

University Senate

Proposed: April 5, 2019

Adopted: April 5, 2019

by voice vote with no abstentions

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN ADVANCED CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
FOR PEDIATRIC ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONERS (School of Nursing)**

WHEREAS children with complex chronic illnesses are living longer and need practitioners who can care for them in both acute and primary care settings; and

WHEREAS to provide optimal care and meet the needs of children across all settings, the best option is a doctor of nursing practice-pediatric nurse practitioner with a formal education and certification in primary and acute care; and

WHEREAS an increasing number of children's hospitals prefer pediatric nurse practitioners certified in both primary and acute care; and

WHEREAS the certificate will be offered as an option to be taken in conjunction with the curriculum for the doctor of nursing practice pediatric nurse practitioner primary care, or for licensed and certified pediatric nurse practitioners as a stand-alone advanced certificate; and

WHEREAS graduates who earn the advanced certificate will be eligible to sit for the Pediatric Nurse Certification Board examination for acute care pediatric nurse practitioners; and

WHEREAS the program neither replaces nor duplicates any existing Columbia programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate approve the creation of an Advanced Certificate Program for Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Education Committee review the program five years after its inauguration.

Proponent:

Education Committee

1. Purpose

We are proposing that an acute care pediatric nurse practitioner (AC- PNP) Advanced Certificate be offered.

Our current pediatric primary care program has a forty-year history of producing safe and well-utilized Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNPs). We have the experience and the faculty to be able to meet this needs. The Pediatric Acute Care Advanced Certificate will be offered as an option to be taken in conjunction with the DNP-PNP Primary Care curriculum or for licensed and certified pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) as a standalone Advanced Certificate. Graduates who earn the AC-PNP Advanced Certificate will be eligible to sit the Pediatric Nurse Certification Board examination in AC-PNP.

The AC-PNP Advanced Certificate will enhance the existing Doctor of Nursing Practice- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. It does not replace any programs nor duplicate existing programs. It will be incorporated as one of the offerings at Columbia School of Nursing in the same manner as our other Advanced Certificate programs.

2. Need

An increasing number of children's hospitals including Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Boston's Children's, and the Northwell Health systems prefer PNPs who practice in a pediatric acute care setting to hold this certification. In some cases, the nurse practitioners who work in a pediatric critical care setting are required to hold certification as an AC-PNP. Children with complex chronic illness are living longer and need practitioners who can care for these children in both an acute and primary care settings. To provide optimal care and meet the needs of children across all settings, a DNP-PNP with a formal education and certification in primary and acute care is the best option.

At present, New York State has no acute care PNP programs in the metropolitan area, Mid-Hudson, Northeast region or in the Western regions (<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/nurse/nurseprogs-masters.htm#metro>). The nearest program accepting candidates is in Pennsylvania. Our state-of-the-art simulation center and multiple facilities that are presently using primary care PNPs to work in acute care setting can support the acute care track. Students who would have this coursework and clinical experience along with a primary care coursework would receive over 1,000 hours of supervised clinical experience as per the Pediatric Nursing Certifications Guidelines.