

**PROPOSAL FOR FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER TRACK
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

Master of Science in Nursing

Prepared by

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Date of Proposal: November 5, 2022

Stockton Program Acronym: NURS

Degree/level of Current Program (BA, BS, MA, MS, MBA, DPT, etc.): MSN

CIP Code: 51.3805

Name (s) of Faculty Proposing New Option:

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Lia Ludan

Larider Ruffin (Program Chair)

Date of Program Faculty Vote to Approve the Proposed New Option: May 20th, 2022

Please note the courses for this proposed degree track have been in place since the inception of the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) post master's certificate (PMC) program in 2004. This certificate program was later accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in 2016. All the components of the degree (faculty, resources, curriculum etc.) are currently in place.

This proposal asks for two items:

- 1- To convert the PMC FNP to an MSN FNP degree track with the same number of courses already in existence
- 2- To provide one course release for the academic year for a sub-track coordinator to manage student clinical placement and credentialing related to the degree program.

Description of Proposed New Option:

The current Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program offers only an Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) degree with a PMC option for students interested in pursuing a career as an FNP. Once students complete the AGPCNP, they take two additional courses (7 credits) to become FNP. Completing the two additional FNP courses provides eligibility for the graduate to take the FNP certification exam.

Statement of Need:

Recent trends suggest there is increased interest in the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) certification among Master of Science of Nursing (MSN) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students in which a significant number of the MSN graduates choose to complete the post-masters certificate after completing the AGPCNP degree. The spring 2022 FNP cohort enrolled 12 students, which reflects a threefold increase in enrollment compared to previous FNP cohorts (average n=4). The FNP certification is in high demand nationally, as well as this specialty allows for additional employment opportunities beyond the AGPCNP ([See Appendix A the attached Gray Report](#)). FNPs are credentialed to treat patients across the life span and find employment opportunities from outpatient pediatrics to long term care facilities, whereas the AGPCNPs are limited to treating the adult-geriatric patient population.

In addition to the Gray Analysis previously discussed, we conducted an internal survey of Stockton University BSN students from both the Accelerated BSN and traditional BSN programs ([Appendix B – BSN Students Survey](#)). Of the 105 responses, 53.33% were very interested in pursuing an advanced degree in nursing within 2 years of completing their BSN. Participants were asked to rank advanced nursing specialties according to their level of interest from 1 –very interested, 2-interested, 3-somewhat interested on a scale of 1 to 7. Of the seven different specialties (Psych Mental health NP [PMHNP], Acute Care NP [ACNP], Clinical Nurse Leader [CNL], Certified Nursing Administration [CNA], Certified Nurse Educator [CNE], FNP, and AGPCNP) represented in the survey, those receiving the top 2 combined (very interested and interested) preferences were ACNP with 33.16%, followed by FNP with 23.7%, and PMHNP 16.3%. The current program offering (AGPCNP) was the least favorable with 7.37%. The survey

asked to choose between Adult-Gero part-time, Adult-Gero full-time, FNP part-time, and FNP full-time. Out of the 80 participants who showed interest, 48.75% were interested in part-time FNP, followed by 40% interested in FNP full-time, while only 11.25% were interested in AGPCNP.

Objective:

The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties ([NONPF], 2022) establishes standards to facilitate Nurse Practitioner (NP) program quality through assessment, maintenance, and planning recommendations. The most recent standards now recommend that NP students complete a total of 750 clinical hours to become eligible for national certification. This is a change from 500 clinical hours for AGPCNP and 700 hours for FNPs. To that end, because of the increased demand for the FNP and the increased numbers of clinical hours necessary for credentialing, Stockton University nursing should transition the PMC FNP to an FNP MSN track within the existing MSN degree program. The Nursing program voted to adopt the MSN FNP track at the May 20, 2022 Retreat.

Program Description:

Courses/curriculum plan: The curriculum plan for the MSN FNP program is identical to that of the MSN AGPCNP track apart from the two additional specialty specific courses. The contrast from the current PMC FNP lies in the shifting of courses to be included in the MSN degree instead of the PMC. See Appendix E: New Curriculum Alignment for a depiction of the course sequence plan. The total credits (50.5) for the FNP degree program is comparable to other FNP programs in the region (44 to 56 credits) see [Appendix C - Similar FNP Programs Credits](#) in the region. The proposed curriculum includes the following courses, and all courses are already in existence:

