

**GRADUATE**  
**NEW/REVISED/DELETED GRADUATE PROGRAMS COVER SHEET**  
 (Degree Programs, Sequences, Graduate-Level Certificates)  
 Graduate Curriculum Committee  
 2008-09

Deadlines for receipt by Graduate Curriculum Committee:

Revised Degree Program, Sequence, Graduate Certificates: September 29, 2008, for inclusion in 2009-10 catalog  
 New Sequence, New Graduate Certificate: September 12, 2008, for inclusion in 2009-10 catalog  
 New Degree Program: February 9, 2009, for inclusion in 2010-11 Graduate Catalog.

DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL Mennonite College of Nursing DATE 08/20/08  
 TITLE OF DEGREE, SEQUENCE, OR CERTIFICATE Post-Master's Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Certificate

**Proposed Action:** (Refer to Part I, Section C of *GCC Proposal Guidelines and Procedures*.)

- New\* (Check one):  
 Degree Program\*\* (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)  
 Sequence (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)  
 Post-Master's Graduate Certificate (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)  
 Post-Baccalaureate Graduate Certificate (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)  
 Graduate Certificate
- Change in requirements for: (Check one.)  
 Degree Program  Sequence  Certificate
- Other program revisions
- Deletion of: (Check one.)  
 Degree Program (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)  
 Sequence (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)  
 Post-Master's Graduate Certificate (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)  
 Post-Baccalaureate Graduate Certificate (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)  
 Graduate Certificate

\*Attach approved *Request for New Program Approval: Reporting of Financial Implications* form (available at [www.academicssenate.ilstu.edu/documents.html](http://www.academicssenate.ilstu.edu/documents.html)).

\*\*Obtain the New Program Request (NEPR) format from the Office of the Provost.

**Summary of proposed action.** For all proposals, provide current title and current catalog copy. Provide new title and new catalog copy for new programs, and for revised programs if catalog copy/title is altered. For revised programs, provide a summary of the changes. (Refer to New/Revised/Deleted Programs checklist in *GCC Guidelines and Procedures*.)

See Attachment

**Routing Procedures:**

- |   |                     |  |                     |
|---|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. _____<br>Dept./School Curriculum Committee Chair | _____ Date Approved | 4. _____<br>College Dean   | _____ Date Approved |
| 2. _____<br>Department Chair/School Director        | _____ Date Approved | 5. _____<br>Teacher Education Council Chair<br>(28 copies to Dean of College of Education) | _____ Date Approved |
| 3. _____<br>College Curriculum Committee Chair      | _____ Date Approved | 6. _____<br>Graduate School  | _____ Date Approved |

Submit the original and two copies of the proposal to the Graduate School (nine copies if part of a degree program or sequence proposal).

**Current Title and Catalog Copy:**

None. New Certificate.

**Date of Implementation:**

Summer 2009

**Expected Impact of Proposal on Existing Campus Programs:**

No impact on the wider University, as no Colleges outside MCN offer a Nurse Practitioner certificate or sequence. It is expected that MCN GNP specialty courses will see an increase in enrollment as these courses will be shared among the post-master's certificate and degree seeking students.

**Anticipated Staffing Arrangements and Anticipated Funding Needs and Sources of Funds:**

MCN faculty with a specialty and expertise in this area are anticipated to teach both the degree and post-master's sequences. Student enrollment in the master's degree program is currently low, with 3 students currently enrolled. Each course could accommodate an additional 17 students without an increase in staff needed. Courses are currently offered under current University flex guidelines.

**New Title and New Catalog Copy:**

Online Post-Master's GNP Certificate

Course work for the Gerontological Nurse Practitioner (GNP) post-master's certificate is determined for each student following an assessment of the applicant's graduate nursing education transcript. Candidates for the post-master's GNP certificate are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours of specialty courses in the GNP sequence, at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, including NUR 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, and 449.

**Program Description and Explanation:**

The purpose of this curriculum proposal is to seek approval of an online Gerontological Nurse Practitioner (GNP) Post-Master's Certificate.

Advanced knowledge and expertise in the area of geriatric nursing is greatly needed as the population of older adults continues to rise and demand a greater proportion of health care resources. The 2000 Census counted nearly 35 million people in the U.S. who were 65 years of age and older and expect that figure to double to 70 million by 2030. At that time, demographers estimate that one in five Americans will be over 65 years of age and that the fastest growing segment of that population are the oldest old-those in their 80's or 90's. Nationally only 4% of all Advanced Practice Nurses have gerontological certification (American Nurses Credentialing Center, 2007). In the state of Illinois available programs reside in Chicago and in Missouri, St. Louis area, leaving an acute need for gerontological nursing education in central Illinois.

