

Date: September 24th, 2012

Submitted by: Dr. Brenda Patzel Associate Professor School of Nursing ext. 1532

SUBJECT: Curriculum change request for the approval of a Post-Master's Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program

DESCRIPTION: The Post-Master's Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program is a 20-24 credit post-Master's certificate program. Nurse Practitioners nationally certified as either an adult or family nurse practitioner are eligible to apply for this certificate program. In addition, Master's prepared Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist who are seeking an educational opportunity to obtain psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner certification are eligible to apply to the program. The program includes content on psychotherapy modalities, neurobiology and psychopharmacology as well as 500 clinical hours in a psychiatric/mental health facility for adult and family nurse practitioners.

RATIONALE: The goal for the program is to prepare Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners who are eligible for ANCC certification and who have the knowledge and skills needed to provide a full range of services to meet these mental health needs of patients.

In the state of Kansas all but 6 counties have been designated as a Federal Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) (KDHE Bureau of Local and Rural Health 2011). The Department of Veterans Affairs have announced plans to hire approximately 1,600 additional mental health clinicians to reduce long waits for services at many veteran medical centers. Locally positions are slated to be added to the Topeka V.A. while psychiatrist positions at the same facility have continued to remain unfilled.

In 2014 ANCC will retire the Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health NP and CNS certifications. As a result some individuals who are not currently certified and who do not have the life span focus will not be eligible for certification after this date. Certification is required for Psychiatric APRN's by many insurance carriers and other third party payers.

State assessment of advanced practice psychiatric mental health nursing needs in a recent unpublished study of APRNs in primary care settings in the state of Kansas conducted by Patzel, Scheibmeir, McBride, and Jennings, found that the prescribing of psychotropic medications by primary care N.P's is very common. However 50% of the nurse practitioners that do prescribe psychotropic medications reported that they did not feel comfortable with this practice but did so primarily because of the lack of referral options for their client's psychiatric treatment.

Financial Implications: The major expense of the post-Master's certificate program will be the increase in adjunct salary costs to assist with the undergraduate mental health clinical practicums. Please see the proforma for full costs/revenue of the proposed post-Master's certificate program.

Proposed Effective Date: Spring semester 2013

Request for Action: Approval by Faculty Senate

Approved by: University Graduate Education Committee September 6th, 2012
Faculty Senate on date

Attachments Yes No