

Achieving Streamlined Path to Adult and Gerontological Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Certification

Brenda Windemuth, DNP, CRNP-BC
University of Maryland School of Nursing

Background

In July 2008, the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Consensus Work Group completed the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation

- The unintended outcome of this work is that all nationally certified Advanced Nurse Practitioner's currently hold a certification that is no longer offered
- Most of the Nurse Practitioners were educated at the MS level

The ANCC is recommending all APRN's be educated at the doctoral level

Additional issue arising recently was with COVID. The current practicing APRN's are currently in areas of practice that would consider a change in specialty

Project Goals

Provide plan of study to obtain AGPCNP certification

- Without unnecessary duplication of course work
- Obtain doctoral degree and the ability to serve in a faculty role
- Supports online education where appropriate for working adults

Will increase faculty and APRN workforce

Development of Pathway

Provides plan of study to update certification to AGPCNP and earn a DNP without unnecessary duplication of course work

- Plans available for ANP, GNP, ACNP
- Can complete in as few as 48 credits
- Prior doctoral degree: Post Doctoral Plans available in 13-29 credits

Strategies to facilitate streamline path

- Structured plan of study to address gaps in academic requirements for ANP-prepared nurse practitioner to avoid unnecessary course work
- Targeted clinical experiences to develop expertise in the management of older adults with multiple complex comorbidities
- Developed online modules to supplement geriatric content in AGPCNP course work
- Developed of a targeted marketing strategy to meet and recruit potential applicants
- Developed innovative strategies for recruiting students

Example of Plan of Study

	30 credits	Credits	Clinical/Practicum Hours
Fall Semester			
	NRSO 790 Methods for Research Evidence-based Practice	3	
	NRSO 795 Evidence for Evidence-based Practice	3	
	NRSO 795 Professional Writing	3	
	NONP 804 Theory for Evidence-based Practice	3	
Spring Semester		6 credits	
	NONP 807 Info. Systems and Technology Improvement/Transformation Health Care	2	
	NONP 808 Info. Systems and Technology Improvement/Transformation Health Care - Practicum	1	45
	NURS 834 Transition Evidence to Practice	3	
Summer Semester		5 credits	
	NURS 720 Evidence, Synthesis, Assessment and Management ****	2	
	NURS 810 Evidence-based Health Policy	3	
Fall Semester		5 credits	
	May need to complete course work in Assessment, Pharmacology, and Pathophysiology		
	NONP 814 Practice Leadership Within Complex Adaptive Health Care Systems	3	
	NONP 817 Practice Leadership Within Complex Adaptive Health Care Systems Clinical Practicum	2	90
Spring Semester		8 credits	
	NONP 810 DNP Project Identification	1	
	NONP 834 Diagnosis and Management 3: Acute and Chronic Complex Conditions	4	
	NONP 835 Diagnosis and Management 3: Clinical Practicum/Seminar**	2	135
	NONP 999 Extra Clinical Hours***	3	90
Summer Semester		5 credits	
	NONP 813 DNP Project Development	1	
	NONP 836 Diagnosis and Management 4: Integration of Multiple Health Problems and Complex Clinical Syndromes	2	
	NONP 837 Diagnosis and Management 4: Integration of Multiple Health Problems and Complex Clinical Syndromes: Clinical Practicum/Seminar**	2	90
Fall Semester		5 credits	
	NONP 812 DNP Project Implementation	1	45
	NONP 838 Diagnosis and Management 5: Professional Practice Integration: Clinical Practicum/Seminar**	4	180
Spring Semester		4 credits	
	NONP 813 DNP Project Evaluation/Dissertation	1	45
	Final year clinical hours as needed for certification***	3	
	Total Credits / Clinical and Practicum Hours	48 (50)	630 (720)

Evaluation and Sustainability

- Expect to see and increase in applications to AGPCNP program with specific emphasis on MS prepared NPs seeking to update their certification
- As part of a school wide evaluation plan, the project will be evaluated via:
 - ❖ Course Evaluations
 - ❖ Curriculum committee review
 - ❖ Student progress and graduation rates
- Successes and lessons learned will be presented at the National Faculty Conferences to allow other Universities to recreate this method of increasing doctoral prepared APRNs
- The increased number of students and its seamless integration with existing programs will provide the support to continue the project at the completion of the funding cycle

Conclusions

- This project concluded and has focused on strategies to facilitate this streamlined path.
- Facilitating a route for nurses to increase their knowledge and skills in the management of complex older adults while updating their APRN specialty areas will ensure that Maryland can meet the primary care and mental health needs of an aging population
- Beyond the development of a workforce prepared to address the needs of an aging population, this has increased the number of nurse practitioners prepared at the doctoral level.
- We currently have 2 students in the program and will graduate in 2023 and 2024 respectively
- This increase in doctoral-prepared nurses, in addition to improving quality of care, will help address the nursing faculty shortage
- COVID played a significant role with reduction of potential applicants. Hopefully moving forward, there will be more opportunity for APRNs to obtain a doctoral level education.

References

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Notes

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