

**DATE:** July 23, 2015

**SUBJECT:** East Tennessee State University, Graduate Certificates:  
 Post-DNP Family Nurse Practitioner  
 Post-DNP Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner  
 Post-DNP Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner  
 Post-DNP Executive Leadership in Nursing

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Approval

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** East Tennessee State University proposes to offer four Post-Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduate certificates:

- Post-DNP Family Nurse Practitioner
- Post-DNP Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner
- Post-DNP Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Post-DNP Executive Leadership in Nursing

These Post-DNP graduate certificate programs will allow practicing DNP – prepared advanced practice nurses to earn national certification for advanced practice in one of the three specializations or executive leadership. The Post-DNP graduate certificate programs will range from 36 to 40 credits, depending on the concentration, and will be comprised of the concentration-specific didactic and clinical courses in the existing DNP program. Post-DNP graduate certificate students will enroll with students in currently scheduled DNP degree courses, thus maximizing the use of existing capacity in the DNP degree program.

**PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Fall 2015

**1.1.20A MISSION:** The proposed Post-DNP graduate certificate programs support ETSU mission of preparing health professionals to serve the rural Appalachian region. The programs will be offered through the College of Nursing whose mission is to facilitate the health of the community through excellence and innovation in nursing education, research, service and practice. The DNP program is an integral academic program within the CON and the Post-DNP graduate certificate programs will expand the impact of DNP prepared individuals in the region.

**1.1.20B CURRICULUM:** The curriculum for the Post-DNP graduate certificates will be implemented in an online and blended format. Students earning one of these graduate certificates will integrate specialized knowledge, theories and research from nursing science and related disciplines for application to nursing practice. The graduate certificates will require 36 to 40 credit hours depending on the selected certificate program:

- Post-DNP Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner – 36 hours
- Post-DNP Family Nurse Practitioner – 38 hours
- Post-DNP Executive Leadership in Nursing – 38 hours
- Post-DNP Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner - 40 hours

**1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS:** Students may be admitted to the Post-DNP graduate certificate programs in one of two ways: as DNP degree holding applicants or concurrently enrolled in the ETSU DNP program. Additional application requirements include licensure as a Registered Nurse in the United States and eligibility for licensure in Tennessee, a personal statement, and resume.

**Projected Program Enrollment and Productivity**

Enrollment in the Post-DNP graduate certificate programs is anticipated to be small. The program is designed for working professional nurses and students are projected to enroll in the program on a part-time basis. Students will have the opportunity to complete their clinical requirements in or near their home city.

Year	Headcount	Graduates
2015	2	--
2016	4	--
2017	6	2
2018	6	2
2019	6	2

**1.1.20D FACULTY:** The instructional workload for the proposed Post-DNP graduate certificate programs will be provided by existing faculty in the College of Nursing. However, if additional graduate clinical sections are needed to accommodate students, part-time faculty will be hired.

**1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES:** The existing library including electronic and database resources are sufficient to support the proposed graduate certificate programs.

**1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION:** No new organizational unit will be required. The proposed programs will be offered by the College of Nursing.

**1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES:** Within the College of Nursing, the Director of Student Services along with four professional advisors provides student support for undergraduate and graduate nursing students. Additionally, with the programs being delivered in an online and blended format, information technology is essential for the success of these programs. The Office of Information Technology will assist faculty in developing and revising their online courses as well as developing videos for use in course development.

**1.1.20H FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No additional facilities or equipment are needed. The existing building for the College of Nursing provides sufficient space for administrative, faculty, and staff offices.

**1.1.20I NEED AND DEMAND:** The proposed Post-DNP graduate certificate programs will allow practicing DNP nurses to earn national certification for advanced practice or executive leadership training. In 2010, The Institutes of Medicine released *The Future of Nursing* report and recommended that opportunities be available for nurses to engage in lifelong learning to gain competencies needed to provide care for diverse populations across the lifespan. These proposed graduate certificate programs addresses this recommendation.

An increase in the number of DNP graduates with a second or subsequent area of specialization will meet the workforce needs for advanced practice nurses in Tennessee, facilitate improved health outcomes for Tennesseans, and will facilitate meeting faculty needs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment projections for DNPs are projected to increase by 34 percent from 2012 to 2022.

**1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION:** There are no existing Post-DNP graduate certificate programs offered at a public institution in Tennessee.

**1.1.20K COOPERATING INSTITUTIONS:** None at this time.

**1.1.20L DIVERSITY AND ACCESS:** East Tennessee State University aspires to be an institution that celebrates diversity by welcoming all students, faculty and staff as respected and valued participants in the University's educational mission.

**1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION:** The Post-DNP graduate certificate programs are eligible for accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Doctor of Nursing Practice is accredited by CCNE. These certificate programs will be included in the next accreditation visit scheduled for fall 2017.

**1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGMENT:** As part of the program approval process, an expert in the field is invited to campus to serve as the external reviewer. As this proposed program generates no expenses and minimal revenues, THEC waived the external reviewer requirement.

**1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT:** The proposed graduate certificate programs will generate tuition revenues. The program will leverage the existing capacity of resources from the Doctor of Nursing Practice program and therefore no expenditures are projected.

**1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING:** An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following program approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved proposal. At the end of this period, the campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation, and other metrics set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. If benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. If additional time is needed and requested by the governing board, the Commission may choose to extend the monitoring period.