

DISCONTINUANCE OF NURSE MIDWIFE (NM) SPECIALTY IN MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the discontinuance of the Nurse Midwife (NM) Specialty in the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program, effective fall term 2022.

Program Description

The Nurse Midwife (NW) Specialty in the MSN Program is offered by the College of Nursing to provide current knowledge and skills for advanced nursing practice in the care of women and newborns as vulnerable populations and specialty knowledge in women's health, newborn care and nurse-midwifery. The MSN with NM clinical specialty is a 47-credit, 10-course program of study, including 670 hours of clinical experience.

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 NM specialty in the MSN 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.