Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education

Submitted
by the
School of Nursing
Purdue University Calumet
Proposal for Certificate Program

Title: Certificate in Nursing Education

Level of Certificate: Graduate
Proposed date of initiation: Spring 2003

I. Purpose, Need and Target Audience

The purpose of the Certificate in Nursing Education at Purdue University Calumet will be to increase the numbers of nurse educators and improve the quality of nursing education. That primary purpose will be accomplished as we 1) provide knowledge and experience in curriculum development and teaching methods to enable qualified advanced practice nurses to assume the role of beginning faculty, and 2) provide faculty who wish to acquire formal academic preparation in teaching the means to do so.

There is an extreme shortage of qualified faculty in Schools of Nursing at a time when there is a greater need for nurses than ever before. While we withstand a serious shortage of practicing nurses, we also endure a shortage of qualified nursing faculty. There are many studies and facts that demonstrate the crucial need for nursing faculty now and for the future. Nursing education in general is seriously threatened as current qualified faculty numbers decline because of aging and other causes of attrition. Currently, there are not enough masters’ graduates with specialization or focus on nursing education to supply one for every school of nursing in the country. Since 1993, the numbers of students in master’s nursing programs preparing for an educator role has gone from 3,000 to 247. Unofficial NLN data indicate that only 64 of more than 375 master’s programs (less than 17%) offer an academic nursing education track and/or a post-master’s certificate program in academic nursing education (Valiga, 2002). As one of several remedies to the shortage, NLN (2002) has suggested in a position statement, that, “Some master’s programs should develop or reinstate a track [italics added] that prepares beginning nurse educators or that helps advanced clinicians make the transition to the role of educator” (p. 269).

The shortage is neither a theoretical nor a distant problem to Purdue University Calumet, or surely, to other Purdue Campuses. At Purdue University Calumet, we have struggled to hire and retain sufficient numbers of full and part-time, master’s prepared, clinically experienced nurses who are willing and prepared to take on the challenges of academia. There is no doubt that the problem will worsen. In the past three years, largely because of increasing demands from accrediting organizations to focus more on clinical expertise, we have had to reduce the number of elective credits in the master’s degree program from 9 hours to 2 hours. In the past, many students used those 9 elective hours to take nursing education courses as part of their program of study. Although student interest remains, and those faculty who taught the courses are still available, we are no longer able to offer the track within the master’s program. It is possible, however, to offer the courses immediately as a certificate program.
When the courses were part of the Master of Science degree, enrollments consisted of those students who were interested in teaching nursing in junior colleges, universities, or nursing service education departments. Every year, approximately 10-15 students took part of the series of courses, and 2-4 students took all the courses in the track. We anticipate the target audience for the Certificate in Nursing Education program to be that same group of master’s students and graduates. An additional audience would be those faculty who would be interested in continuing their formal education in teaching.

II. Admission Requirements

The admission process for the Certificate in Nursing Education will parallel that for students seeking a Master’s Degree in Nursing. Specific requirements are:

1. Master’s degree in advanced practice nursing from an accredited institution or admission and enrollment in a master’s degree program in advanced practice nursing.

2. Minimum graduate GPA of 3.0/4.0 with the possibility of conditional admission for applicants who do not meet this requirement.

3. Minimum TOEFL score of 550 for applicants whose native language is not English, with the possibility of allowing exceptions, including substitution of alternate criteria.

4. Evidence of current registered nurse licensure.

5. A personal interview with a graduate program faculty advisor.

III. Completion Requirements

Credit Hour Requirements:

The certificate requires students to complete 10 credit hours consisting of the following existing courses:

- EDCI 571: Introduction to Instructional Technology (3 credits, 1 – 4 –3 pattern)
- NUR 660: Curriculum Development in Nursing (3 credits, 3 – 0 – 3 pattern)
- NUR 662: Teaching Strategies for Nursing (4 credits, 2 – 6 – 4 pattern)

GPA Requirements:

Students must maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 for courses required for the certificate. Students must achieve a grade of “B” in courses to be applied toward the certificate.
Maximum number of credits that can be transferred from another institution:

Students may transfer a maximum of three credits from another institution.

Maximum number of credits from undergraduate-level courses that may be used for certificate:

Students may not use any undergraduate credits toward the certificate in nursing education.

Maximum time to complete certificate:

Students must complete the required courses within 3 years of admission to the certificate program.

Credit that can be applied to more than one certificate:

At the present time, there is not another certificate program that includes any of these courses.

Number of credit hours taken prior to admission to the certificate program that may be applied toward certificate:

Students may apply a maximum of six credit hours taken prior to admission to the certificate program toward completion of the certificate in nursing education.

Special conditions for completing the certificate:

Students who are currently enrolled in a master’s degree program in nursing must complete the courses required for the master’s degree in addition to the required Certificate in Nursing Education courses before the certificate can be awarded.

IV. Administration

Transcripting:

The certificate will be recorded in the following manner:

Graduate Certificate  
Field of Study:  Nursing  
Specialization:  Nursing Education
Process for certifying completion of requirements

To certify completion of certificate program requirements, the Coordinator of the Graduate Program at the School of Nursing at Purdue University Calumet will perform the following.

- Evaluate progress of all students enrolled in the certificate program on an annual basis.
- Forward the names of students who have met the certification requirements, and are currently enrolled in the master’s program, to the Graduate School upon completion of the master’s degree.
- Forward the names of post-graduate students to the Graduate School upon completion of the certificate requirements.

Dissemination of the certificate

Upon notification from the Graduate School that a student has completed the requirements for the Certificate in Nursing Education, the Registrar will mail the certificate of completion to the student.

References


Purdue University Calumet
Graduate Certificate Program Proposal

Title of Certificate Program: Certificate in Nursing Education

Initiation Date: April, 2003

Approved By:

Peggy Gerard, DNSc, RN
Dean, School of Nursing

Daniel M. Dunn
Executive Dean of the Graduate School

Date

2/25/03

Date

4/1/03