Old MSN AGPCNP & FNP Post-Master (700 hrs)/ 50.5 Credits

NURS 5330 Advanced Pathophysiology - 3 credits
NURS 5326 Biostatistics & Epidemiology in Population Health - 3 credits
NURS 5332 Pharmacology - 3 credits
NURS 5327 Theory & Research for Evidence Based Practice - 3 credits
NURS 5325 Health Care Systems & Policy - 3 credits
NURS 5333 Advanced Health Assessment - 3 credits
MHAL 5000 Management & Leadership Development in Healthcare - 3 credits
NURS 5422 Adult Primary Care I - 3 credits
NURS 5922 Practicum I (168 clinical hours) - 4 credits
NURS 5423 Adult Primary Care II - 3 credits
NURS 5923 Adult Practicum II (168 clinical hours) - 4 credits
NURS 5424 Adult Primary Care III - 3 credits
NURS 5923 Practicum III (168 clinical hours) - 4 credits
NURS 5590 Professional Role Development – 1.5 credits

Post-Master Certificate

NURS 5541 Assessment and Care of the Family with Young Children - 3 credits
NURS 5941 Pediatric Practicum (200 clinical hours) - 4 credits

Current Revised MSN AGPCNP & FNP Post-Master (770 hrs)/ 50 Credits

NURS 5330 Advanced Pathophysiology - 3 credits
NURS 5326 Biostatistics & Epidemiology in Population Health - 3 credits
NURS 5332 Pharmacology - 3 credits
NURS 5327 Theory & Research for Evidence Based Practice - 3 credits
NURS 5325 Health Care Systems & Policy - 3 credits
NURS 5333 Advanced Health Assessment - 3 credits
MHAL 5000 Management & Leadership Development in Healthcare - 3 credits
NURS 5422 Adult Primary Care I - 3 credits
NURS 5922 Practicum I (190 clinical hours) - 4 credits
NURS 5423 Adult Primary Care II - 3 credits
NURS 5923 Adult Practicum II (190 clinical hours) - 4 credits
NURS 5424 Adult Primary Care III - 3 credits
NURS 5923 Practicum III 190 clinical hours) - 4 credits
NURS5932 - Immersion in AGNP Practice (180 hours) – 3 credits *
NURS 5590 Professional Role Development - 1 credits

Post-Master Certificate

NURS 5541 Assessment and Care of the Family with Young Children - 3 credits
NURS 5941 Pediatric Practicum (200 clinical hours) - 4 credits

MSN Newly Proposed FNP (770 hrs)/ 50 Credits

NURS 5330 Advanced Pathophysiology - 3 credits
NURS 5326 Biostatistics & Epidemiology in Population Health - 3 credits
NURS 5332 Pharmacology - 3 credits
NURS 5327 Theory & Research for Evidence Based Practice - 3 credits
NURS 5325 Health Care Systems & Policy - 3 credits
NURS 5333 Advanced Health Assessment - 3 credits
MHAL 5000 Management & Leadership Development in Healthcare - 3 credits
NURS 5422 Adult Primary Care I - 3 credits
NURS 5922 Practicum I (190 clinical hours) - 4 credits
NURS 5423 Adult Primary Care II - 3 credits
NURS 5923 Adult Practicum II (190 clinical hours) - 4 credits
NURS 5424 Adult Primary Care III - 3 credits
NURS 5923 Practicum III 190 clinical hours) - 4 credits
NURS 5541 Assessment and Care of the Family with Young Children - 3 credits
NURS 5941 Pediatric Practicum (200 clinical hours) - 4 credits
NURS 5590 Professional Role Development - 1 credits

*= NURS5932 - to be taken by AGPCNP students only

Current MSN AGPCNP with Post-Master FNP

Proposed MSN FNP

Courses	Credits	Courses	Credits
Fall 1		Fall 1	
MHAL 5000 Management & Leadership Dev. In Healthcare	3	MHAL 5000 Management & Leadership Dev. In Healthcare	3
NURS 5326 Biostatistics & Epidemiology in Pop. Health	3	NURS 5326 Biostatistics & Epidemiology in Pop. Health	3
Spring 1		Spring 1	
NURS 5330 Advanced Pathophysiology	3	NURS 5330 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5327 Theory & Research for Ev. based Practice	3	NURS 5327 Theory & Research for Ev. based Practice	3
Summer 1		Summer 1	
NURS 5325 Health Care Systems & Policy	3	NURS 5325 Health Care Systems & Policy	3
Fall 2		Fall 2	
NURS 5333 Advanced Health Assessment	3	NURS 5333 Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS 5332 Advanced Pharmacology	3	NURS 5332 Advanced Pharmacology	3
Spring 2		Spring 2	
NURS 5422 Adult Primary Care I	3	NURS 5422 Adult Primary Care I	3
NURS 5922 Practicum I (190 clinical hours)	4	NURS 5922 Practicum I (190 clinical hours)	4
Summer 2		Summer 2	
NURS 5423 Adult Primary Care II	3	NURS 5423 Adult Primary Care II	3
NURS 5923 Adult Practicum II (190 clinical hours)	4	NURS 5923 Adult Practicum II (190 clinical hours)	4
Fall 3		Fall 3	
NURS 5424 Adult Primary Care III - 3 credits	3	NURS 5424 Adult Primary Care III - 3 credits	3
NURS 5923 Practicum III 190 clinical hours)	4	NURS 5923 Practicum III 190 clinical hours)	4
Spring 3		Spring 3	
NURS5932 - Immersion in AGNP Practice (180 hours) *	3	NURS 5541 Assess & Care of Family w/ Young Children	3
NURS 5590 Professional Role Development	1	NURS 5590 Professional Role Development	1
MSN AGPCNP EARNED		NURS 5941 Pediatric Practicum (200 clinical hours)	4
Post-Masters Certificate FNP		MSN FNP EARNED	
NURS 5541 Assess & Care of Family with Young Children	3		
NURS 5941 Pediatric Practicum (200 clinical hours)	4		

