

Proposed Modification to the Post MSN Family Nurse Practitioner Certification Program

Rationale:

Post Master's Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Certificate programs in the United States were developed to allow advanced practice nurses holding the Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree to change their area of nursing specialty practice to the specialty practice of Family Nurse Practitioner. Specific graduate nursing specialty courses are required to sit for the FNP certification exam. Thus, Post Masters Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Certificate programs are individualized for each student based upon the courses needed by the student to be eligible to take the FNP certification exam. The School of Nursing's Post MSN Family Nurse Practitioner Certification Program needs to be modified to reflect this national standard. Currently, all students who enter our program are required to complete 30 hours of graduate nursing course work. Thus, unnecessary redundancy of course content previously learned in the Masters of Science in Nursing degree is imposed on students.

Current Requirement in Catalog:

"The School of Nursing offers a post-master's (MSN) to Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) certification. The program is intended to provide MSN prepared nurses with the course work necessary to take the FNP certification exam. (30)

Proposed Changes in Catalog:

Change the number of hours required for the Post Master's Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Certificate program. A **minimum** of 12 hours course work will be required for advanced practice nurses seeking the FNP post masters certification. All students will be required to complete NURS 559r, (8 semester hours), Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum. This request ^{is} comply with National Standards for Post-Masters FNP Certification Programs. *other courses will be selected as advised by the graduate program coordinator. yk*

Process:

Each student's MSN academic record will be reviewed, and additional courses required for completion of the certificate will be determined to meet requirements to sit for the FNP certification exam.

There are many different concentration schemes in the MSN degree program of study. The following is provided to demonstrate the individualized nature of courses that may be required for a graduate to sit for the FNP certification exam based on course work generally completed for various MSN degrees. *The following is not inclusive:*

including nures 559.

Is a minimum of 12 the national standard?
Are the 8 required part of the 12?
TL

- For example, a student holding the MSN with a concentration in **Adult Nurse Practitioner** might be required to take the pediatric didactic and practicum courses, the women's health didactic and practicum courses, and the family practice practicum course.
- For example, a student holding the MSN with a concentration in **Pediatric Nurse Practitioner** might be required to take advanced assessment, advanced pharmacology, the adult didactic and practicum courses, the women's health didactic and practicum courses, and the family practice practicum course.
- For example, a student holding the MSN with a concentration in **Nurse Midwife** might be required to take the adult didactic and practicum courses, the pediatric didactic and practicum courses, and the family practice practicum course.
- For example, a student holding the MSN with a concentration in **Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist** might be required to take advanced pharmacology, the pediatric didactic and practicum courses, the women's health didactic and practicum courses, and the family practice practicum courses.

Impact Statement:

No negative impact is expected for the School of Nursing for the University from the proposed changes. Also, the minimum requirement of 12 hours for a post master's certificate is in line with the nine hour minimum requirement for a certificate program in The University of Tennessee System. No additional resources will be required.

The positive impact that will occur with the changes is that the Post Master's Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner will be in alignment with national standards. Further, the changes should encourage individuals with an MSN who want to obtain the FNP specialty to investigate our program.

Effective Date: Immediately

We ask, once the proposal is fully approved, the changes will be effective for all new and currently enrolled students in the Post Master's Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner program.

Enclosures:

Cover Sheet
Proposal
