SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

GRADUATE COUNCIL

concerning

CREATION OF A POST MASTER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM:
PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER
(PMHNP)
(#4780)

Presented at the
776th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
March 8, 2018

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Neal Abraham, Nadia Al-Ahmed, Sonia Alvarez, Maria Barbon, Lori Baronas, Joseph Black,
Paulina Borrego, D. Anthony Butterfield, Leslie Button, Canan Cevik, David Cort, Mark Hamin,
Neil Immerman, Cynthia Jacelon, Ramakrishna Janaswamy, Barbara Krauthamer, John Lopes,
Chair, Daniel Morales, David Morin, Trevor Mukoki, Martina Nieswandt, MJ Peterson, Sarah
Poissant, Frederic Schaffer, Patrick Sullivan, David Vaillancourt, Kristine Yu

GRADUATE COUNCIL

The Graduate Council recommends approval of this proposal.

Briefly describe the certificate.

To add a 25-30 credit (based on portfolio review and credit transfer) Psychiatric Mental Health
Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Post Masters Certificate Program.

Provide a brief overview of the process for developing this certificate.

Many nurses with advanced degrees are in search of post-masters programs that provide
opportunity to certify as PMHNPs. There is a great need to produce more advanced practice
PMHNPs in the United States to meet the need of the community in offering treatment for
mental health disorders and to help treatment individuals with substance disorders. In order to
meet the unmet needs for mental services both in our local community and nationally we decided to offer a post master's option for this certification to nurses who already have a Masters in Nursing and are not currently wanting to pursue the DNP.

This certificate was presented to Faculty Assembly in the College of Nursing on November 29th and approved by all faculty present.

Purpose and Goals

*Describe the certificate's purpose and the particular knowledge and skills that will be acquired by participating students.*

UMASS CON has offered the 82-84 credit Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Track for the past 3 years as an online program with approximately 728 clinical hours and 504 Capstone project hours attached to it, taking on average four to five years to complete. Many potential students are going elsewhere for programs such as Regis and UMASS Lowell. After completing this 25-30 credit certificate nurses will be eligible to sit for the National Board Certification to become PMHNPs who are able to offer counseling services and prescriptions to those in need of mental health services.

Resources

*If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.*

No additional resources will be required as we are already offering all the courses within our DNP PMHNP track.

Curriculum

*Please describe the curriculum for this certificate, listing all required courses and possible electives, any prerequisites or GPA requirements, the recommended order or coursework and any other pertinent information. You may attach additional materials related to the curriculum at the end of this section.*

The prerequisites for this certificate will be a Masters degree in Nursing with a minimal GPA of 3.0, recent course work (past 5 years) in Advanced Pathophysiology, Advanced Pharmacology and Advanced Physical Assessment or evidence of recent practice as an APRN (NP, CNS or Midwife). The recommended order of courses is listed below:

UMASS AMHERST College of Nursing

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certification (PMHNP)
For Post Masters Students

Required prerequisite to Post-masters PMHNP Program: *Three P’s Met | Not Met

Summer Year 1 | Fall Year 1 | Spring Year 1
N707 Neuro-psychopharmacology – 3cr.

N643 Assessment and Diagnosis of Mental Health Disorders – 3 cr.

N612 Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Children & Adolescents – 3 cr.

N698CA Practicum: Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Children & Adolescents – 3 cr. (168 contact hours)

N622 Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Adults & Older Adults – 3cr.

N698AD Practicum: Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Adults & Older Adults - 3 cr. (168 contact hours)

Summer Year 2  Fall Year 2  Spring Year 2
N721 Advanced Psychotherapy Modalities with Individuals, Groups & Families – 2 cr.

N798GF Practicum: Advanced Psychotherapy Modalities with Individuals, Groups & Families – 2 cr. (112 contact hours)

N722 Psychiatric Mental Health Complex Health Problems – 2 cr.

N798CH Practicum: Psychiatric Mental Health Complex Health Problems 2 cr. (112 contact hours)

N898D Final Direct Care Residency- 2 cr. (112 contact hours)- Not needed for current APRN

N580 Integrative Therapies - 2 cr

Clinical Hours –
For Non-APRNS -672
APRNS - 560

Credits – 25-30 based on portfolio review and transfer of courses

*Explain how these courses represent a coherent course of study.*

The order of clinical courses matches the sequential ordering of courses in our DNP- PMHNP program which has been accredited by CCNE and conforms with the AACN Masters Essentials as well as the Task Force on Nurse Practitioner training. Students start with a basic scientific understanding of physiology, pharmacology and physical assessment and then take a course on diagnosis and treating Psychiatric and Mental health Disorders developing interviewing and counseling skills. They also take a course on the medications used to treat mental health disorders called neuropsychopharmacology. Next the clinical coursework covers the Child, Adolescent and Young Adult with clinical practicums in that age group followed by and Adult
course and practicum. In the summer as required by certification agencies they have a course in
tow modalities of counseling both individual and group therapy along with a clinical practicum.
In the final year they have a didactic clinical course in the more complex psychiatric mental
health conditions along with a clinical and finish up with a final practicum in a specialty area of
choice focusing on Board review and preparation for PHMNP role.

Describe how there is a clear educational objective that can be achieved in an efficient and well-
defined manner.

