

## **Streamlined Path to Adult and Gerontological Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Certification**

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### **Abstract**

The University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) is in the process of developing a streamlined process for adult nurse practitioners (ANP) to return to school and obtain their Doctor of Nursing Practice degree while obtaining the academic education needed to qualify for the Adult and Gerontological Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) National Certification Exam. This work is made possible due to funding through the NSP II that was awarded by the Maryland Higher Education Commission. In July of 2008, the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Consensus Work Group completed the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation. The unintended outcome of this work is that all nationally certified ANPs currently hold a certification that is no longer being offered, placing them at risk of losing their certification. Given the expectation that the population of people over the age of 60 will double by 2050 (World Health Organization, 2015), the need for qualified health care providers with targeted geriatric training is imperative. Facilitating a route for nurses to increase their knowledge and skills in the management of complex older adults while updating their APRN specialty areas will ensure that Maryland can meet the primary care and mental health needs of an aging population. Beyond the development of a workforce prepared to address the needs of an aging population, this will increase the number of nurse practitioners prepared at the doctoral level. This increase in doctoral-prepared nurses, in addition to improving quality of care, will help to address the nursing faculty shortage.

Strategies to facilitate this streamlined path include:

- Structured plan of study to address gaps in academic requirements for ANP-prepared nurse practitioner to avoid
- Targeted clinical experiences to develop expertise in the management of older adults with multiple complex comorbidities
- Development of online modules to supplement geriatric content in AGPCNP coursework
- Development of a targeted marketing strategy to meet and recruit potential applicants

This project is in its first year and has focused on curricular review and the developing of a marketing plan. This presentation will detail the process for completion of a gap analysis based

on the Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs as well as use of curricular mapping to identify areas for enhanced geriatric content. We will also look at innovative strategies for recruiting students.