any concentration. This will not change. Post-MSN students are considered in the overall number of students admitted to each concentration and so no change in student numbers is anticipated. There are some implications in terms of keeping separate admission / progression graduation student data. A program evaluation plan that separates data for post-MSN students will need to be developed.

Post MSN APRN Certification Program

10.1.15 J. Bartram

Budget Analysis

There are no budgetary needs associated with this program. The program requires no additional resources, either financial, personnel, or infrastructure. The program will be managed with existing administrative resources. There is no impact on classroom space utilization, course technology needs, library or other HSC resources. All costs are already covered by the existing APRN concentrations / MSN program.

Workload Implications

There are no additional faculty or staff resources required. Post-MSN students enroll in the already existing course in the APRN concentrations. No additional course sections or faculty are required.