GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Graduate Council NEW Certificate, Concentration, Track or Degree Program Coordination/Approval Form
(Please complete this form and attach any related materials. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. If no coordination with other units is required, simply indicate “None” on the form.

Title of Program/Certificate,etc: Nurse Educator Track in the Master of Science in Nursing Program

Level (Masters/Ph.D.):

Please Indicate: _____ Program _____ Certificate ____ Concentration __X_ Track

Description of certificate, concentration or degree program:
Please attach a description of the new certificate or concentration. Attach Course Inventory Forms for each new or modified course included in the program. For new degree programs, please attach the SCHEV Program Proposal submission.

Please list the contact person for this new certificate, concentration, track or program for incoming students:
Dr. Jeanne Sorrell

Approval from other units:
Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new program. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

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<tr>
<th>Unit:</th>
<th>Head of Unit’s Signature:</th>
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Submitted by: ______________________________________ Email: jsorrell@gmu.edu

Graduate Council approval: _________________ Date: _____________

Graduate Council representative: _______________ Date: _____________

Provost Office representative: _________________ Date: _____________
Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

Proposed Track:
Nurse Educator

College of Nursing & Health Science
## Summary of Proposed Program

### College of Nursing and Health Science

#### Program of Study

**Master of Science in Nursing**  
*Nurse Educator Track*

### MSN Core (13 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 660</td>
<td>Seminar in the Ethics of Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 680</td>
<td>Theoretical Foundations Related to Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 685</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Research Methods Healthcare Research I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 686</td>
<td>Projects in Nursing Research</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 688</td>
<td>Organization of Nursing and Health Care Delivery Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
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### Nursing/Education Core (15 Credits)

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 657</td>
<td>Perspectives in Nursing Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 610</td>
<td>Curriculum Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDRS 531</td>
<td>Educational and Psychological Measurement</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 658</td>
<td>Practicum and Seminar in Nursing Education I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 668</td>
<td>Practicum and Seminar in Nursing Education II</td>
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### Support Course (4 Credits)

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 550</td>
<td>Pathophysiologic Bases for Major Health Deviations of Individuals</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 514</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment, Adv. Clinical Track</td>
<td>1</td>
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### Electives (6 credits)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing and Related Discipline Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
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**Total credits** 38
Description of certificate or degree program:
Describe the new certificate and/or new degree program. Attach course descriptions including departmental code or prefix, number, title of course and credit hours; prerequisites; and description of course as it will appear in the catalog. Note that course descriptions are limited to approximately 35 words in the Graduate Catalog.

The proposed Nurse Educator track in the Master of Science in Nursing Program is targeted to registered nurses with baccalaureate degrees and clinical nursing experience who want to become nursing faculty or staff educators. This track focuses on nursing curriculum development, teaching-learning processes, classroom and clinical teaching strategies, and evaluation principles. Graduates are prepared for faculty positions in schools of nursing, as well as nurse educator positions in hospitals and community health care agencies.

Approval from other units:
Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by these changes in the course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate council for approval.

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Graduate Council approval: ___________________________________________ Date: ________

Graduate Council representative: __________________________ Date: ________

Provost Office representative: __________________________ Date: ________

1. Catalog Description
The Nurse Educator track in the M.S.N. program prepares nurses for faculty positions in schools of nursing, as well as nurse educator positions in hospitals and community health care agencies. Graduates are prepared to develop, deliver, critique, and refine educational offerings in nursing education program settings, as well as in healthcare agency settings. Students, based on their professional backgrounds and career goals, are individually assigned to master's or doctorally-prepared preceptors for the nurse educator practica in a variety of academic and clinical settings.

2. Justification

A shortfall of 800,000 nurses is projected by the year 2020. If unchanged, Virginia alone will face a 30% deficit of RNs during this period. Because nurses have such a strong presence within the healthcare community, an inadequate supply of nurses may potentially risk patient safety, compromise access to care, and increase health care costs. Preliminary data from the annual survey by the Association of American Colleges of Nursing shows that enrollment in entry-level baccalaureate nursing programs increased by 10.6% in 2004. In spite of this increased interest, however, a December 2004 report by the National League for Nursing indicated that an estimated 125,000 qualified applicants were denied admission to nursing programs, primarily due to the critical shortage of nurse educators.

