

**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**The Graduate School**

**Curricular Report from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate**  
**Report No. 2006-2007 3B**

At meeting No. 414 held on 17 November, 2006, the Graduate Council approved the following proposal for a Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education .that is now submitted to the Faculty Senate.

SECTION I

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ABSTRACT

The Graduate Council approved a proposal from the College of Nursing for a Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education. The proposed certificate program would use only currently existing courses and would require no additional University resources. Goals of the program will be “to provide a theoretical and experiential base for transitioning into and assuming the role of a nurse faculty member in higher education and to enhance the role of the nurse educator in hospitals and various community settings.

BACKGROUND

**From the proposal:**

In order to meet the need for qualified nurse educators for the future, this certificate program consists of three three-credit theoretical courses and one three-credit practicum course. Faculty will work closely with students in identifying their learning needs in selecting an appropriate practicum and a relevant elective course.

The proposal was reviewed under the process established by the Faculty Senate in which the Graduate Council serves as the Coordinating and Review Committee. Announcements of the receipt of the proposal were sent to the Provost and the Council of Deans, the Budget Office, and Department Chairs and Graduate Directors. Recommendations were sought from each of these. Comments and recommendations have been kept on file in the Graduate School.

The Budget Office responded with the understanding that no additional University resources would be required for implementation of the program, and the Council of Deans endorsed the proposal with recommendations for small editorial changes that now have been made.

SECTION II

RECOMMENDATION

The Graduate Council approved the proposal for the Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education at its meeting number 414 held on 17 November, 2006, and forwards it to the Faculty Senate with a recommendation for approval in the category of programs that require no additional University resources.

## **A Proposal for a Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education**

**Name of Department** College of Nursing

**Title of proposed program: Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education**

**Intended date of implementation:** Spring 2007 (at the earliest)

**Anticipated date of granting first certificate:** Fall 2007

**Intended location of the program:** CCE, Providence – First Priority  
Kingston – Second Priority

### **Description of the program:**

The graduate certificate program in nursing education consists of 12 credit hours of course work that focuses on educational assessment, curriculum design, teaching strategies, and evaluation related to teaching in the classroom and clinical areas.

This plan of study is designed for MS degree nurses who may be employed in other areas working as nurse practitioners, clinical specialists, staff development educators, or educators in community, long term, and outreach settings who aspire to assume a teaching position.

### **Program goals and objectives**

#### **a. Goals:**

- To provide a theoretical and experiential base for transitioning into and assuming the role of a nurse faculty member in higher education.
- To provide a theoretical and experiential base to enhance the role of the nurse educator in hospitals and various community settings.

In order to meet the need for qualified nurse educators for the future, this certificate program consists of three three- credit theoretical courses and one three-credit practicum course. Faculty will work closely with students in identifying their learning needs in selecting an appropriate practicum and a relevant elective course.

#### **b. Course Requirements:** Twelve credits

Nursing 538 (Nurs 1) – 3 credits (Theory) – *Learning Theories and Strategies for Health Professionals*

Nursing 541 (Nurs 2) - 3 credits (Theory) – *Curriculum Design for Higher Education Programs in Health Care Professions*

Nursing 590 (Nurs 3) - 3 credits (Practicum) – Directed Study

Elective - 3 credits (at 400 or above level)

Total **12 credits**

*The following are the course descriptions of the recommended electives in the School of Education.*

**EDC 505 Leadership Development in Adult Programs (3)**

Discussion of leadership concepts, styles, and implications. Discussion and practice in the use of several adult education methods and techniques for increasing the effectiveness of groups and organizations. (Lec. 3) Pre: permission of instructor

**EDC 582 Instructional Systems Development for Adult Programs (3)**

Designing and implementing instructional systems. Discussion of the basic tenets underlying theories of instructional technology, curriculum development, and curriculum change as they apply to adult learners in a variety of settings. (Lec. 3) Pre: 581 or permission of instructor.

**EDC 583 Planning, Design, and Development of Adult Learning Systems (3)**

Overview of the program planning process including goal setting, needs analysis, program planning, and implementing change strategies. Discussion of effective functioning in the role of change agent within an organization. (Lec. 3) Pre: permission of instructor.

**EDC 584 The Adult and the Learning Process (3)**

Examination of the adult as a learner with emphasis on the factors that affect adult learning and learning processes related to instruction. (Lec. 3) Pre: 581 or permission of instructor.

**c. Workforce or professional development need:**

It is a documented fact that nursing is in dire need of nursing educators. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), National League for Nursing (NLN), and Sigma Theta Tau the average age of a faculty member is 51.5 years old and 7% of the 10,200 full-time faculty positions in the 690 US baccalaureate and graduate programs are currently vacant. As the current faculty reach retirement age the need for new faculty will increase.

**d. Existing graduate curriculum:**

All courses in this proposed certificate program are currently offered in the College of Nursing and School of Education as part of their graduate programs.

**e. Admission requirements:**

A BS degree in Nursing and Masters degree in Nursing. The GRE and MAT test will not be required, although if a student wishes to transfer into the doctoral program all admission requirements must be met.

**f. Completion requirements:**

A total GPA of 3.0 or better is required. The courses must be completed within a four-year period.

**g. Faculty:**

The faculty for this certificate program will be full-time and/or adjunct faculty currently associated with the College of Nursing.

**h. Administration:**

This certificate program will be administered by Dr. Evelyn M.J. Yeaw, Co-coordinator of the Graduate Nursing Education Program in the College of Nursing.

**i. Advising:**

The Co-coordinator of the Graduate Nursing Education Program, named above, within the College of Nursing will provide advising to all students in the certificate program.

**j. Budget:**

No additional resources are required to offer this program, as the courses required already exist in the College of Nursing and the School of Education.

**k. Links to MS program in Nursing Education Specialty:**

All courses are offered in the Graduate Nursing Education Program. If a student is accepted into the Master's program, any courses taken for the certificate, within five years with a grade of B or above, can be used as transfer credits if appropriate to the area of specialization.

**l. Assessment Plan:**

The ad hoc nursing education specialty committee will conduct an annual review of the program for the College of Nursing Graduate Council.