

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE  
REQUEST FOR DECISION

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**PRESENTED BY:** Len Proctor, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council

**DATE OF MEETING:** March 17, 2011

**SUBJECT:** College of Graduate Studies & Research: Change to Admission Requirements for Master of Nursing, Nurse Practitioner Option

**DECISION REQUESTED:**

*It is recommended:*

That Council approve the proposal from the College of Graduate Studies & Research for changes to admission requirements for the Master of Nursing, Nurse Practitioner Option.

**PURPOSE:**

The University of Saskatchewan Act 1995 requires that a decision to change academic or other qualifications required for admission as a student be approved by University Council [61 (1) (i)] and by University Senate [63(1) (3) (a)]

**SUMMARY:**

The Nurse Practitioner Option was approved in 2006, and the program was revised in 2009. The revisions to the admission requirements reflect changes to the program and changes to provincial registration requirements to align these with other Canadian NP programs.

The admission requirements will consist of:

- Bachelors degree in Nursing
- current licensure as a registered nurse in a Canadian province or territory
- the equivalent of three credit units in each of statistics and research method at the undergraduate level
- a minimum 70 per cent average in the last 60 university credit units taken
- two years FTE (3,600 hours) experience as a registered nurse in the last five years
- current CPR certificate at health care provider level

**REVIEW:**

At its February 9, 2011 meeting, the Academic Programs Committee discussed this proposal with Trevor Crowe, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies & Research. The Committee agreed to recommend that Council approve this proposal.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Proposal documentation

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**Proposal for Curriculum Change**  
**University of Saskatchewan**  
to be approved by University Council or by Academic Programs Committee

## **1. PROPOSAL IDENTIFICATION**

**Title of proposal:**

Degree(s): MN (NP Option)      Field(s) of Specialization: Nurse Practitioner

Level(s) of Concentration:      Option(s):

Degree College: Graduate Studies and Research      Department: N/A  
Home College: College of Nursing

Contact person(s) (name, telephone, fax, e-mail): Lynnette Leeseberg Stamler, 1477, 6703,  
lynnette.stamler@usask.ca

Date: June 30, 2010

Approved by the degree college and/or home college: Approved at College of Nursing, June 23, 2010

Proposed date of implementation: Admission for 2011

## **2. Type of change**

**Requiring approval by Council**

- ☐ A new Degree-Level program or template for program.
- ☐ A new Field of Specialization at the Major or Honours Level of Concentration or template for a major or honours program
- ☐ Conversion of an existing program from regular to special tuition program.

XA change in the requirements for admission to a program

- ☐ A change in quota for a college
- ☐ Program revisions that will use new resources
- ☐ A replacement program, including program deletion
- ☐ A program deletion (consult Program Termination Procedures, approved by Council in May 2001)

**Requiring approval by Academic Programs Committee**

- ☐ Addition of a higher Level of Concentration to an existing Field of Specialization.
- ☐ Addition of a new Field of Specialization at the Minor Level of Concentration.
- ☐ A change in program options
- ☐ A change in the name of a Degree-level Program or Field of Specialization.
- ☐ A change in the total number of credit units required for an approved degree program.

## Proposal

### 3. Rationale

The Nurse Practitioner Option of the Master of Nursing program has been in place since 2006. The admission requirements listed in the table below were approved at that point in time. Since then, the program has undergone revisions, most recently in 2009. Unfortunately, we omitted to change the admission requirements at that time, so are doing that now. The table below outlines the previous requirements and the proposed requirements. Each will be addressed after the table.

