

## **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) Graduate Certificate**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner graduate certificate program effective Fall 2012.

### **Background**

The ACNP certificate is a post Master's program consisting of 18 credits of combined didactic and clinical hours in the specialty concentration of Adult Acute Care nursing practice.

The current graduate programs at Wayne State College of Nursing in the Adult Health area are an MSN or Doctorate Nursing Practice (DNP) in adult acute care (ACNP) and adult primary care (ANP). Prior to the advent of an acute care track at WSU (1996) most hospital based advance practice nurses were Adult Clinical Nurse Specialists (ACNS). Many of the clinical specialists were grandfathered into the new ACNP role in the early to mid-1990s. Changes to certification and state requirements nationally and in Michigan have occurred since inception. The ACNS who currently hold a specialty license as a nurse practitioner in Michigan may have role limitations in the future because they are not nationally certified as a nurse practitioner. Furthermore, most clinical specialists who do hold specialty licenses in Michigan will not be able transfer that grandfathered license to other states.

The market demand for ACNPs is increasing locally and across the country even before July 2010, when further work week restrictions in resident training occurred. Changes in certification and scope of practice are being discussed at the state and national levels. This would require a post-graduate certificate as an ACNP, a certificate program that we currently do not have at WSU.

Our master's programs in the Adult Health area are currently closed to further, first-time graduate degree students. All applications now are for Bachelor to Doctoral level (DNP), or post-Masters of Science Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice. This has lead to a market gap in the needs of clinical specialists or any other MSN who does not hold an ACNP certification. WSU College of Nursing needs to be able to offer a post-MSN certificate in adult acute care that will fill this gap.

Currently there are two other ACNP certificate programs in the state of Michigan – the University of Michigan and Madonna University – the latter is currently closed to post-masters certificate enrollment at present. Although the other institutions have both certificate and ACNP MSN programs, WSU has maintained the largest ACNP enrollment numbers for many years. This large graduation rate, 198 students since 1998, has accelerated in recent years with 123 students having graduated from the WSU ACNP MSN program since 2008.

**Program Description**

The course sequence is included in the table listed below. Three didactic courses are required. There are no new courses and the program will not require additional faculty expertise beyond the existing resources of the college.

**Course Sequence: (18 credits)**

<b>Course Emphasis and Titles</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<u>Adult Acute Care</u>	
<u>Three didactic courses required (all are existing courses)</u>	18
NUR 7370 (6 credits )	
NUR 7140 (6 credits )	
NUR 7130 (6 credits)	

**Admission Requirements**

An applicant for admission to the graduate ACNP certificate program must have a MS or MSN in nursing and/or a DNP from a nationally accredited institution. The certificate program has the same admission requirements and processes as the existing graduate program.

A cumulative graduate grade point average of 3.0 or above is required for admission, and applicants must meet all other requirements for admission to the Graduate School. All applicants also must be eligible for licensure as a registered nurse in the State of Michigan.

**Curriculum Requirements**

Our program is intended to add to the clinical expertise of an applicant. A graduate ACNP program cannot be expected to provide the student with the baseline physical exam skills, pharmacology knowledge, and clinical judgment skills. The students are expected to come with some of those skills. Just as a physician fellowship would not be repeating all of the medical school training for a specialized fellowship, the post-graduate programs cannot expect to provide a full NP program in 18 credits. National accrediting restricts certificate programs to 18 credits or less.

**Graduation Requirements**

All coursework must be completed in accordance with Graduate School and the regulations governing graduate scholarship and degrees. Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis but must complete requirements within three years of admission.

### **Program Administration**

The program director of the Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program will be responsible for oversight of this program. In addition, the Graduate Clinical Programs and the DNP committees will have periodic oversight in accordance with the college-wide evaluation processes. The following faculty members will provide support for the students or the program director.

Mary Anne McCoy PhD, ACNP, BC, ACNS, BC: Dr. McCoy has been the program director of the Adult Acute and Critical Care Nurse Practitioner program since 2008. Dr. McCoy has maintained a practice as an APRN for 18 years in the areas of cardiology ICU and Cardiothoracic and General Surgery ICU services. She also is a certified Adult CNS knowledgeable of the differences in the scope of practice between the ACNP and CNS roles. Currently she coordinates all three of the required clinical courses within the ACNP and DNP programs and teaches in the DNP core curriculum.

Dr. Jesus Casida RN, PhD, APN-C, CCRN-CSC: Dr. Casida is an experienced cardiothoracic ICU clinician and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar. Dr. Casida has taught in the current Masters' ACNP program and in the DNP core curriculum.

Dr. Barbara Piper RN, PhD, ACNS, BC, CWON, FAAN: Dr. Piper is a Professor of Nursing and was a former clinical course coordinator in the acute care program and continues to lecture in the program. She also teaches in the doctoral programs. She maintains a clinical practice treating patients with chronic wound care and vascular disease.

Dr. Virginia Rice RN, PhD, CNS: Dr. Rice has been a long term supporter of the acute care program at WSU. Her research in smoking cessation and cancer has been of instrumental influence in multiple areas of research. She continues to support the acute care program in research and teaching.

Sandra Oliver-McNeil ACNP, BC, DNP: Dr. Oliver-McNeil is the first DNP graduate for the College of Nursing and is currently a clinical faculty in the MSN and DNP programs. She maintains a clinical practice in Cardiology medicine.

### **Budget and Resource Requirements**

There is potential requirement, based on enrollment, for additional clinical sections in each of the courses. The flexibility within existing admitted students numbers would allow more than adequate room for additional students in any given year. However, priority would be given to first graduate degree students for clinical placements.

**Accreditation**

This certificate would be reviewed with the existing ACNP-DNP and MSN schedule for the College of Nursing which is in 2013.

**Approvals**

The proposal for the ACNP certificate was approved by the Faculty Association of the College of Nursing, and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Jean Davis, and in addition, Dean Barbara Redman and the Graduate Council.