PROPOSAL

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

PEDIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER

SCHOOL OF NURSING

TO BE OFFERED AT

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
WEST LAFAYETTE CAMPUS

Submitted to the Graduate School
March 2008
Title: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) Certificate Program

Level of Certificate: Post-Masters
Proposed date of initiation: Spring 2007

I. Overview

This is a proposal by the School of Nursing for a graduate level, academic credit certificate in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program. The School of Nursing receives inquiries daily about its graduate programs. Many of these students already have one master’s degree and wish to obtain another specialty such as pediatrics. It is not expected that these students will concurrently be working toward another graduate degree at Purdue University. The purpose of the program is to provide knowledge and experience in primary care to enable qualified advanced practice nurses to function as Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. The SON expects to admit 4-6 students to the certificate program every year, starting in the spring of 2007. This program is designed to meet the need for an increase in the number of advanced practice nurses in medically underserved areas.

After demonstrating significant improvements through the 1990s, the state of Indiana’s health has stalled. A national study (America’s Health: State Health Rankings, [www.unitedhealthfoundation.org](http://www.unitedhealthfoundation.org), 2004) revealed that Indiana tied with Delaware as the nation’s 18th unhealthiest state (23rd in 2003). The percentage of children in poverty increased from 11.3% in 2003 to 13.7% of persons under age 18 in 2004. Between the periods of 1990-1994 and 1999-2003, the neonatal mortality rates declined significantly among whites (by 9.7%) and among blacks (by 23.1%) but not among Hispanics. In contrast, post neonatal mortality rates declined significantly among Hispanics (by 52.8%) and among whites (by 24.8%) but not significantly among blacks (by 14.8%). Despite the decline in the Indiana infant mortality rate (IMR) of low birth-weight and preterm infants between 1990 and 2003, the prevalence of birth of these high-risk infants has not improved during this period. Between 1990 and 2003, the prevalence of preterm births increased by 38 percent among whites, remained at the same high level among blacks, and increased slightly among Hispanics. In 1999-2003, the IMR among infants born to mothers who received inadequate prenatal care was higher than the IMR among infants born to mothers who had adequate care by 103 percent among non-Hispanic whites (7.1 vs. 3.5), by 46 percent among blacks (10.1 vs. 6.9), and by 24 percent among Hispanics (4.1 vs. 3.3). Finally, Indiana’s IMR has consistently been higher than the national average (Indiana Infant Mortality Report, 1990-2003, [www.in.gov/isdh/](http://www.in.gov/isdh/), 2003).

It is known that 60 cases of abuse were reported in Tippecanoe County in 1998. By 2007, these numbers had increased to 536 cases. It is easy for babies to get lost in the system, and stressed parents have little emotional, informational, and social support. Other factors such as low socioeconomic status and parental education levels can lead to fragmentation of healthcare services. An ill or injured child likely will be taken to the ER where care costs will multiply and numerous physicians and nurses will see the patient. This can result in numerous physician orders, which leads to patient confusion and poor
healthcare compliance. To correct this problem, a yearlong study by local nursing faculty identified the lowest income neighborhoods where there were a predominance of juvenile, family, and criminal court cases. As a result, the Trinity Nursing Center for Child Health opened in April of 2006 in the heart of the neighborhood in greatest need. This clinic is staffed by Purdue nurse practitioners and registered nurses and provides one of many areas where PNP students can obtain preceptorship hours. This approach allows for quality, affordable health care.

There is also an increasing demand for nurse practitioners in rural Indiana. The federal government has designated 42 of the 92 Indiana counties as medically underserved areas. Although about 25% of the national population lives in rural settings, fewer than 13% of physicians practice in these areas. This leaves a void in providing primary care in rural areas that could be filled by pediatric nurse practitioners. The Pew Health Professions Commission (1998) has determined that the number of Advanced Practice Nurses should be doubled to meet the needs of underserved populations, particularly in rural areas. Furthermore, the HRSA Work Force Profile published in 2000 reported that in 1996, of the 56,420 licensed Registered Nurses in Indiana, 40% had an Associate Degree, 32% had a Baccalaureate degree, 22% had a nursing diploma and only 6% had a Masters/Doctoral degree (Indiana Hospital Association, 2003). To meet the more complex demands of today’s healthcare environment, the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP) has recommended that at least two-thirds of the basic nurse workforce hold baccalaureate or higher degrees in nursing by 2010 (NACNEP, 2001). It is anticipated that one-fourth to one-half of students working toward the PNP certificate may also be enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Nurse practitioners in Indiana are also aging. Of the 638 advanced practice nurses (representing various clinical specialty areas), 273 (43%) were in the 45 - 65 age range. There is a need for new graduate nurses prepared at the master’s level to replace the retiring nurses and to maintain the supply of advanced practice nurses in Indiana. With other Indiana university graduate programs being located in urban areas, and 55 of the 92 counties designated as rural, the Purdue SON program’s emphasis on rural healthcare addresses the critical shortage of healthcare professionals in rural and vulnerable communities.

The above factors have led to expanded opportunities for Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and have prompted nurses with master’s degrees to enter graduate programs that prepare nurses to function as Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. To meet this need, the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certificate program uses the unique resources of Purdue University to deliver cost-effective, culturally appropriate, quality care in underserved rural areas and to vulnerable populations identified as high risk in national Healthy People 2010 (HP 2010) objectives.

