Proposal for a Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program

Submitted

By the

School of Nursing
Purdue University Calumet
Title: Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program

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

I. Purpose, Need and Target Audience

The purpose of the Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program at Purdue University Calumet will be to increase the numbers of family nurse practitioners. That primary purpose will be accomplished as we provide knowledge and experience in primary care of families to enable qualified advanced practice nurses to assume the role of family nurse practitioner.

Primary care is currently undergoing a period of expansion in order to meet the increasing healthcare needs of our nation’s citizens. Across the U.S, the number of persons who are medically underserved and do not have access to primary health care is expanding. A similar situation exists in Indiana where 42 of 92 counties are federally designated as medically underserved areas (MUAs). In order to meet these needs, the number of primary care providers including Family Nurse Practitioners, must also increase. The Pew Health Professions Commission (1995) recommended that the number of nurse’s prepared to provide primary care be doubled to meet this need. Similarly, a federal advisory panel has recommended that at least 2/3 of the nursing workforce hold baccalaureate or higher degrees in nursing by 2010 (U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment).

These factors have combined to greatly expand job opportunities for Family Nurse Practitioners and have prompted many nurses to enter graduate programs in nursing that prepare nurses to practice in the primary care setting. In addition, nurses with master’s degrees are returning to graduate school to retool and prepare themselves to be primary care nurse practitioners (Hooker & McCaig, 2001). Locally, we have had over 50 inquiries from master’s prepared nurses regarding the availability of a certificate program over the past three years and continue to receive several inquiries each month. The proposed program is designed to meet this documented need.
II. Admission Requirements

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

1. Master’s degree in nursing from an accredited institution or admission and enrollment in a masters degree program in 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 minimum of one year or 1500 hours of experience as a registered nurse.

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

III. Completion Requirements

Credit Hour Requirements:

The certificate requires students to complete 27 credit hours consisting of the following courses.

- NUR 502 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 3 credits
- NUR 503 Advanced Health Assessment* - 3 credits
- NUR 507 Physiologic Concepts for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 4 credits
- NUR 511 Concepts and Applications of Health Promotion for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 3 credits
- NUR 611 Primary Care of the Young Family - 3 credits
- NUR 613 Primary Care of the Young Family Practicum - 3 credits
- NUR 622 Primary Care of the Aging Family – 3 credits
- NUR 623 Primary Care of the Aging Family Practicum – 3 credits
- NUR 657 FNP Practicum: Clinical Synthesis - 2 credits

*may be waived if student has taken a comparable course at Purdue University Calumet or another accredited nursing program within 3 years prior to application to this program.
**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 13 credits from another institution to fulfill requirements of NUR 502, NUR 503, NUR 507 and NUR 511.

**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.

**References:**


**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 family nurse practitioner certificate.
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 Family Nurse Practitioner 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: Family Nurse Practitioner

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 Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate, the Registrar will mail the certificate of completion to the student.

Psg
2/12/03
Purdue University Calumet

Graduate Certificate Program Proposal

Title of Certificate Program: Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program

Initiation Date: April, 2003

Approved By:

Peggy Gerard, DNSc, RN
Dean, School of Nursing

[Signature]

Peggy Gerard

Date: 3/25/03

Daniel M. Dunn
Executive Dean of the Graduate School

[Signature]

Daniel M. Dunn

Date: 4/1/67
From: Jane Walker [mailto:walkerj@calumet.purdue.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 6:21 PM
To: Pope, Phillip E.
Subject: Changes to PUC School of Nursing Post-Master’s Certificates

Dr. Pope,

The PUC School of Nursing Graduate Committee is recommending changes to the required hours for 3 of our post-master’s certificate programs: FNP, Adult Health CNS, and Critical Care CNS. For the FNP certificate program, we are recommending that the wording regarding required hours be changed to:

The certificate requires students to complete a minimum of 14 credit hours to a maximum of 27 credit hours consisting of the following courses.

For the Adult Health and Critical CNS Certificates, we are recommending that the wording regarding required hours be changed to:

The certificate requires students to complete a minimum of 12 credit hours to a maximum of 25 credit hours consisting of the following courses.

For all 3 certificates, we are also recommending that the timeframe for taking required courses prior to entry into the program be increased from 3 years to 5 years. I have attached a document that shows in context the wording for these changes.

I hope this information is sufficient and self-explanatory. If you need anything else, please let me know.

Thank you,
Jane

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Approved as requested

Phillip E. Pope
10/20/08
Purdue University Calumet
School of Nursing

Proposed Changes to FNP Post-Master’s Certificate

The certificate requires students to complete a minimum of 14 credit hours to a maximum of 27 credit hours consisting of the following courses:

- NUR 502 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 3 credits
- NUR 503 Advanced Health Assessment* - 3 credits
- NUR 507 Physiologic Concepts for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 4 credits
- NUR 511 Concepts and Applications of Health Promotion for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 3 credits
- NUR 611 Primary Care of the Young Family - 3 credits
- NUR 613 Primary Care of the Young Family Practicum - 3 credits
- NUR 622 Primary Care of the Aging Family - 3 credits
- NUR 623 Primary Care of the Aging Family Practicum - 3 credits
- NUR 657 FNP Practicum: Clinical Synthesis - 2 credits

*may be waived if student has taken a comparable course at Purdue University Calumet or another accredited nursing program within 5 years prior to application to this program.

Proposed Changes to the Critical Care CNS Post-Master’s Certificate

The certificate requires students to complete a minimum of 12 credit hours to a maximum of 25 credit hours consisting of the following courses:

- NUR 502 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 3 credits
- NUR 503 Advanced Health Assessment* - 3 credits
- NUR 507 Physiologic Concepts for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 4 credits
- NUR 511 Concepts and Applications of Health Promotion for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 3 credits
- NUR 602: Critical Care CNS I - 3 credits
- NUR 603: Critical Care CNS Practicum I - 2 credits
- NUR 630: Critical Care CNS II 3 credits
- NUR 635: Critical Care CNS Practicum II - 2 credits
- NUR 659: Critical Care CNS Practicum III: Clinical Synthesis - 2 credits

*may be waived if student has taken a comparable graduate course at Purdue University Calumet or at another accredited nursing program within 5 years prior to application to this program.
Proposed Changes to the Adult Health CNS Post-Master’s Certificate

The certificate requires students to complete a minimum of 12 credit hours to a maximum of 25 credit hours consisting of the following courses:

- NUR 502 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 3 credits
- NUR 503 Advanced Health Assessment* - 3 credits
- NUR 507 Physiologic Concepts for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 4 credits
- NUR 511 Concepts and Applications of Health Promotion for Advanced Practice Nursing* - 3 credits
- NUR 600: Adult Health CNS I - 3 credits
- NUR 601: Adult Health CNS Practicum I - 2 credits
- NUR 618: Adult Health CNS II - 3 credits
- NUR 620: Adult Health CNS Practicum II - 2 credits
- NUR 658: Adult Health CNS Practicum III: Clinical Synthesis - 2 credits

*may be waived if student has taken a comparable graduate course at Purdue University Calumet or at another accredited nursing program within 5 years prior to application to this program.