

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE  
REQUEST FOR DECISION

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**PRESENTED BY:** Roy Dobson, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council

**DATE OF MEETING:** January 29, 2014

**SUBJECT:** College of Graduate Studies and Research: Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner option) and Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner – change to admission qualifications

**DECISION REQUESTED:**

*It is recommended:*

That Council approve the changes in admission qualifications for the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner from the College of Graduate Studies and Research, effective September 2014.

**PURPOSE:**

Under the University of Saskatchewan Act 1995, decisions regarding admission qualifications and enrolment quotas for university programs are to be approved by Council and confirmed by Senate. Admission qualifications are defined in the Admissions Policy as follows:

*These are the credentials that an applicant must present in order to establish eligibility for admission. They include but are not restricted to objective qualifications such as high school subjects, secondary or post-secondary standing, minimum averages, English proficiency, and minimum scores on standardized tests. Qualifications may vary for some admission categories.*

The motions if approved by Council will be presented to the Spring, 2014 meeting of University Senate for confirmation.

**SUMMARY:**

The proposed changes to the admission requirements for the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner are based in guiding principles set forth by a National Taskforce on Nurse Practitioner Education established in 2011 by the Canadian Association of the Schools of Nursing. Changes to the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) will require candidates to have the equivalent of three credit units in each of physical assessment, pharmacology, and physiology at an undergraduate level in order to be considered for admission. These changes are in addition to the existing requirement of three credit units in each of statistics and research methods at an undergraduate level. Changes to the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner will require candidates to have the equivalent of 3 credit units each in a graduate research and in a graduate statistics course.

Two further changes are being proposed to the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner. The Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner exists to provide nurse practitioner training to those who have prior graduate level education and are working in the field of nursing, but because of their prior graduate level education, do not want or need to complete a Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) degree. The proposed admission requirements for the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner brings the admission requirements for the certificate, including the required hours of registered nursing experience, in line with the requirements of the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner option). Also, current admission requirements for the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner only allows admission of students who have completed Masters of Nursing degrees. The proposed admission requirements open admission to those who have a Masters or Doctorate from either Nursing or a related discipline.

**REVIEW:**

The Academic Programs Committee discussed this proposal with CGSR Associate Dean Trever Crowe and Professor Mary-Ellen Andrews. It was noted that the changes allowed nursing graduates to receive a degree in a field other than nursing and to then return for the nurse practitioner certificate. It was also noted that the changes had been approved by the accrediting body.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Proposal documents; Letters of support.

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# Proposal for Curriculum Change University of Saskatchewan

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to be approved by University Council or by Academic Programs Committee

## 1. PROPOSAL IDENTIFICATION

### Title of proposal:

Degree(s): MN (NP Option) and Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner

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): Dean & Graduate Program Chair, Dr. Lorna Butler, 6221, lorna.butler@usask.ca

Date: December 4, 2012

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

Proposed date of implementation: Retroactive to 2012 Admission

## 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 revised and approved in 2010.

The Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner (PGDSC) has been in place since 2009. The admission requirements have not been revised since the initiation of this program.

The table below outlines the previous requirements and the proposed requirements. Each will be addressed after the respective program table.

Change From	Change To
<b>Nurse Practitioner Option of the Master of Nursing</b> <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>	<b>Nurse Practitioner Option of the Master of Nursing</b> <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 physical assessment, pharmacology, physiology, 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>
<b>Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner (PGDSC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- completion of Masters in Nursing (MN, MScN, MSN) from a recognized university with a 70% average within that degree</li><li>- a current RN license in good standing from any Canadian jurisdiction,</li><li>- 4500 hours clinical practice as an RN (approximately 2 years full time practice).</li></ul>	<b>Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner (PGDSC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Meet the requirements for admission to MN-NP Option.</li><li>- completion of a Masters or PhD in Nursing or in a related discipline (education, health administration, public health) from a recognized university with a 70% average within that degree.</li><li>- 3 credit units in each a graduate research methods and a graduate statistics course.</li></ul>

#### Summary of changes and rationale:

- A. In 2011, the Canadian Association of the Schools of Nursing struck a National Taskforce on Nurse Practitioner Education. The purpose of this taskforce was to develop a national consensus framework of guiding principles and essential components for NP education programs across Canada. In November of 2012, the taskforce presented a document outlining these guiding principles and essential components to the CASN Annual Nursing Graduate Program Forum. One of the guiding principles stated that NP programs should have clear prerequisites for admission. The change in the admission requirements for the College of Nursing MN Program NP Option and the PGDSC reflect CASN suggested criteria for admission to graduate level NP education.
- B. Present admission requirement exclude registered nurses who furthered their education in a field of study other than nursing. At present, three students are in the MN-NP Option Program who have completed a Master's Degree in Public Health or Epidemiology. As students in the PGDSC have previously completed graduate level courses in research and statistics, and completed a thesis or publishable paper, these courses are not repeated in the PGDSC. Students in the PGDSC take all of the other required courses in the NP program. Therefore, the exclusion of nurses with a Master's degree from a field other than nursing disadvantaged Master's prepared nurses with additional advanced education.