Most nursing programs have difficulty attracting adequate numbers of nurse educators to meet the needs for increased student enrollment. The College of Nursing and Health Science has exceeded its target enrollments for the past six years, educating more nurses each year than any other program in Northern Virginia. The critical shortage of nurse educators, however, limits increases in future student enrollment. Implementation of a Nurse Educator track in the Master of Science in Nursing program has the potential to benefit future students, provide creative career options for nurses, and significantly enhance health care for patients in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

3. Relationship to Current Programs

The proposed Nurse Educator track expands the Master of Science in Nursing program beyond the three present tracks, Advanced Clinical Nursing, Nurse Practitioner, and Nursing Administration, using the same MSN core as these tracks, and also courses in the Advanced Clinical Nursing core. The proposed track also builds on the Certificate in Nursing Education, making it possible for students who have completed the Certificate in Nursing Education to apply for the MSN program and count the courses taken from the Certificate in Nursing Education toward the Nurse Educator track. The Table below shows the relationship of the proposed courses to other tracks in the Master of Science in Nursing program, as well as the Certificate in Nursing Education:
4. Resource Requirements

No additional resource requirements are anticipated in the next 5 years, as only one new course is proposed. Current faculty in CNHS have expertise needed to teach all courses in the track except for EDRS 531, which is already a core course in the Certificate in Nursing Education.

5. Admission Requirements

A graduate level applied statistics course is a pre-requisite to admission to the graduate program. In addition to fulfilling admission requirements for degree status in the University and the admission requirements of the M.S.N. program, applicants to this track must successfully complete a health assessment course within 18 months prior to the advanced health assessment course.

6. Program Requirements

Students must successfully complete 38 credits of required courses and electives as outlined in section 9.

7. Approval History

CNHS Graduate Curriculum Committee Date: 3/28/05
CNHS Faculty Organization: Date: 4/04/05
8. Effective Date

The program is proposed to commence in the fall semester, 2005.

9. Course descriptions

**MSN Core** (13 credits) (same as core for current 3 MSN tracks)

**NURS 660**  Seminar in the Ethics of Health Care  3
Examines the moral dilemmas within the health care profession, with special emphasis on patients' rights, professionals' obligations to other professionals, and issues of social justice in health care. Methods of moral deliberation based on ethical knowledge and justification are applied to ethical dilemmas in health care.

**NURS 680**  Theoretical Foundations Related to Nursing  2
Examination and evaluation of the assumptions, concepts, and propositions inherent in selected nursing and related discipline theories.

**NURS 685**  Advanced Nursing Research Methods  3
Healthcare Research I
Examines principles and methods of research in problem identification, theoretical framework, design, data collection, and analysis. Students develop a nursing research proposal.

**NURS 686**  Projects in Nursing Research  2
Applies the knowledge gained in NURS 685 and implement the research proposal designed in that course.

**NURS 688**  Organization of Nursing and Health Care Delivery Systems  3
Provides a foundational overview of U.S. nursing and health care delivery systems. Surveys the key concepts, frameworks, processes, and structures related to health care delivery organizations.

**Nursing/Education Core** (15 Credits)

**NURS 657**  Perspectives in Nursing Education  3
Provides an overview of nursing education topics including the U.S. university, hallmarks of nursing education, educational philosophies, learning theory and principles, issues and trends in nursing education, and current research.

**NURS 610**  Curriculum Development  3
Uses seminar and discussion forums to analyze and apply theory and principles for planning, developing, and evaluating curriculum. Examines curriculum as a technical process, a political process, and a social action process.
EDRS 531  Educational and Psychological Measurement  3
Emphasizes techniques and principles used in the construction, administration, and
quantification of measuring devices for evaluation purposes. Discusses interpretation of
standardized tests of ability, aptitude, achievement, interest, and personality.

NURS 658  Practicum and Seminar in Nursing Education I  3
Uses a seminar/discussion approach and practicum experience to analyze the role and
functions of the nurse educator. Emphasis is on the application of teaching strategies, and
legal and ethical issues in nursing education.

NURS 668 (new course)  Practicum and Seminar in Nursing Education II  3
Uses seminar/discussion approach and practicum experience to analyze the role and
functions of the nurse educator in the clinical setting. Application of research-based
teaching and evaluation strategies in the clinical setting are emphasized.

Support Course (4 Credits)

NURS 550  Pathophysiologic Bases for Major Health Deviations of Individuals  3
Examines health deviations occurring in people in the United States that require long-
term and/or terminal health care interventions. Deviations are presented within a
developmental framework as they influence physiologic integrity at the cellular level.
Focus is on man as a whole, open system. Complex health programs from the perspective
of maintaining homeodynamics are examined.

NURS 514  Advanced Health Assessment, Adv. Clinical Track  1
This course expands on undergraduate skills in systematic health assessment across the
life span. The student will learn application of advanced health assessment skills in
specialty advanced nursing practice setting. Integration of skills and techniques in
collecting health assessment data towards appropriate decision making, clinical
assessments, and therapeutic interventions in select population is emphasized in this lab
and didactic course.

Electives (6 credits)

Nursing and Related Discipline Electives  6

Total credits 38