

April 28, 2021

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Carl W. Lejuez, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Post-Master's Nurse Educator Certificate

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve a new Post-Master's Nurse Educator Certificate

BACKGROUND:

The 27 credit post-master's certificate is designed to meet the growing needs of nurse educators in both academia and healthcare settings. Clinical instructors are increasingly in demand to educate the growing number of undergraduate students as well as the current nursing workforce in healthcare settings. Clinical instructors working in clinical environments, with a direct care focus, are also needed to educate current nurses and support their continuing education for clinical knowledge and advancement. Individuals pursuing this certificate may be interested in teaching in a school of nursing, working in professional development or focusing on the education of a specific patient or community population.

The Nurse Educator Graduate Certificate is offered entirely online. It is designed for Masters-prepared nurses who wish to pursue a nurse educator role in institutions of higher education, staff development, or other education industries. The certificate program provides knowledge and skills on evidence-based and cutting-edge strategies for teaching and learning in nursing. The certificate will prepare students for eligibility to apply for national certification through the National League for Nursing as a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE). A minimum of 2,080 hours of clinical experience as a Registered Nurse (RN) providing direct patient care is required prior to application.

Anticipated enrollment is 12-16 students per year. No additional resources are needed for the program.

Request for New UConn Academic Degree Program

General Information

Name of degree program:	Post-Master's Nurse Educator Certificate
Name of sponsoring Department:	Nursing
Name of sponsoring College:	School of Nursing
Campuses:	Entirely Online
Contact persons:	Denise Bourassa
Type of Proposal:	New
Type of Program:	Graduate Certificate
Anticipated Initiation Date:	Fall 2021
Program Payment Type:	Tuition based
CIP Code:	51.0000: Health Services/Allied Health/Health Sciences, General.

Justification for the New Program

There have been requests for creating a non-clinical specialty area of concentration in the MS program that would in an addition to current MS prepared advance practice nurse practitioners. The post-master's nurse educator certificate will meet this need by preparing nurses for career advancement in nursing education. The changes to the Graduate Catalog copy is for information on required core courses for the other concentrations of the MS program.

Are there similar programs in CT or elsewhere?

There are two post-master's nurse educator certificates in CT.

What are the desired learning outcomes of the program?

Objective of the post-master's nurse educator certificate are as follows:

- 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.
- 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

The 27 credit post-master's certificate is designed to meet the growing needs of nurse educators in both academia and healthcare settings. Clinical instructors are increasingly in demand to educate the growing number of undergraduate students as well as the current nursing workforce in healthcare settings. Clinical instructors working in clinical environments, with a direct care focus, are also needed to educate current nurses and support their continuing education for clinical knowledge and advancement. Individuals pursuing this certificate may be interested in teaching in a school of nursing, working in professional development or focusing on the education of a specific patient or community population. Courses: Nurs 5060, Nurs 5070, Nurs 5062, Nurs 5700, Nurs 5710, Nurs 5720, Nurs 5870, Nurs 5235 and Nurs 5249

Proposed Graduate Catalogue Copy

Nurse Educator Post-Master's Certificate

The Nurse Educator Graduate Certificate is a nine-course (27-credit) graduate certificate program offered entirely online. It is designed for Masters-prepared nurses who wish to pursue a nurse educator role in institutions of higher education, staff development, or other education industries. The certificate program provides knowledge and skills on evidence-based and cutting-edge strategies for teaching and learning in nursing. The certificate will prepare you for eligibility to apply for national certification through the National League for Nursing as a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE). A minimum of 2,080 hours of clinical experience as a Registered Nurse (RN) providing direct patient care is required prior to application.

Required Courses: NURS 5060, 5062, 5070, 5235, 5249, 5700, 5710, 5720, 5870

One or more of the following course requirements may be waived with approval at the time of admission based on a student having taken equivalent courses: NURS 5060, 5062, 5070, and 5870.

Faculty Involvement

Dr. Denise Bourassa will serve as program director. Dr. Bourassa will serve as advisor for all students in the post-master's nurse educator certificate program. Other faculty in the school of nursing will be teaching in this program.

Enrollment and graduate projections

12-16 per year

Program Evaluation

The program will be evaluated for applicants, enrolled students, attrition and students dismissed for academic performance. Director will conduct quality improvement surveys to provide justification for program changes if necessary and provide information in the attainment of post-master's certificate program objectives. Finally, we will conduct post graduation surveys to students to track professional advancements, achievements, national certifications and student satisfaction with the program.

Program Administration

University graduate admissions office will develop applications in Slate. Program director will evaluate prospective students' application and conduct interviews to determine acceptance to the program. Program director will be advisor for students in this program and oversight will be provided by Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Angela Starkweather.

Funding and Financial Resources Needed

None

Other Resource Needs

None

Consultation with other potentially affected units

The post-master nurse educator certificate will help increase student numbers in the Health Professions Education (HPE) Certificate. The post-master's educator certificate plan of study includes the HPE courses currently offered, Nurs 5700, Nurs 5710 and Nurs 5720.

Who can apply to this program?

Internal applicants (current UConn students enrolled in another UConn degree or certificate program), External applicants (individuals who are not currently UConn students)

Anticipated term and year of first enrollment

Fall 2021

Admission Requirements

Master's degree from an accredited nursing program with GPA of 3.0 or higher

Term(s) to which students will be admitted

Fall

Application deadline: 4/1/2021

Initiator

Denise Bourassa, denise.bourassa@uconn.edu, 860-450-2603

Program Director Name

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Administrative Contact

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