December 11, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: John A. Elliott, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
RE: Post-Master’s Graduate Certificate, Nursing Practice: Family Nurse Practitioner

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve a new Post-Master’s Graduate Certificate in Nursing Practice: Family Nurse Practitioner.

BACKGROUND:

Master’s and Doctorally-prepared nurses often seek to expand their scope of practice to include family managed care across the lifespan. This approach is consistent with the need for family-based primary care across the state and nation. Nurse practitioners often serve the healthcare needs of the most vulnerable populations in rural and urban settings, and expanding their ability to care for families would enable more primary care clinicians with the background and training to serve these populations.

Post-Master’s Certificate graduates are prepared as advance practice nurses to assess, diagnose, monitor, treat and coordinate care of individuals and families from birth to senescence with common acute and chronic conditions within the context of family and community. The focus of the role is on the delivery of primary care to the individual and family including health promotion, disease prevention, and disease management activities to support healthy lives. The core competencies emphasize teaching/coaching, consultation and evidence based practice. Graduates of this track are prepared to apply for eligibility to take the FNP certification examination prepared by an approved national organization as accepted by the Board of Registration in Nursing and apply to practice in the expanded role in Connecticut or other states based on regulatory guidelines.

No additional funding, financial, or other resources are needed for this program.
Request for New UConn Academic Degree Program

**General Information**
Name of degree program: Nursing Practice: Family Nurse Practitioner
Name of sponsoring Department: Nursing
Name of sponsoring College: School of Nursing
Campuses: Program Entirely Online
Contact persons: Angela Starkweather
Type of Proposal: New
Type of Program: Post-Master’s Graduate Certificate
Anticipated Initiation Date: Fall 2020
Anticipated Date of First Graduation: Spring 2021
Entrepreneurial program, approved by
Provost’s Office: Yes
Tuition for the program approved by
Provost’s Office: Fee-based
CIP Code: 51.1605 (Family Practice Nurse / Nurse Practitioner)

**Justification for the New Program**
Master’s and Doctorally-prepared nurses often seek to expand their scope of practice to include family managed care across the lifespan. This approach is consistent with the need for family-based primary care across the state and nation. Nurse practitioners often serve the healthcare needs of the most vulnerable populations in rural and urban settings, and expanding their ability to care for families would enable more primary care clinicians with the background and training to serve these populations.

**Are there similar programs in CT or elsewhere?**
We currently offer Post Master's Certificates in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Primary Nurse Practitioner and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner. Other programs are offered through Yale University.

**What are the desired learning outcomes of the program?**
These are consistent with the currently stated objectives of the Master's program:
- Synthesize appropriate theories from nursing and related fields to respond to emerging health care challenges.
- Synthesize appropriate scientific findings and theories from nursing and related fields to lead change to improve outcomes.
- Influence health care policy for the benefit of person, community, nursing, and environment.
Post-Master’s Certificate, Nursing Practice: Family Nurse Practitioner

- Demonstrate PRAXIS at an advanced level of nursing in a selected area of concentration.
- Exert leadership in creating a collaborative and caring health care community.
- Synthesize best evidence and translate into practice to creatively improve health care quality and outcomes.

Program Description
This is consistent with the currently stated program description:
The post-master’s certificate program is available for registered nurses (RNs) with a master’s degree in nursing who wish to study an area of clinical concentration. The program consists of master’s level core courses, clinical theory courses, and associated practicum courses. Applicants must possess a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (B) from their master’s program.

Proposed Graduate Catalogue Copy
The School of Nursing offers Post-Master’s Certificates in Nursing Practice in the following areas: Adult Gerontology Acute Care, Adult Gerontology Primary Care, Family and Neonatal Care. These certificates are appropriate for master’s prepared nurses who wish to pursue graduate level study in a track different from their Master of Science (M.S.) degree. The programs consist of master’s level practicum courses and their associated theory courses. Faculty coordinators may require additional coursework on an individual basis.

Nursing Practice: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
Post-Master’s Certificate graduates are prepared as advance practice nurses to assess, diagnose, monitor, treat and coordinate care of individuals and families from birth to senescence with common acute and chronic conditions within the context of family and community. The focus of the role is on the delivery of primary care to the individual and family including health promotion, disease prevention, and disease management activities to support healthy lives. The core competencies emphasize teaching/coaching, consultation and evidence based practice. Graduates of this track are prepared to apply for eligibility to take the FNP certification examination prepared by an approved national organization as accepted by the Board of Registration in Nursing and apply to practice in the expanded role in Connecticut or other states based on regulatory guidelines.

Required Courses: NURS 5060, 5062, 5070, 5150, 5400, 5409, 5410, 5419, 5420, 5430, 5439, and 5449.

Faculty Involvement
The faculty who would be involved in administering the program include:
- Annette Jakubisin-Konicki, Associate Clinical Professor
- Christine Rodriguez, Assistant Clinical Professor
- Joy Elwell, Associate Clinical Professor
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- Kyounghae Kim, Assistant Professor

Enrollment and graduate projections
We would seek to enroll 8 students over the following year in 2021 and continue to assess our ability to increase enrollment. The ability to grow the program will depend on the number of clinical sites able to accept a student in their clinical setting and the number of preceptors identified.

Program Evaluation
Our programs go through a continuous quality assessment and review process each year, and there is a 5-year evaluation of the curriculum. For the Post-Master's Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner we will evaluate the program by the number of applicants, retention of students and years toward completion of the program. Clinical placement outcomes will be evaluated each semester using a multi-method process that incorporates the number of clinical placements confirmed, student and faculty evaluations of the clinical sites, student evaluation of the preceptor and faculty, and faculty and preceptor evaluation of the student.

Program Administration
Director of the Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Program will be responsible for admissions, advising and oversight. Future programmatic changes will be decided by the School of Nursing’s Curriculum and Courses Committee and the Full Faculty.

Funding and Financial Resources Needed
None.

Other Resource Needs
None - students will be taking courses online.

Consultation with other potentially affected units
None - all courses will be offered through the School of Nursing

External applicants can apply to this program.

Anticipated term and year of first enrollment
Fall 2021

Admission Requirements
Master of Science (MS) or Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN) in another population.
Required for application:
- Personal Statement
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- 3 Letters of Recommendation

Term(s) to which students will be admitted
- Fall

Application deadline: 6/15/2021

Initiator
Angela Starkweather, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, angela.starkweather@uconn.edu, 860-486-0549

Program Director Name
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