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DISCONTINUANCE OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN) IN ADULT-GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER ACUTE CARE (AGAC)

Recommendation

The College of Nursing recommends that the Board of Governors discontinue the Master of Science in Nursing degree with a major in Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Acute Care (AGNP-AC), effective Winter 2021.

Background

This specialty major has been on moratorium in the MSN program for at least five years. No students have been enrolled in the MSN Program with AGAC major since Spring/Summer 2015, and no students are currently enrolled in this MSN AGAC major. In 2012, the professional organizations responsible for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) education and certification had varying opinions about the urgency to move all APRN specialty education from the MSN to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) as the terminal degree. The adult-gerontology specialties were of the opinion that the transition should happen quickly. This specialty, unlike others (e.g. pediatric), chose to close admissions to the MSN program and move all admissions to the DNP degree. Therefore, this specialty major is currently offered in the DNP only following the decision to transition early to entry level APRN education at the doctoral level.

Program Description

The Master of Science in Nursing degree with a major in Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Acute Care (AGNP-AC) prepares the nurse for advanced practice in the care of physically ill adults. Emphasis is on adults with existing and/or potential physiological alterations and their concomitant developmental and psychosocial needs. Clinical practicum sites are individualized based on the student's identified goals and area of clinical interest. The curriculum develops the advanced practice nurse's roles of practitioner, educator, and clinical scholar through education in rigorous and consistent diagnostic reasoning and theory-based practice. The analysis, critique, and utilization of nursing and biopsychosocial theory and constructs are also reviewed. Graduates are eligible to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certification examination.

Approvals

The proposal to discontinue the Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Acute Care major in the MSN Program was approved by the Faculty of the College of Nursing, the Associate Dean of Academic and Clinical Affairs, the Dean of the College of Nursing, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School and the Interim Dean.