[Appendix D - New Curriculum Sequence](#)

All of the above listed courses are already in existence as part of the MSN and PMC programs. The nursing program anticipates offering this degree track in fall 2023. No new courses are being created exclusively for this track ([See Appendix E for course descriptions](#)). The FNP is an online blended program

Proposal Timeline

The faculty plan to begin the new degree option in the Fall of 2023. The following timeline will occur:

- 1- November 2022 – Approval of the proposal by the Associate Dean/Chief Nurse Administrator and the Dean of the School of Health Sciences.
- 2- December 2022 – Submission of the proposal to AP&P
- 3- January – Approval of the proposal by AP&P
- 4- February-March 2023 – Approval of the proposal by the Faculty Senate
- 5- March – May 2023 – Provost Council Approval of the MSN-FNP degree program
- 6- May – June 2023 – Advertisement and enrollment begin
- 7- September – New degree program begins

Admissions Criteria

- Possess a baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) from an NLN-CCNE-accredited school.
- Meet **one** of the two requirements:
 - Cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher (on a scale of 4.0) with a minimum grade of "B" in all nursing courses.
 - Cumulative GPA of 3.3 in at least two graduate nursing courses if the BSN GPA is less than or equal to 3.19.
- Completion of prerequisite courses
 - Health Assessment
 - Nursing Research (or in the health discipline)
 - Statistics
- Proof of current RN license in the State of NJ, CPR certification.

Recruitment

The program will work with Graduate Studies and Marketing to arrange for mailings and other publicity material. We will also notify our clinical practice partners of this new degree option. Our students and alumni are also resources to spread the word as many of our students work in healthcare facilities and our alumni serve as clinical preceptors across the South Jersey region. We have two recruitment sessions planned for November 15 and November 30, 2022.

Assessment / Evaluation / Outcomes

The Nursing Program currently has a comprehensive Assessment Plan with established benchmarks for achievement of Program Outcomes and achievement of Student Program Learning Outcomes. Outcome data tracked and recorded includes certification and employment rates of graduates, program completion rates, satisfaction with clinical experiences and preceptors, adequacy of program resources, in addition to tracking completing of student program learning outcomes

Institutional Resources, Personnel, and Budget

The faculty lines are already in place for this degree as the PMC has been in place since 2004. A sub-track coordinator is needed for this degree track due to the increasing demand for student clinical placements and for credentialing. The cost of the sub-track coordinator is equal to one 4 credit course release per academic year and the summer stipend of 2 credits. The DNP FNP degree is in place, and the students enrolled in this track complete the FNP courses at the 5000 level, therefore, the FNP sub-track coordinator is responsible for placing both MSN and DNP students and verifying that all clinical requirements have been met. An additional responsibility of MSN faculty is verifying competencies for credentialing each time a Stockton MSN NP, Post MSN NP, or DNP alumni changes employment, regardless of the alum's graduation date.

Budget: The tuition and fees revenue and anticipated expenses to be incurred in this MSN FNP track is already part of the AGPCNP track that students must complete prior to completing the 2 additional FNP specialty courses. The only added cost is the sub-track coordinator - \$10,536 ([See Appendix F – Proposed Budget for additional courses](#)). These two courses will yield an annual cost of \$21,060. Based on a cohort size of 8, total income will be \$50,176 leading to a Net Profit of \$29,116.

The potential need for additional library resources was investigated and the current electronic databases of health science sources are adequate. Sources range from Medline to Oxford Academic reference online. See the list of resources via this link:
<https://library.stockton.edu/nursing>
<https://library.stockton.edu/nursing>

[See Appendix G for Dean Arnold's support of this proposal.](#)

Date of Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Programs and Planning

Approval: Date of the Provosts' Council Approval:

Date of the Faculty Senate Approval:

Attach a copy of the list of courses in the "base program" courses, along with a list of courses in the new option HIGHLIGHTED to show which are in the new option. The Provost's Office will send this document, along with those attachments, to the Academic Issues Committee (AIC) of the New Jersey President's Council as an Information Item.