The educational objective is to prepare advanced practice nurses as PMHNPs according to
national guidelines. All courses included are intended to lead to expert and holistic care of
individual with mental health issues.

Explain how the course sequence offers a clear objective at the appropriate educational level.

The Graduate Academic Matters DNP committee examined credits in other programs and
reviewed the ANCC recommendations for clinical immersion experiences and coursework to
create a 25-30 credit certificate, mirroring clinical courses required in DNP program. Those who
are already APRNS will not need to do the final practicum hours (3 Credits). The course
sequence allows those who are ready to get into practice to advance into their clinical courses in
a more timely manner than our DNP program.

Describe the perceived need for this certificate.

As mentioned earlier there is great demand for PMHNPs both locally and nationally. 2. Nurse
Practitioners (NP) with primary care backgrounds are in search of programs that allow for
certification as a PMHNP. Dual certification for NPs allow for the treatment of at risk
populations.

If the courses that comprise the certificate have been or currently are being offered, describe their
schedule of availability. If the certificate is comprised of new courses, describe their planned
availability.

All clinical courses in the PMHNP track are offered in the sequence described in the attached
plan of study. Each clinical course and practicum is offered once a year. The integrative
therapies course is offered spring and summer. Neuropsychopharmacology is offered in the
summer. The Assessment and Diagnosis of Psychiatric and Mental Health Disorders is offered
both Fall and Spring.

If the certificate requires or includes courses from outside the sponsoring department, provide
evidence of agreement(s) with the unit(s) offering those courses. You may attach any memoranda of
understanding below.

All required courses are offered within our College. The prerequisite course of Advanced
Pathophysiology is offered both Fall and Summer and the Advanced Pharmacology course is
offered every Fall semester. The advanced Health Assessment course is offered both spring and
summer. Many nurses with Masters degrees will already have these or be processing NPS. If
they are not currently an NP or have not taken the course within the last 5 years they will be
required to repeat it.
If applicable, please attach any memoranda of understanding from other departments or colleges below.

No Files Uploaded at This Time

If the requirements for this certificate overlap with those of another certificate or a degree program, describe that overlap.
(Note that if a student who has completed a certificate seeks clearance for a degree program that overlaps with that certificate program, the Registrar will note on the transcript that the certificate has been superseded by the degree.)

They may be some overlap in terms of nurses already in our graduate program wanting to apply for this and delay completing the DNP if they already have a Master's completed already. If they do that they could come back and complete the Post-Masters DNP completion.

What type of student is allowed to participate in this certificate program? (E.g., matriculated UMass students, non-matriculated CPE students, Five College students, graduate students, students in a specific degree program, etc.)

Only nurses with a graduate degree in Nursing- they could be UMASS Students, non-matriculated CPE students could start it but they would be required to apply and be accepted into the program for completion after taking 1-2 courses as a non-matriculated student.

What role will this certificate play in relation to other departments or degree programs on campus? Certificates vary widely across campus and may represent a subset of an existing degree program, a multidisciplinary program, or an entirely free-standing area of focus.

It would only be available for nurses with a Masters degree in Nursing

Is this a transitional certificate program?

(Transitional certificate programs are comprised of core courses from specific degree programs and may act as stepping stones into those programs. If a student who has completed a transitional certificate matriculates to the University and completes the degree program associated with that certificate, the transcript will note that the certificate has been superseded by the degree.)

Yes

Comments: Only in the case of nurses who complete this and then come back for our Post Masters DNP completion.
UMASS AMHERST College of Nursing

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certification (PMHNP)
For Post Masters Students

Required prerequisite to Post-masters PMHNP Program: *Three P's

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Year 1</th>
<th>Fall Year 1</th>
<th>Spring Year 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>N707</strong> Neuro-psychopharmacology – 3 cr.</td>
<td><strong>N612</strong> Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Children &amp; Adolescents – 3 cr.</td>
<td><strong>N622</strong> Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Adults &amp; Older Adults – 3 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N643</strong> Assessment and Diagnosis of Mental Health Disorders – 3 cr.</td>
<td><strong>N698CA</strong> Practicum: Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Children &amp; Adolescents – 3 cr. (168 contact hours)</td>
<td><strong>N698AD</strong> Practicum: Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Adults &amp; Older Adults - 3 cr. (168 contact hours)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summer Year 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Year 2</th>
<th>Spring Year 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>N721</strong> Advanced Psychotherapy Modalities with Individuals, Groups &amp; Families – 2 cr.</td>
<td><strong>N722</strong> Psychiatric Mental Health Complex Health Problems – 2 cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N798GF</strong> Practicum: Advanced Psychotherapy Modalities with Individuals, Groups &amp; Families – 2 cr. (112 contact hours)</td>
<td><strong>N798CH</strong> Practicum: Psychiatric Mental Health Complex Health Problems 2 cr. (112 contact hours)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Clinical Hours**
- For Non-APRNS -672
- APRNS - 560

**Credits** – 25-30 based on portfolio review and transfer of courses

Signature of Student: ___________________________ Date: ____________

Print Name: ___________________________

Please sign one copy and return to the Program office, and keep one copy for your files.

**MOTION:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Creation of a Post Master Certificate Program: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 18-035.