

Please accept this letter of review of the proposed Youngstown State University Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) program. The program is proposed to be offered as both a Master of Science Option and a Post-Masters' Option. This review is structured by the inquiry requested by the Graduate School.

1. Is there a market need for the proposed program?

The need for health care providers continues to grow unabated with the aging US population and the additional estimated 30 million persons in the health care system with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, resulting in a 3.1% increase in inpatient hospital visits (<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2015/feb/how-will-aca-affect-use-health-services>). At the same time, the American Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (AACGME) instituted reduction in resident clinical hours. The combination of these factors has led to a significant shortage of expert care providers in the acute care setting. Nurse practitioners provide an important solution to the acute care health care provider shortage. According to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, 7.5% of practicing NPs in the US (n=15,000) are Acute Care NPs (<https://www.aanp.org/all-about-nps/np-fact-sheet>). Overall, there is a significant need for additional acute care nurse practitioners.

In addressing the market need, current program offerings as well as geography is taken into consideration. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, there are 5 approved ACNP (adult-gerontology) programs in Ohio with two in Columbus, (OSU, and Mt. Carmel), one in Dayton (Wright State), one in Cleveland (Case Western Reserve) and one adjacent to Akron (Kent State). Of these, both Case Western Reserve and Kent are both more than 60 miles and at least 90 minutes travel distance from Youngstown. The only other geographically adjacent program for ACNP is the University of Pittsburgh (DNP program, not offered as a MSN), also more than 60 miles and more than an hour travel distance from Youngstown. The proposed program at Youngstown State would be the only ACNP program within the local geographic area.

In the greater Youngstown metropolitan area, the 2010 census reported a population of more than 565,000 persons served by multiple Health Systems with multiple hospitals in the area (Mercy Health, Sharon Regional, Valley Care, UPMC) as well as community-based hospitals (East Liverpool City and Salem Community) (<http://regionalchamber.com/EconomicDevelopment/FactsFigures/LocalEconomy/LargestEmployers.aspx>). There is sufficient population need as well as health care systems to support this program.

2. Does the proposal conflict with anything that we presently offer (or plan to offer) at OSU--and, if so, does such a conflict raise cause for concern?

The Youngstown State University proposal adds an additional specialty to the MSN program offered by the Department of Nursing. Currently, YSU offers family nurse practitioner, adult-gerontology clinical nurse specialist and nurse anesthetist tracks at the advanced practice level that was approved through the Ohio Board of Regents. The addition of an ACNP option is the major modification to their masters' offerings.

Currently at Ohio State, the College of Nursing offers the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner that is overseen by the Graduate School. Our ACNP program is offered in the traditional delivery format of in-person classes with the option of core courses offered online. As OSU is more than 2 hours from the greater Youngstown area, the proposed program at YSU does not cause concern as it is outside the contiguous area. While the proposal may conflict with the current ACNP specialty

program offered here in the College of Nursing, this conflict would not impact student recruitment to our program.

3. Do you have any substantive concerns about the proposal that should be communicated to Youngstown State University as they continue to work on this proposal? How serious, in your view, are these concerns?

The proposal is brief and assumes knowledge of the existing Masters' programs offered at YSU. We are unable to verify overlap of courses with the other Masters' programs at YSU nursing. We would recommend that the original Masters' program proposal (especially the parts that focus on advanced practice nursing and reconciliation with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Consensus model [<https://www.ncsbn.org/736.htm>]) that was approved by the Board of Regents be included as an appendix to provide the requisite detail needed.

4. Do you have any suggestions for strengthening the proposal or sharpening its focus?

Please see our comments from #2. Having the original proposal to describe the curriculum and conceptualization would be helpful. Otherwise, this application addresses the intent and purpose of the ACNP program that Youngstown State University wishes to add to its current program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide review and feedback on the proposed Youngstown State University Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program.