

2013

## Curricular Report No. 2012-13-3A from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Post-BS Entry to Doctor of Nursing Practice.

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND




Serial Number #12-13 --18

TO: President David Dooley

FROM: Peter Larsen, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL titled, Curricular Report No. 2012-13-3A from The Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Post-BS Entry to Doctor of Nursing Practice, is forwarded for your consideration.
2. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on January 24, 2013.
3. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Governors, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
4. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective February 14, 2013, three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Governors for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Governors, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

January 30, 2012  
(date)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Larsen  
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

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ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

- a. Approved .
- b. Approved subject to notice to the Board of Governors .
- c. Approved subject to final approval by Board of Governors \_\_\_\_.
- d. Disapproved \_\_\_\_.

2.13.13  
(date)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL - UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
NEW PROGRAM REPORT FROM THE GRADUATE COUNCIL TO THE  
FACULTY SENATE  
CURRICULAR REPORT 2012-13-3B; 10 December 2012**

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At Meeting No. 468 held on 10 December 2012, the Graduate Council approved the attached proposal that is now submitted to the Faculty Senate.

**SECTION I  
BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**ABSTRACT**

The Graduate Council approved a proposal from the College of Nursing to create *Post- BS entry to Doctor of Nursing Practice*. Nationally there has been a rapid growth of DNP programs; from 20 programs in 2006 to 182 in 2011. Of these, 62% are either offering or planning a post- baccalaureate entry option into their DNP programs. In this time of scarce resources, the post- baccalaureate entry option offers students an attractive, efficient, cost-effective way to achieve their goals of obtaining a degree and certification as an advanced practice nurse along with the highest level of clinical practice degree, the DNP.

**BACKGROUND**

The changing demands of the nation's complex health care environment require that nurses serving in specialty positions have the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise possible. In October 2004, The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) adopted the goal that preparation for specialization in nursing should occur at the doctoral level by 2015. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree was created to meet this need for advanced knowledge and practice expertise. The Institute of Medicine, the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and other authorities have called for re-conceptualizing the education of health professionals to meet the needs of the health care delivery system. Nursing is answering that call by preparing advanced practice nurses at the doctoral level to meet complex needs of individuals, families, health care organizations, and communities.

This is mainly a curricular change and changes in entry requirements for the DNP. There is no budget request.

**SECTION II  
RECOMMENDATION**

The Graduate Council approved the proposal for the *Post- BS entry to Doctor of Nursing Practice* at its Meeting No. 468 held on 10 December 2012, and forwards it to the Faculty Senate with a recommendation for approval.

**Notice of Change for: A Proposal for a Post- BS entry to Doctor of Nursing Practice**

**Date: December 10, 2012**

**A. PROGRAM INFORMATION**

**1. Name of institution**

University of Rhode Island

**2. Name of department, division, school or college**

Department:

College: College of Nursing

**3. Intended initiation date of program change. Include anticipated date for granting first degrees or certificates, if appropriate.**

Initiation date: upon full approval (intended or Fall 2013)


First degree date: intended May 2019

**4. Intended location of the program** Kingston

**5. Summary description of proposed program (not to exceed 2 pages)**

See attached document

**6. Signature of the President**

  
David M. Dooley

## **A Proposal for a Post- BS entry to Doctor of Nursing Practice**

The post-BS to DNP program proposal below outlines the proposed curriculum changes. We are essentially replacing 4 of the current master's first level courses with 5 of the current DNP first level courses. There is considerable overlap of content areas, however the current doctoral courses are taught assuming a basic knowledge of theory and research that is expected of students entering with a master's degree. The knowledge of philosophy of science is new and not usually taught in masters programs.

### **Post-BS Entry to Doctor of Nursing Practice Program**

*Note: All courses are 3 credits unless otherwise noted.*

#### Required First Level Courses:

NUR 660 Philosophy of Science  
NUR 601 Foundations of Nursing Science  
NUR 651 Qualitative research  
NUR 652 Quantitative research  
NUR 551 Theoretical Study of Nursing: Administration/Leadership

*Note: These above courses replace the following required courses from the existing MS program. These courses below will not be required for the BS to DNP track.*

*NUR 500 - Theoretical Study of Phenomena  
NUR 505 - Nursing Research  
NUR 507 - Theories of Practice for Nursing  
NUR 510 - Advanced Leadership in the Health Policy Process*

