

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Committee Name: Academic Programs Committee, University Council

Date: April 16, 2026

Presented by: Paul Jones, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

Subject: Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice

MOTION

It is recommended by the Academic Programs Committee that Council approve the Termination of Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice effective for the 2027-2028 academic year.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is proposing the termination of the Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice (GCRNSP). The termination of the GCRNSP follows the approval and upcoming implementation of the replacement Master of Nursing, Nurse Practitioner (MN NP) program; the replacement program was approved in 2024-25 will begin in September 2026. The changes made to the MN NP program include the deletion of all courses in the certificate program. The GCRNSP does not lead to additional practice credentials, and many students have gone on to pursue their MN NP. As such, the College of Nursing is looking at alternatives for applicants to ladder into the MN NP and have determined that this certificate is no longer needed. Applications to the certificate are not being accepted and students currently in program are expected to complete by 202605.

CONSULTATION

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies along with the proponents submitted a proposal to the Academic Programs Committee (APC) on March 25, 2026. APC had the opportunity to review the proposal and ask questions. APC voted in favour of this certificate termination.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Termination- Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice**

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UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate
and Postdoctoral Studies

CGPS.USASK.CA

116, 110 Science Place
Saskatoon SK S7N 5C9 Canada
Telephone: 306-966-5751
Email: grad.studies@usask.ca

Executive Summary

To: Academic Programs Committee of Council
From: Graduate Programs Committee, CGPS
Date: March 3, 2026
Re: Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice

The College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is recommending termination of the Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice (GCRNSP). The termination of the GCRNSP follows the approval and upcoming implementation of the replacement Master of Nursing, Nurse Practitioner (MN NP) program; the replacement program was approved in 2024-25 will begin in September 2026. The changes made to the MN NP program include the deletion of all courses in the certificate program. The GCRNSP does not lead to additional practice credentials, and many students have gone on to pursue their MN NP. As such, the College of Nursing is looking at alternatives for applicants to ladder into the MN NP and have determined that this certificate is no longer needed. Applications to the certificate are not being accepted and students currently in program are expected to complete by 202605. The termination will be effective for the 2027-28 University Catalogue.

The Graduate Programs Committee reviewed the proposal on March 2, 2026 and approved the termination with the following motion:

MOTION: To recommend that the Academic Programs Committee of Council approve the termination of the Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice, effective 2027-28 – **W.Martin/Ferrari – Carried unanimously**

Attached please find the Report Form for Program Termination for the Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice.

If you have any questions, please contact the Academic Affairs Specialist at gradprograms.academicaffairs@usask.ca.



UNIVERSITY OF
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Report Form for Program Termination

Program(s) to be deleted: Graduate Certificate - Foundations of Registered Nurse
Specialty practice

Effective date of termination: 202705

1. List reasons for termination and describe the background leading to this decision.

This program is being terminated due to:

- A) **Low demand and change in need for program.** The Foundations of Registered Nurse Specialty Practice Graduate Certificate (GCRNSP) was originally established to support RN Prescribing within Saskatchewan, however the nurse regulating body within Saskatchewan - the College of Registered Nurses (CRNS) - decided on a different pathway for RN prescribing supported through employers rather than post-secondary education. As such, interest in the program has been low with 2-6 applicants and admissions per year.
- B) **Course offerings.** Courses in the GCRNSP were part of the previous (old) Masters of Nursing Nurse Practitioner (MN-NP) program which was revised to address new regulatory requirements and entry-level competencies for NPs. The revised MN-NP program will begin in fall 2026 and as such the courses that were part of the certificate will no longer be offered by the College of Nursing.
- C) **Financial feasibility.** It is not financially feasible to continue offering the courses in the GCRNSP for the limited number of students interested in the program.
- D) **Alternative pathways.** The College has found that students enroll in the GCRNSP because they wish to become NPs, and later transfer to the MN-NP program. They typically miss the admission deadline or other pre-requisites for admissions such as insufficient clinical practice hours. The sequencing of courses within the GCRNSP does not set students up for optimal success in the MN-NP program, as it was not originally designed for this bridging intent but as an independent certificate. The College is exploring alternative options to address the learning needs of students interested in the GCRNSP such as increasing admissions numbers, having a fall and winter intake of students (multiple admissions deadlines), and allowing students to take courses in the revised MN-NP program as non-degree students as a strategy to increase admissions averages and demonstrate ability to take graduate level courses.

The decision to terminate the GCRNSP was informed through discussions with students enrolled or previously enrolled in the program, analysis of trends of graduates applying to transfer to the MN-NP program, and financial analysis.

2. Technical information.

2.1 Courses offered in the program and faculty resources required for these courses.

Courses in the GCRNSP were part of the previous MN-NP program, which will no longer be offered by the College of Nursing due to implementation of the revised MN-NP program in fall 2026. Faculty resources will not change as the plans to remove these courses was decided with approval of the revised MN-NP program.

