

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Granting Approval of and Permission to Submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) an Extension of an Existing Program Application for a Clinical Nurse Leader Concentration in the Existing Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Degree (CIP Code 51.3801) in the College of Nursing

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine has stated a charge for nurses to become leaders and change agents in today's complex healthcare systems, and the American Nurses Association acknowledges the need for nurses to improve clinical practice in an effort to provide safe, high quality care; and

WHEREAS, for nearly two decades the College of Nursing at the University of Alabama has offered graduate course work to prepare nurses at this advanced level; and

WHEREAS, this clinical nurse leader concentration provides a path for MSN students to complete a course of education culminating in the ability to recognize and resolve clinical practice problems and to effect systems-level changes that result in safe, effective, and efficient care to the people of Alabama and of the United States; and

WHEREAS, this concentration builds on the well-documented teaching expertise of our faculty and the robustness of our course offerings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama that it grants approval of and permission to submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) an Extension Program Application for a Clinical Nurse Leader Concentration in the Existing Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Degree (CIP Code 51.3801) in the College of Nursing at The University of Alabama.

March 6, 2017

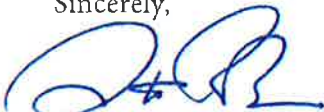
Chancellor C. Ray Hayes
The University of Alabama System
500 University Boulevard East
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Dear Chancellor Hayes:

I am pleased to endorse the recommendation from Provost Kevin Whitaker, and Deans Susan Carvalho and Suzanne Prevost for the addition of a Clinical Nurse Leader concentration in the Master of Science in Nursing (CIP Code 51.3801). The Clinical Nurse Leader concentration provides a path for MSN students to complete a course of education culminating in the ability to recognize and resolve clinical practice problems and to effect systems-level changes that result in safe, effective, and efficient care to the people of Alabama and of the United States.

If you approve of this concentration, I would appreciate you forwarding this request to the Board of Trustees for their consideration.

Sincerely,



Stuart R. Bell
President

Enclosure

c: Executive Vice President and Provost Kevin Whitaker
Dean Susan Carvalho
Dean Suzanne Prevost



**ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTRUCTION**

**Proposal Form for the Addition of an Option, Track, Specialization, or
Concentration, etc., to an Existing Program**

1. Institution:
The University of Alabama

2. CIP Code, Program Title, and Degree Nomenclature of the existing program [see instructions below]:
CIP Code: 51.3801
Program Title: Nursing
Degree Nomenclature: Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.)

3. Name of the proposed extension:
Clinical Nurse Leader

4. **Fill in the table provided** with the following information:
 - a. For certificate, associate, and baccalaureate programs, the number of hours in the General Education Curriculum.
 - b. For all program levels, the number of hours in the program core. The program core includes all courses in the major taken by students regardless of option, concentration, specialization, or track.
 - c. For all program levels, the number of hours in the proposed option, specialization, concentration, track, etc.
 - d. For all program levels, the total hours in the program including the new extension/alteration.

Semester Hours in the General Education Curriculum (Certificate, Associate, and Baccalaureate Programs Only)	N/A
Semester Hours in the Program Core	29
Semester Hours in the Option, Concentration, Etc.	10
Semester Hours in other coursework (electives, supporting courses, etc.)	3 (Optional Thesis)
Total Semester Hours in the Program with the Proposed Extension/Alteration	39 (42 with thesis option)

5. List the courses in the program core with the number of semester hours for each:
 - NUR 501 Theoretical Models for Advanced Nursing Practice with Rural Populations (3 semester hours)
 - NUR 502 Issues in Community Health for Rural Populations (2 semester hours)
 - NUR 503 Informatics in Healthcare (3 semester hours)
 - NUR 505 Advanced Health Assessment (3 semester hours)
 - CHS 520 Basic Epidemiology (3 semester hours)
 - NUR 521 Advanced Pharmacology (3 semester hours)
 - NUR 522 Human Relations Management (3 semester hours)
 - NUR 529 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 semester hours)
 - NUR 580 Fiscal Resource Management (3 semester hours)
 - NUR 581 Research and Statistics for Health Professionals (3 semester hours)

6. List the courses in the proposed option, concentration, specialization, or track, etc., with the credit hours for each:
 - NUR 525 Evidence Based Practice Roles & Processes for the CNL (4 semester hours)
 - NUR 530 Clinical Immersion Experience (6 semester hours)

7. What is the scope or effect of the proposed extension?
 - a. How many of the major courses to be offered by the proposed extension are offered in the existing program?
 - All major courses to be offered by the proposed extension are already offered in the existing program.

 - b. How will the proposed extension impact other public institutions?
 - There are two other clinical nurse leader concentrations in existing MSN programs at public universities in Alabama. The CNL concentration at UA is unique due to our focus on care of rural and underserved populations in both acute and chronic healthcare settings. Thus, competition with existing programs should be minimal, yet we can still fulfill an important societal need, and the critical demand for nurses trained to recognize and resolve clinical problems. As the US population ages more CNLs will be needed to meet the demands of the healthcare market place; thus providing ample opportunity for new graduates of this concentration.

 - c. Will the proposed extension move the program listing to a new two-digit CIP category in the Commission's academic program inventory?
 - No, the proposed extension will not move the program listing to a new two-digit CIP category.

8. What is the impact of the proposed change on the existing program or unit?
 - a. What will be the budgetary impact of the proposed extension?
 - No budgetary impact is expected as these are courses that are already offered, and we have capacity for additional seats.


 - b. What changes in faculty and staff will be required to implement the proposed extension/alteration?
 - No additional faculty or staff are expected.

9. If the extension will require additional resources, please provide a list of sources of funds available for the extension.

No additional resources are needed.

10. Please state the rationale for the extension/alteration.

This extension will provide an option for students wishing to further their education to the level of master's preparation. In 2010, the Institute of Medicine released the *Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. This report recommended that nurses achieve higher levels of education and that nurses must be full partners in the redesign of healthcare in the US. CNLs provide evidence-based care, reduce healthcare costs, and enhance health promotion. The CNL is educationally prepared to improve the quality and safety of patient care by designing evidence-based solutions to problems that affect the individual and population level of nursing care in acute and chronic patient situations. Job demand is growing, particularly in Veteran Administration facilities, but also in other healthcare systems as employers are seeing a high return on investment when CNLs are employed (AACN, 2017). In Alabama, because of the high number of people residing in rural areas there is great need for CNLs who are prepared with that unique focus on rural populations. This need is also demonstrated in many other states across the US.



3/6/17
Date

Signature of Institution's Authorized Representative

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT + PROVOST

Title

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Institution