

Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program, post-graduate

Cohort: FNPC 22



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Program Description

The Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Certificate Program was developed for RNs with a master's (or higher) degree in nursing or a health-related specialty who wish to expand their nursing practice to the role as a FNP. The mission of the FNP certificate program is consistent with the University mission. It will develop clinicians who can manage care and participate in system change through identification of best practice in the care of the family. Graduates of this program will increase their contribution to healthcare through the knowledge and skills developed in this program.

As with the other nursing programs within the University, applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and hold a current unencumbered RN license in his/her state of residence. At least one year of clinical experience is preferred.

The *Domains and Core Competencies* (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), 2012), and the *Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs, 4th edition* (National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, 2012) were used to frame the requirements of the FNP track. The program of study includes courses in advanced physical assessment, advanced pharmacology, and advanced pathophysiology. The program also includes content in health promotion and disease prevention, and differential diagnosis and disease management. Students complete 30 credit hours that includes 540 clinical hours

Graduates from the FNPC program will be eligible to sit for the Family Nurse Practitioner certification exam offered by either the American Association of Nurses Practitioner Certification Board (AANPCB) or the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). This program does not lead to a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

The FNP Certificate Program is committed to the development of the nursing professional who can:

- Assume a family nurse practitioner role in a variety of health care settings
- Assess, diagnose and manage common acute and chronic primary health care problems of individuals and families
- Identify the epidemiologic roots of health problems affecting family/community systems;
- Evaluate the impact of environmental stressors on individual, family and community health.
- Design and implement health promotion and illness prevention strategies based on clinical evidence and best practice literature.
- Demonstrate analytical methodologies for the evaluation of clinical practice and the application of scientific evidence.
- Collaborate with interprofessional teams necessary to improve clinical care for populations of clients

Program Outline

Course Code & Title	Credits
Nurse Practitioner Core Courses (4 courses, 12 credits required):	
NUR 635 Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 656 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 654 Advanced Health Assessment	3
NUR 740 Roles, Leadership, & Ethics	3
Didactic Required Credits:	12
Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Courses (6 courses, 18 credits/540 clinical clock hours required):	
FNP 710 FNP Practicum I: Primary Care & Prevention (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3
FNP 711 FNP Focus I: Primary Care & Prevention (Didactic)	3
FNP 720 FNP Practicum II: Adult & Geriatric (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3
FNP 721 FNP Focus II: Adult & Geriatrics (Didactic)	3
FNP 730 FNP Practicum III: Women & Children (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3
FNP 731 FNP Focus III: Women & Children (Didactic)	3
Clinical Required Credits:	18
Total Program Required Credits:	30

Program Calendar

(Semesters in **Blue** include required on-site class sessions)

Semester	Course	Credits	On-site Dates	
Semester 1 Summer 2026	NUR 635 Advanced Pharmacology	3		
	NUR 654 Advanced Health Assessment	3		
	NUR 656 Advanced Pathophysiology	3		
	Semester Totals:	9	Online Only	
Semester 2 Fall 2026	FNP 710 FNP Practicum I: Primary Care & Prevention (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3	3 days on-site	
	FNP 711 FNP Focus I: Primary Care & Prevention (Didactic)	3		
	NUR 740 Roles, Leadership, & Ethics	3		
	Semester Totals:	9	TBD	
Semester 3 Winter 2027	FNP 730 FNP Practicum III: Women & Children (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3	3 days on-site	
	FNP 731 FNP Focus III: Women & Children (Didactic)	3		
	Semester Totals:	6	TBD	
Semester 4 Summer 2027	FNP 720 FNP Practicum II: Adult & Geriatric (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3	3 days on-site	
	FNP 721 FNP Focus II: Adult & Geriatrics (Didactic)	3		
	Semester Totals:	6	TBD	
Total Program Required Credits:		30		
<i>Four-year deadline for program completion from start of program.</i>				

**Course includes pre-requisite and/or co-requisite requirement(s). Refer to course description below.

Course Descriptions

Nurse Practitioner Core Courses

NUR 635 Advanced Pharmacology **(3 credits; Online)**

This course is designed to provide the advanced practice nurse with evidence-based knowledge for the safe and appropriate pharmacotherapy in various settings and for diverse populations across the lifespan. Basic and advanced pharmacology principles will be applied to the prescribing and monitoring of agents/drugs utilized in health promotion and the treatment of conditions commonly encountered, including client education and legal and ethical considerations.

NUR 654 Advanced Health Assessment **(3 credits; Online)**

The course will focus on advanced physical assessment, communication, and diagnostic reasoning skills for the advanced practice nurse to care for individuals and families across the lifespan. Skills obtained in this course will be used to analyze health and alterations in health for individuals and families and prepare the student for independent practice.

NUR 656 Advanced Pathophysiology **(3 credits; Online)**

This course is a system-focused pathophysiology course that includes advanced concepts of functioning as it relates the family nurse practitioner's ability to manage illness across the lifespan. Special attention will be given to advanced concepts that correlate with clinical decisions related to diagnosis and therapeutic management. Genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors will also be included as they relate to the epidemiology of disease.

NUR 740 Roles, Leadership, & Ethics **(3 credits; Online)**

This course examines principles of leadership and role development of the advanced practice nurse and incorporates ethical decision-making, interprofessional collaboration, and navigating evidence-based system changes. The exploration of leadership models, styles, strategies, and roles will provide a foundation for establishing professional leadership goals. Examining practice regulations; professionalism and ethical practices; and interprofessional collaborations will provide a multi-dimensional view of the role and contributions of the advanced practice nurse to safe, high-quality, and cost-effective healthcare.

Family Nurse Practitioner Courses

FNP 710 FNP Practicum I: Primary Care & Prevention **(3 credits; 3 days on-site)** **(Clinical)**

This course is the first clinical practicum in a series of three practicum courses in the FNP Program that prepares the student for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. The three practicum courses should show patient interactions across the lifespan including pediatrics, adult, geriatrics and women's health. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner. *(180 clinical clock hours)* *Pre-requisites: NUR 635, NUR 654, NUR 656*

FNP 711 FNP Focus I: Primary Care & Prevention (Didactic) (3 credits; Online)

This course is the first clinical didactic in a series of three clinical didactic courses in the FNP Program that prepares the student for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. The three didactic courses will include lifespan care including pediatrics, adult, geriatrics and women's health. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner.

FNP 720 FNP Practicum II: Adult & Geriatrics (Clinical) (3 credits; 3 days on-site)

This course is the second of three practicum courses in the FNP Program that prepares the student for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. The three practicum courses should show patient interactions across the lifespan including pediatrics, adult, geriatrics and women's health. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner. (180 clinical clock hours) *Pre-requisites: NUR 635, NUR 654, NUR 656*

FNP 721 FNP Focus II: Adult & Geriatrics (Didactic) (3 credits; Online)

This course is the second clinical didactic in a series of three clinical didactic courses in the FNP Program that prepares the student for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. The three didactic courses will include lifespan care including pediatrics, adult, geriatrics and women's health. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner.

FNP 730 FNP Practicum III: Women & Children (Clinical) (3 credits; 3 days on-site)

This course is the third practicum course in the FNP Program that prepares students for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner. (180 clinical clock hours) *Pre-requisites: NUR 635, NUR 654, NUR 656*

FNP 731 FNP Focus III: Women & Children (Didactic) (3 credits; Online)

This course is the third clinical didactic in a series of three clinical didactic courses in the FNP Program that prepares the student for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. The three didactic courses will include lifespan care including pediatrics, adult, geriatrics and women's health. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner.