Proposal for a Graduate Certificate

Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist

Submitted
by the
School of Nursing
Purdue University Calumet

(Resubmitted 11/15/06)
Purdue University Calumet  
School of Nursing  
Proposal for Certificate Program  

Title: Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist Certificate Program  

Level of Certificate: Graduate  
Proposed date of initiation: Fall, 2006  

I. Purpose, Need and Target Audience  

The purpose of the Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist Certificate Program at Purdue University Calumet will be to provide Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) preparation to qualified Master’s prepared nurses. Multiple forces exist that provide a rationale for expanding our current CNS program to nurses who have obtained Master’s degrees in other specialties.  

CNSs are advanced practice nurses who are uniquely prepared to meet complex patients’ needs for expert nursing care. CNS educational preparation consists of content related to a patient-focused clinical specialty as well as content that prepares students to influence nursing personnel and the healthcare system for the purpose of achieving safe, quality patient care. The CNS curriculum is effective because of the blend of didactic coursework and more than 500 hours of precepted clinical practica experiences. Graduates of CNS programs are able to advance the practice of nursing through expertise in their specialty and through their skills as leaders, collaborators, consultants, mentors, and innovators. They are also experts at effecting change and introducing evidence-based practice protocols into the healthcare environment. As a result of their educational preparation and skills, CNSs exert a significant, positive influence on patient, nurse, and healthcare organization outcomes. Examples of positive outcomes include reduced hospital length of stay, reduced levels of patient morbidity and mortality, and improved patient management of chronic health conditions. Other examples of positive outcomes include increased nurse satisfaction, retention, competency, cost savings, application of evidence-based practice protocols, and cost savings (NACNS, 2004).  

In the mid 1990’s, amidst a nationwide trend of hospital downsizing, CNS positions were greatly reduced. Now, healthcare systems have rediscovered the unique contributions to quality care that CNSs provide. In addition, many hospitals have aspired to become designated as an American Nurse Credentialing Center’s Magnet Hospital and hospital administrators have realized that it is difficult to meet Magnet criteria without CNSs. These factors have combined to greatly expand job opportunities for CNSs. Multiple job requests arrive on our campus on a monthly basis and CNSs are in high demand. Since our first class of Master’s prepared Family Nurse Practitioner students graduated in 1997, over 100 students have completed the program and all would be eligible to enter a post-master’s CNS certificate program.
In addition to this local pool of potential students, we have had requests for our CNS program from other areas of the country. Although many CNS programs across the nation closed during the 1990’s, our program remained in existence and is developing a national reputation for quality. We have demonstrated our capability to provide distance education and therefore have the potential to tap into this larger group of potential students.

In summary, we have the capability to offer a post-master’s CNS certificate to meet the national need for CNSs. This proposed post-master’s certificate program is designed to address the need.

II. Admission Requirements

The admission process for the Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist 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 master’s 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 internet-based test (iBT) score of 77 for applicants whose native language is not English with minimum scores in the following areas: reading, 19; listening, 14; speaking, 18; and writing, 18. An IELTS (Academic Module) band score of 6.5 may be used as an alternative.

4. Evidence of current registered nurse licensure.

5. A minimum of one year or 1500 hours of experience as a registered nurse.

6. An interview with a graduate program faculty advisor.

III. Completion Requirements

Credit Hour Requirements:
The certificate requires students to complete 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 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 that have been admitted into the Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist post-master’s certificate program may take and transfer a maximum of 9 credits from another institution to fulfill the requirements of NUR 502, NUR 503, NUR 507 or NUR 511. As stated above, if these courses or their equivalent were taken from Purdue or another university within the 3 years prior to application, they are considered waived as opposed to transferred.

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 can take no more than six credit hours of required courses while in a postbaccalaureate status prior to formal admission to the Clinical Nurse Specialist certificate program.

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 Clinical Nurse Specialist 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: Clinical Nurse Specialist / Adult Health

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 Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist Certificate, the Registrar will mail the certificate of completion to the student.

Reference:
Purdue University Calumet

Graduate Certificate Program Proposal

Title of Certificate Program: Clinical Nurse Specialist Post-Master’s Certificate

The School of Nursing from Purdue University Calumet is forwarding the enclosed proposal for approval of a Clinical Nurse Specialist Post-Master’s Certificate Program. The planned initiation date is Fall, 2006. This proposal has been approved by the School of Nursing Graduate Committee and the Purdue University Calumet Graduate Council. We are requesting consideration for approval the Purdue University Graduate Council.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jane Walker, PhD, RN
Graduate Program Coordinator
School of Nursing

Approved By:

Peggy Gerard, DNSc, RN
Dean, School of Nursing

9-1-06
Date
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

Jane Walker, PhD, RN
Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator
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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.