The master's degree (MSN) has historically been the degree for specialized advanced nursing practice, such as the GNP specialization. However, graduate education in nursing occurs within the context of societal demands and needs as well as the inter-professional work environments. Over the past two decades, the explosion in information technology and new scientific evidence has resulted in extended lengths of educational programs in nursing and other health professions. Many MSN programs have expanded significantly, creating curricula that appreciably exceed the usual credit load and duration for a typical master's degree.

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University (MCN at ISU) admitted the first students into the online Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Sequence in the summer of 2008. However, at this time there is no provision in this sequence for students who hold a nursing master's in another nursing specialty to complete the certificate option. Since publication of this sequence option, 4 master's prepared students have inquired about the availability of a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate. These students hold a master's in Nursing Systems Administration. Approval of the Post-master's certificate will allow these students to complete a specialized clinical sequence without undue repetition and qualify them for professional certification in Gerontological Nursing and advance practice licensure in the State of Illinois.

Current Online Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Master's Sequence

Course work for the GNP sequence includes 12 hours of core course work, shared by all master's sequences in nursing at ISU. In addition, the current GNP sequence requires 14 hours of support courses and 28 hours of specialty courses. The sequence is offered through Extended University. See table below.

Proposed Online Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate

Course work for the GNP Post-Master's Certificate will follow the current policies adopted by MCN at ISU for the FNP Certificate. These are as follows:

- Course work for the Post-Master's Certificate will be determined for each student following an assessment of the applicant's graduate nursing education transcript.
- Candidates for the post-master's GNP certificate will be required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours of specialty courses at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, including NUR 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, and 449. (See Table below for course titles and proposed certificate courses.)

**Comparison of Required Course Work: Proposed Post-Master's Certificate and Current GNP Master's Sequence**

Courses	Proposed Post-Master's Certificate	Current GNP Master's Sequence
NUR 445: GNP I: Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Gerontological Nursing (5 sem. Hrs)	Required	Required

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NUR 446: GNP II: Social and Cultural Adaptations to Aging (5 sem. Hrs.)	Required	Required
NUR 447 GNP III: Health Promotion and Syndromes of Aging (5 sem. Hrs.)	Required	Required
NUR 448: GNP IV Clinical Management of Acute and Chronic Illness (6 sem. Hrs.)	Required	Required
NUR 443: Capstone Interdisciplinary Quality and Safety Initiative I (3 sem. Hrs.)	Required	Required
NUR 444: Capstone Interdisciplinary Quality and Safety Initiative II (3 sem. Hrs.)	Required	Required
NUR 449: GNP V: Palliative Care and End-of-Life Issues (6 sem. Hrs.)	Required	Required
NUR 441: Pathophysiology for Advanced Gerontological Nursing (3 sem. Hrs.)	Assessment of applicant's graduate nursing education transcript will determine if course is required for Post-Master's Certificate.	Required
NUR 442: Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Gerontological Nursing (3 sem. Hrs.)	Assessment of applicant's graduate nursing education transcript will determine if course is required for Post-Master's Certificate.	Required
NUR 401: Theoretical Foundations of Nursing and Health Care (3 sem. Hrs.)	Assessment of applicant's graduate nursing education transcript will determine if course is required for Post-Master's Certificate.	Required
NUR 403: Professional Roles and Issues in Health Care (3 sem. Hrs.)	Assessment of applicant's graduate nursing education transcript will determine if course is required for Post-Master's Certificate.	Required
NUR 405: Epidemiology and Aggregate Based Health	Assessment of applicant's graduate	Required

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Promotion (3 sem. Hrs.)	nursing education transcript will determine if course is required for Post-Master's Certificate.	
NUR 407: Scientific Inquiry and Research Design in Nursing and Health Care (3 sem. Hrs.)	Assessment of applicant's graduate nursing education transcript will determine if course is required for Post-Master's Certificate.	Required
NUR 509: Introduction to Nursing Informatics (3 sem. Hrs.)	Assessment of applicant's graduate nursing education transcript will determine if course is required for Post-Master's Certificate.	Required