

## **DISCONTINUANCE OF NURSE MIDWIFE (NW) GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the discontinuance of the Nurse Midwife (NW) Graduate Certificate (GC) Program, effective fall term 2022.

### **Program Description**

The Nurse Midwife (NM) GC Program is offered by the College of Nursing to prepare certified advanced practice registered nurses to practice as nurse midwives in the primary care of women and neonates. The GC is minimally a 16-credit sequential two-semester, two-course full-time program of study with additional coursework required based on the gap analysis.

### **Background**

After a review of the 2011-2015 pass rates reports from the *American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)*, an assessment of the curriculum for this NM specialty was conducted. A comprehensive mandatory progress report and plan based on the overall pass rates and individual content performance reports was submitted to the Board of Review of the AMCB in 2016. Based on this curriculum review, the new curriculum revisions were implemented with ongoing yearly evaluation of pass rates. In response to continued low pass rates one year following implementation of the revisions, a hold on future admissions in the NM specialty was implemented effective Fall 2019 until further assessments could be conducted.

A second review of the NM specialty curriculum was completed based on ongoing data from the *American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)* and content requirements for this specialty. A plan for updated didactic content was incorporated into the three eight (8) credit clinical NM and the four (4) credit advanced practice assessment and diagnostic reasoning (NUR 7030) courses. This content change reflected continued updates in didactic course content and changes made to clinical and laboratory experiences for the NM students, especially in the area of primary care of women across the life span. A significant amount of faculty effort and work went into the specialty content revisions. Ongoing review of the pass rates for the NM specialty revealed that although certification pass rate scores improved for one year, they did not improve consistently or sufficiently to meet our accrediting body's (*Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education - CCNE*) pass rate standards. Concurrently, AMCB was responding to reported difficulties with pass rates related to the three versions of the certification exam offered in each certification cycle. They also revised their pass rate standards to reflect yearly or three-year average pass rate scores and currently have deferred to colleges the determination of required pass rate. However, pass rates must meet CCNE standards (80%) for accreditation and CON NW pass rates over the last several years have not met these standards.

After multiple and extensive discussions with the specialty coordinator, our curriculum committees and the faculty association, College of Nursing faculty voted to discontinue the NM specialty effective Fall 2022. The final group of students enrolled in the NM specialty will complete the specialty requirements in August 2022.

**Approvals**

The proposal to discontinue the Nurse Midwife Graduate Certificate Program was approved by the Faculty of the College of Nursing, the Associate Dean of Academic and Clinical Affairs, the Graduate Council, Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of the College of Nursing and the Provost.