Table 2. Comparison of Current and New MN-NP Programs

Subject Matter	Course being deleted
Pathophysiology and Pharmacology	NURS 881.3/886.3: Pathophysiology-Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice I (3.0 CU) and II (3.0 CU)
Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning	NURS 884.3/879.3: Advanced Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning I (3.0 CU) and II (3.0 CU)

2.2 Other resources (staff, technology, physical resources, etc) used for this program.

All resources were shared with the current Master of Nursing Nurse Practitioner program and will remain the same without the GCRNSP.

2.3 Courses to be deleted, if any.

NURS 881, NURS 886, NURS 884, NURS 879,

2.4 Number of students presently enrolled. 6

2.5 Number of students enrolled and graduated over the last five years.

2023 – 3 students enrolled, 1 WD, 2 completed and applied to MN-NP program and were admitted

2024 – 3 students enrolled, 1 WD, 2 completed and 1 applied to MN-NP program and was admitted

2025 - 6 students enrolled in 26/27, 5 have applied to be admitted to MN-NP program for 2026 admission. 1 indicated will apply for admission to MN-NP in 2027.

3. Impact of the termination.

Internal

3.1 What if any impact will this termination have on undergraduate and graduate students? How will they be advised to complete their programs?

Students who are currently enrolled in the GCRNSP program will be able to complete the program by 202605. Many of these students go on to apply for the MN NP program.

3.2 What impact will this termination have on faculty and teaching assignments?

None, currently students in the program take their courses alongside students in the MN-NP program. They are not in separate sections and therefore the spaces that are allotted to these students will be transitioned into more space in the MN NP program.

3.3 Will this termination affect other programs, departments or colleges? No

3.4 If courses are also to be deleted, will these deletions affect any other programs?

No, the courses are scheduled to be deleted when the revised MN-NP program is fully running in 2027/28.

3.5 Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college will develop a program to replace this one? No

3.6 Is it likely, or appropriate, that another department or college develop courses to replace the ones deleted? No

3.7 Describe any impact on research projects. n/a

3.8 Will this deletion affect resource areas such as library resources, physical facilities, and information technology? No

3.9 Describe the budgetary implications of this deletion.

Tuition from the GCRNSP will be captured in the MN NP program moving forward by an increase in MN-NP program seats (e.g., from 40 to 45-50 seats)

External

3.10 Describe any external impact (e.g. university reputation, accreditation, other institutions, high schools, community organizations, professional bodies). None, the certificate did not lead to any additional practice credentials.

3.11 Is it likely or appropriate that another educational institution will offer this program if it is deleted at the University of Saskatchewan?

No. The regulatory body (CRNS) has determined RN prescribing to be the responsibility of individual employers rather than educational programs, therefore the need for the program was eliminated. Saskatchewan Polytechnic has offered a program for Registered Nurses pursuing Additional Authorized practice (separate from RN prescribing) and has been offering this program for many years.

Other

3.12 Are there any other relevant impacts or considerations? No, a majority of students in this certificate have gone on to pursue their MN-NP. Therefore, the MN-NP program is looking at other alternatives for applicants to ladder into the MN-NP program in the future built on the revised MN-NP program and course schedule.

3.13 Please provide any statements or opinions received about this termination. Please see the revised MN NP program proposal for curricular changes that were approved by APC, and [University Council in January 2025](#).

(Optional)

4. Additional information. *Programs which have not undergone recent formal reviews should provide additional relevant information about quality, demand, efficiency, unique features, and relevance to the province.*

PROVOST & SFO CONSULTATION

To: Academic Programs Committee of Council

From: Kyla Shea, Academic Programs and Planning Specialist

Date: January 7, 2026

Re: Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Foundations of Registered Nurse
Specialty Practice

SUMMARY

The Provost and Strategic Finance Offices have reviewed and endorsed the proposal as proposed. The purpose of the review was twofold:

- 1) to understand the potential impact of the change on the program enrolment and alignment to the college/school strategic enrolment plan.
- 2) To understand the financial implications of the proposed change and the impact on the college / school financial situation.

Date: January 7, 2026	Reviewed By: Loleen Berdahl, Acting Deputy Provost	Communicated By: Kyla Shea
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Consultation with the Registrar (CWR) – Proposal Highlights

Title of Proposal: Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Foundations for Registered Nurse Specialty Practice

General Description: This program is being terminated due to the implementation of the revised Master of Nursing Nurse Practitioner (M.N.) program. Students currently in progress will be able to complete this program; however, the unit is not accepting new students.

Degree College: College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

College Approval Graduate Programs Committee (GPC) approval, March 2, 2026

Effective Term: 2027-28

Course implications

- Courses to be deleted, pending completion of all students in progress, including existing students in the M.N. Nurse Practitioner program: NURS 881, NURS 886, NURS 884, NURS 879.

Registration and classes

- N/A

Convocation

- Students currently completing this program are expected to graduate in May 2026.

Financial and Budget

- Endorsed by the Office of the Provost and the Strategic Finance Office.

Admission and Student Mobility

- N/A