#### **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 that will result in the delivery of the program. The faculty is pleased that we will be following the CASN guiding principles and essential components for NP education. There are two students in the program that could benefit from the change in the admission policy who have a graduate degree from another college. The third student has already completed the required courses. It is hoped that the Academic Programs Committee will advise on the ability of these student to make a program change from the MN-NP Option to the PGDSC if the students request this change.

#### **7. Budget**

There is no change in the budget from current practice.

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Cathie Fornssler, Committee Coordinator  
Academic Programs Committee of University Council

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

**Copies:** Phil Woods, Associate Dean – Research, College of Nursing

**Date:** January 23, 2014

**Re:** Proposal for a Change to the Requirements for Admission to the Master of  
Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and the Postgraduate Degree  
Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner

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Consistent with the Curricular Changes – Authority for Approval chart approved by University Council April 2002, attached is a report that describes the review of the proposed change to the requirements for admission to the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner.

This report includes three appendices: CGSR committees' recommendations for approval, correspondence associated with the review process, and the CGSR approved proposal. The formal review started with the Graduate Programs Committee on February 5, 2013, and the final motion to recommend to the Academic Programs Committee was made by the College Executive Committee on April 18, 2013.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research supports the proposed change to the requirements for admission to the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner. If questions or concerns arise during the review by the Academic Programs Committee, I would be happy to respond.



**Proposal for a Change to the Requirements for Admission to the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner**

**Discussion and Motion passed at College of Graduate Studies and Research Executive Committee – April 18, 2013**

**Change to the Requirements for Admission to the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner** – The proposal would add the admission requirement of 3 credit units in each of physical assessment, pharmacology and physiology. In the certificate program, students can come in with a different graduate degree and require 3 credit units in each of a graduate research and graduate statistics course, and are also being required in addition to meet the requirements for entry into the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option). Since the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner serves to provide Nurse Practitioner training to individuals who already have a Masters in Nursing, it is appropriate to bring the admission requirements of the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner in line with the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option).

**MOTION:** *“To recommend the proposal for a change in the requirements for admission to the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner for approval.”*

Nichol/ Ohiozebau. Carried.

**Discussion and Motion passed at College of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Programs Committee – February 5, 2013**

**Change to the Requirements for Admission to the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner** – This proposal increased the number and diversity of courses required for admittance into the MN (NP) option. This is proposed to ensure that students applying from different undergraduate programs at different universities, including international universities, are capable to meet the academic demands of the MN (NP) program and the PGNPC program.

**MOTION:** *“That the proposal for the change to admission requirement for the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner be recommended to the Executive Committee of CGSR for approval.”*

Goodridge/ Whiting. Carried.



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Graduate Executive Committee

**FROM:** Dr. Laureen McIntyre, Chair  
Graduate Programs Committee, College of Graduate Studies and Research

**DATE:** March 7, 2013

**RE:** Change in the Requirements for Admission to the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner

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At its February 5, 2013 meeting, the Graduate Programs Committee of the College of Graduate Studies and Research considered the proposal for Change in the Requirements for Admission to the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner. The committee passed the following motion:

“That the proposal for the change to admission requirements for the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option) and Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner be recommended to the Executive Committee of CGSR for approval”. D. Goodridge/ S. Whiting. All in favour. Carried.

Please find attached correspondence associated with the review process and the final version of the proposal.

Sincerely,

Laureen McIntyre, Ph.D.  
Chair, Graduate Programs Committee, College of Graduate Studies and Research

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# Memorandum

**To:** Lorna Butler, Dean and Graduate Chair

**From:** Laureen McIntyre, Graduate Programs Committee  
College of Graduate Studies and Research

**Date:** February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Re:** Change to Admission Requirements - Master of Nursing and Postgraduate Degree Specialization  
Certificate: Nurse Practitioner

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This is to inform you that the proposal for Change to Admission Requirements for the **Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner Option)** and the **Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner** has been reviewed by the Graduate Programs Committee. I am pleased to inform you the committee approved the proposal for recommendation to Graduate Executive Committee for consideration, with ultimate approval resting with University Council.

The committee recommends that the proposed requirement for the Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate: Nurse Practitioner stated as "completion of Masters in Nursing (MN, MScN, MSN or PhD)" should probably be stated either as "completion of a Masters or PhD in Nursing" or "completion of a graduate degree in Nursing (MN, MScN, MSN or PhD)", as a PhD is not a kind of Masters and thus the requirement as stated could be misleading.

Please contact Alex Beldan (#2229) in the College of Graduate Studies and Research if you have any questions.

LM/ab