Change From	Change To
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Bachelor's degree in Nursing or equivalent</li><li>- current registration as a nurse or psychiatric nurse in a Canadian province or territory</li><li>- the equivalent of three credit units in each of Statistics and Research Methods at the undergraduate level</li><li>- a minimum 70% average on the last 60 university credit units taken</li><li>- 4500 hours nursing experience</li><li>- a physical assessment course within the last 5 years</li><li>- Nurse Practitioner students will be expected to have or develop a foundation of advanced pathophysiology during the program</li><li>- Prospective students should consult with the Graduate Chair for further details on the program</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Bachelor's degree in nursing*</li><li>- Current licensure as registered nurse in a Canadian province or territory</li><li>- the equivalent of three credit units in each of statistics and research methods at the undergraduate level</li><li>- a minimum 70% average in the last 60 university credit units taken</li><li>- 2 years FTE (3600 hours) experience as a registered nurse in the last five years</li><li>- Current CPR certificate at health care provider level</li></ul> <p>* Students with a diploma and a baccalaureate in another field could be considered on a case by case basis in light of other attributes they bring to the program.</p>

#### Summary of changes and rationale:

1. Bachelors degree in nursing – this change accommodates the realization that baccalaureate as entry to practice for the nursing profession is now legislated in all provinces except Quebec. This requirement simply formalizes this. Students with a diploma and a baccalaureate in another field could be considered on a case by case basis in light of other attributes they bring to the program.

2. Current licensure as a registered nurse in a Canadian province or territory - under the legislation, registered psychiatric nurses cannot be licensed as nurse practitioners in Saskatchewan or elsewhere. Registration from another Canadian province or territory is easily transferred to Saskatchewan – students must have this to participate in the 700+ hours of required clinical practice within the program.
3. Equivalent of three credit units each in statistics and research methods at the undergraduate level – this is the same for all MN applicants regardless of the option selected (thesis, course-based, NP)
4. Minimum 70% average in the last 60 credit units taken at the undergraduate level – CGSR requirement – identical to other options in the MN program
5. Two years FTE (3600 hours) experience as a registered nurse in the last five years – this change is to be consistent with other NP programs across the country as stated in the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative Progress Report (CNPI) (December, 2009), from the Canadian Nurses Association. The previous requirement was set by the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association (SRNA) as part of registration requirements. The portability legislation has in effect outlawed such requirements by regulatory bodies, thus we need to look to other NP programs for our comparators.
6. Current CPR certificate at health care provider level – this requirement indicates the requirement to the student – if this is not complete at the time of application – the student will be admitted with a requirement to show the certificate at the time of beginning clinical practice.

The final two requirements have been deleted. IN the original curriculum, as we did not have a course in the College of Nursing, the pathophysiology course was taken through the Nurse Practitioner consortium of the College of Ontario University Programs of Nursing. This requirement is now met in the revised curriculum and so is no longer required. The final requirement is not an admission criterion.

#### **4. Description of Program Characteristics**

The remainder of the program will remain as approved in 2008.

#### **5. Resources**

There will be no additional resources required.

#### **6. Relationships and Impact of Changes**

There are no changes. The SRNA is pleased that we will be following the CNPI guidelines in the case of the amount of experience as a registered nurse prior to admission.

#### **7. Budget**

There is no change in the budget from current practice.

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Cathie Fornssler, Secretary  
Academic Programs Committee of Council

**From:** Trevor Crowe, Associate Dean  
College of Graduate Studies and Research

**Copy:** Dr. Lynnette Leeseberg Stamler

**Date:** January 20, 2011

**Re:** Change to Admission Requirements to the MN, Nurse Practitioner Option

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Consistent with the agreement between the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) and Academic Programs Committee (APC) of University Council, attached is a report that describes the review of the proposed change to Admission Requirements to the Master of Nursing, Nurse Practitioner Option.

This report includes two appendices, identified as A (Proposal for Curriculum Change) and B (discussion notes and motions carried). The review started with the Graduate Programs Committee on December 7, 2010 and the final motion to recommend approval of the program was carried at the meeting of the College Executive Committee December 15, 2010.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research supports the change in Admission Requirements for the Master of Nursing, Nursing Practitioner Option. If questions or concerns arise during the review by the Academic Programs Committee, I would be happy to respond.