II. Admission Requirements:

The admission process for the Pediatric 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 master’s or DNP program in nursing at Purdue University.
2. International students must graduate from a nursing program that has undergone comparable review and must score a minimum of 550 (paper) on the TOEFL or 213 on the computer-based exam, or 77 or higher on the internet-based test (iBT) for applicants whose native language is not English, with the possibility of allowing exceptions, including substitution of alternate criteria. Applicants who take the TOEFL iBT must achieve the following minimum test scores, in addition to the overall required score of at least 77: reading 19; listening, 14; speaking, 18, and writing 18. Applicants taking the IELTS must score at least 6.5 on the Academic Module.
3. Minimum graduate grade point average of 3.0, on a 4.0-point scale.
4. Eligible for licensure as a registered nurse in the State of Indiana.
5. A minimum of one year or 1500 hours of experience as a registered nurse.
6. Curriculum vitae or résumé.
7. Three letters of recommendation, one from a clinical supervisor, one from an academic advisor or faculty member, and one from a nursing peer.
8. Personal interview with a graduate program faculty advisor.
9. A 300 – 350 word essay addressing the prospective student’s a) reason for pursuing graduate study in nursing, b) career goals, and c) research interests.
10. Successful (3.0 on a 4.0 point scale) completion of an undergraduate OR graduate statistics* course. The course must be taken within five years of matriculation into the program or concurrent with the first semester of graduate coursework.

*STAT 301, SOC 382, SOC 581. Methods of Social Research II. (3); STAT 501. Experimental Statistics I. (3). STAT 511. Statistical Methods. (3); PSY 500; or course deemed comparable by the graduate admissions committee.

III. Completion Requirements

The total hours will vary depending on the student’s academic record, clinical experiences, and objectives. Students must complete a minimum of 15 credits. Typically a student will complete 15-28 hours of course credit.

Credit Hour Requirements:

The certificate requires students to complete 28 credit hours consisting of the following courses:

**Required Courses:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUR 514</td>
<td>Clinical Application in Pharmacotherapeutics for PNPs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 515</td>
<td>Health Promotion in Pediatric Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 528</td>
<td>Acute Illness: Pediatric Health Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 529</td>
<td>Acute Illness: Pediatric Health Preceptorship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 552</td>
<td>Chronic Illness and Commonly Recurring Conditions: Pediatric Health Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NUR 553  Chronic Illness and Commonly Recurring  Conditions: Pediatric Health Preceptorship  3

Courses That May be Waived:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUR 503*</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 507*</td>
<td>Physiologic Concepts for Advanced Practice Nursing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 502**</td>
<td>Pharmacotherapeutics in Primary Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 675***</td>
<td>Role Transition and Synthesis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*May be waived if student has taken a comparable course at Purdue University or another accredited nursing program within 5 years prior to application to this program, or if the student is active in clinical practice with current certification in a nursing specialty.

**May be waived if student has taken a comparable course at Purdue University or another accredited nursing program within 3 years prior to application to this program, or if the student is active in clinical practice with current prescriptive authority.

***May be waived if student is presently practicing as a nurse practitioner in another specialty area.

GPA Requirements for Progression:

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 and a B in all courses required for the certificate.

Maximum number of credits that can be transferred from another institution:

Students may transfer a maximum of 12 credits from another institution to fulfill requirements for NUR 502, NUR 503, NUR 507, and/or NUR 675.

No more than 12 credit hours can be earned in a non-degree status, including credit hours earned toward completion of a single certificate.

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.

Maximum time to complete certificate:

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

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

Students may apply a maximum of 12 credit hours taken prior to admission to the certificate program.
IV. Administration

To certify completion of the certificate program requirements, the Director of Graduate Studies in Nursing and the Coordinator of the Nurse Practitioner Program will:

1). Evaluate progress of all students enrolled in the certificate program annually.
2). The Office of the Registrar will establish a special admittance status to facilitate tracking of students who are enrolled in the certificate program.
3). Forward the names of post-graduate students who have met the certification requirements to the Graduate School upon completion of the certification requirements. The Graduate School will notify the Office of the Registrar when the student completes the requirements for the certificate.
4). The School of Nursing will diseminate completion certificates received from the Registrar.
5). Students who have completed the requirements for the certificate will be awarded the certificate by the Purdue School of Nursing and will read as follows:
   Graduate Certificate
   Field of Study: Nursing
   Specialization: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
   Each certificate will be posted separately upon completion of the requirements. Academic credits earned toward a certificate will be included in the computation of the overall GPA posted on the student’s academic transcript.
6). All certificates will be printed by the Office of the Registrar and will share a common format and style as approved by the Graduate School.
7). Certificates will be awarded jointly by the Head of the School of Nursing and the Graduate School. Certificates will bear the signatures of the Head of the School of Nursing and the Dean of the Graduate School and will be awarded upon completion of requirements at the end of each semester.
8). Purdue University School of Nursing will submit an annual report to the Graduate Council with the following information:
   a. Number of students currently admitted to the certificate program.
   b. The date each student was admitted, whether or not student is also currently admitted to a degree program at Purdue University School of Nursing and if so which degree program, and number of credits completed toward fulfillment of certificate requirements.
   c. Number of certificates awarded annually.

The Office of the Registrar will assist in the generation of this information.