

October 17, 2019

University of Utah
Curriculum Administration
295 South 1500 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of our Academic Programs team and the faculty of the College of Nursing (CON), I welcome the opportunity to express unreserved support for the proposed Psych-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner certificate program.

We are keenly aware of the severe mental health crisis that affects hundreds of thousands of citizens in Utah, recently ranked 51st out of 51 states (including District of Columbia) in the mental health services provided to adults. Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are in a key position to provide much needed mental health care, regardless of which 'specialty track' they received their initial certification in (e.g., Family, Adult Gerontology Primary Care, Women's Health, or Nurse Midwifery,). This vitally important program would allow currently credentialed NPs the opportunity to gain dual certification in psych/mental health. Regardless of the clinical setting, it is apparent that advanced health care providers specifically trained to appropriately manage the mental health needs in our communities is paramount.

As Utah's flagship university and the only nursing program in the state that offers a psych/mental health NP specialty track, we are in a unique position to offer this much needed service.

This proposal was approved by the MS/DNP curriculum committee and subsequently supported by our CON faculty and staff in September. We anticipate admitting our first PMHNP certificate students in fall 2020.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration,

Kind regards,



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