#### Required Advanced Practice Core Courses:

NUR 503 Expanded Nursing Assessment Skills  
NUR 504/ 508/ 509 Specialized Assessment (1-2 cr)  
NUR 535 Pathophysiology in Advanced Practice Nursing  
NUR 582 Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice Nursing

#### Required Advanced Practice Nursing Courses

18 credits – 2 theory (6 cr) and 3 practicum courses (12 cr)

Need minimum of 500 practicum hours

*Note: Students may opt out here with their MS degree by taking NUR 520 (1 cr), completing their masters' major paper, and the comprehensive exam. The masters' major paper may be used as a portfolio component for the DNP.*

*Total credits for opt-out masters – 44-47, depending upon the concentration.*

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#### Remaining DNP Courses:

NUR 549 Evidence Based Strategies in Health Care Program Evaluation  
NUR 680 Informatics in Health Care Settings  
PHP 540 Introduction to Epidemiology  
HDF 527 Social and Health Care Policy  
MBA 540 Organizational Decision Making and Design  
NUR 686 DNP Role Development (6 credits)  
NUT 688 Capstone practicum & project- portfolio (6 credits)

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The total credits for this proposed post BS entry to DNP is 70-73 depending on which advanced practice option the students choose. Currently, students must earn the MS degree first (42-45 credits depending upon concentration) and then the DNP degree (42 credits). By enrolling in the direct post BS entry to DNP, students save a minimum of 14 credits.

For students opting out for their MS before continuing on for the DNP, their total credits are 44-47, depending upon the concentration. We anticipate that many students will choose this "opt out" option because it will allow them to work as an advanced practice nurse while continuing their DNP course work.

The existing essential content in the master's first level courses will be included in the doctoral courses as follows:

Content in NUR 500 – will be included in 651 and in 686

The main purpose of NUR 500 is to educate students in concept clarification and analysis, and to enable them to gain experience in field work related to their identified concepts. This content is covered in a limited way in 651, qualitative research. In order to ensure that students have this experience of studying a concept in depth, an assignment will be included as part of their practicum experiences in 686. This assignment will become part of their scholarly inquiry portfolio required for graduation.

Content in 505 – included in 652 and 651

Both of these courses are quantitative research and both cover the same general content areas with very similar objectives. Since 505 is the only research course that masters students in nursing take, it includes some content in qualitative research as well. The qualitative content will be expanded and taught in 651.

Content in 507 - included in 660 and 601 and added to advanced practice nursing courses

NUR 507 is a broad overview course that focuses on theories of practice for nursing and includes some content on philosophical assumptions and sociocultural factors influencing theory development and theory choice. The content related to philosophy and sociocultural factors is taught in 660 and 601 with content on specific theories useful for each student's selected area of interest now taught in the advanced practice nursing courses.

Content in 510 – included in a 551 and HDF 527 (health policy)

NUR 510 focuses on nursing leadership in the health policy process, encompassing both nursing leadership and health policy. Content from this course is covered well in two courses, NUR 551, Theoretical Study of Nursing Leadership/ Administration and HDF 527, Social and Health Care Policy.

**RATIONALE:** The changing demands of the nation's complex health care environment require that nurses serving in specialty positions have the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise possible. Research by Aiken, Estabrooks, and others have established a clear link between higher levels of nursing education and better patient outcomes. In October, 2004, The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) adopted the goal that preparation for specialization in nursing should occur at the doctoral level by 2015. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree was created to meet this need for advanced knowledge and practice expertise.

The Institute of Medicine, the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and other authorities have called for reconceptualizing the education of health professionals to meet the needs of the health care delivery system. Nursing is answering that call by preparing advanced practice nurses at the doctoral level to meet complex needs of individuals, families, health care organizations, and communities.

Nursing is moving in the direction of other health professions by offering the DNP. Medicine (MD), Dentistry (DDS), Pharmacy (PharmD), Psychology (PsyD), Physical Therapy (DPT) and Audiology (AudD) all offer practice doctorates as terminal practice degrees. Advanced practice nurses are key members and often leaders of health care teams and must be at a comparable educational level with other members of the team. Additionally, nurses' educational trajectory has usually included years in practice between baccalaureate, masters, and then doctoral degrees while the typical trajectory of other professions has been to complete doctoral education before practicing. This post-BS to DNP program will eliminate the MS to DNP gap and enable these highly qualified practitioners to enter the health care arena more rapidly.