



Program of Study: Master of Science-Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Program Description

The MS-FNP concentration prepares the advanced professional nurse for advance practice as a primary care provider. The FNP makes independent critical judgments in all levels of prevention including health promotion, health promotion, health screening, illness prevention and restoration and rehabilitation for individuals, families, communities, and populations. The FNP performs comprehensive health assessments, diagnoses, prescribes pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatments to manage acute and chronic health problems to achieve quality cost effective outcomes in a culturally sensitive context. The role of the nurse practitioner includes educating, consulting, collaborating, using research to make practice decisions, and influencing professional and public policies. Within various practice settings, the FNP provides health care throughout the life cycle emphasizing care of the older adult. In preparation for the future, the FNP role synthesizes elements of the clinical nurse specialist practice role of assessing and addressing the needs not only of clients, but health care personnel and systems. This expanded role includes case management, marketing, business management, reimbursement, quality improvement, teaching of professionals, and broad based consultation.

Nursing Graduate Core:

NUR 501	Advanced Nursing Issues and Roles	This course examines the expanded practice of the Advanced Professional Nurse. The focus of the course is scope of practice, role behavior, and depth and breadth of knowledge in selected areas of advanced practice (FNP and CNS) and nurses in role specialties such as nursing education and nursing leadership. Course content includes an exploration of critical questions and current issues related to the various defined Advanced Professional Nursing roles and examination of the related role issues with an emphasis on caring, diversity, and spiritual aspects in nursing care delivery.	3
NUR 503	Healthcare Policy and Finance Issues	This course integrates the process of health care policy development with a critical focus on the organizational and financial aspects of health care delivery systems including managed care systems, Medicare and Medicaid issues, and continuous quality improvement (CQI).	3
NUR 505	Advanced Nursing Theory	This course focuses on the critical evaluation and utilization of the theoretical foundations of nursing as well as pertinent theoretical concepts form related fields of study such as the social and biological sciences, educational, organizational, and leadership theory.	3
NUR 507	Health Care Research Analysis and Utilization	This course focuses on the critical analysis of health care and nursing research with a focus on the utilization of evidence-based research as foundation of client care and development of client services. Advanced research methods as applied toward complex clinical and organizational problems will be integrated.	3

NUR 698	Evidence-based Practice Project	This course provides an opportunity to prepare an evidence-based practice (EBP) project proposal that addresses a problem, issue, or concern in professional practice. Students will identify a problem focus, propose a research-based solution, search for evidence using the evidence-based databases that support their solutions, and develop implementation, evaluation, and dissemination plans. Students will focus on developing an EBP project that is appropriate for their educational track: nursing leadership, adult clinical nurse specialist, nursing education, or family nurse practitioner.	3
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Total Nursing Graduate Core Credits: 15

Advanced Nursing Core:

NUR 642	Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology	This web-enhanced course focuses on the advanced physiology and pathophysiology principles. This course will be used to guide the Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, and the Nursing Education student in interpreting changes in normal function that result in symptoms indicative of illness. The emphasis will be placed on the genetic, molecular, cellular, and organ system levels. Prerequisite: Undergraduate Pathophysiology.	3
NUR 644	Advanced Pharmacology	This course focuses on the advanced pharmacotherapy principles and practices to enable students to prescribe and monitor the effects of medications and selected herbal therapy. Emphasis is on the pharmacodynamics of clients with common, acute and chronic health problems in various stages of the life cycle in diverse populations. Evidence-based research provides the basis for selecting effective, safe but cost-efficient pharmacologic or integrative regimens. Appropriate client education as to various prescribed pharmacologic agents is incorporated. Legal requirements for prescriptive writing and dispensing authority are covered. Prerequisite: NUR 642.	3
NUR 640	Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning with Skills Lab	This course builds upon the student's previous assessment skills offering more advanced health assessment content to provide the foundation for the advanced practice-nursing role. This course gives emphasis to focused assessments for a chief complaint that include physical, psychosocial and spiritual health assessment, risk assessment, functional assessment, and physical examination in diverse populations. The student uses a systematic method of diagnostic reasoning and clinical decision-making to establish a differential diagnosis. An overview of appropriate protocols for performing health screening and ordering, performing, and interpreting lab, radiographic, and other diagnostic data are included based on best practice consistent with resource allocations. Effective communication and client teaching/counseling to eliciting clients' interpretation of their health status and perceived barriers, is incorporated throughout the course so to maintain a nursing focus on patient responses to illness or the threat of illness. Effective documentation and medical record keeping are required. To begin the transformation to an advanced professional nurse, students are to start a professional journal that they are to keep throughout the program. Prerequisite Course: Undergraduate Health Assessment course.	3

Total Advanced Nursing Core Credits: 9

Family Nurse Practitioner Courses Core:

NUR 646	Health Promotion in Advanced Practice Nursing	This course focuses on the advanced health promotion strategies of the nation's priority lifestyle concerns throughout the life span as presented in the Healthy People 2010 national Health Objectives. Detailed evidence-based health promotion information and services are considered such as age, development, lifestyle, geography location, spirituality and culture. Professional and client community resources and referrals are examined. Emphasis is placed on development of the advance practice nurse-client relationship to enhance the effectiveness of client education and counseling to promote healthy lifestyle changes. The use of integrative healing (non-pharmacological) strategies in assisting clients to achieve goals of health promotion are introduced and evaluated based on evidence-based research. The course has a community-focused perspective, addressing roles in delivering care to improve the health of the entire community. Students will consider the relationship between community-public health issues and social problems as they impact the health care of their clients. Prerequisite: NUR 640..	3
NUR 643	Advance Practice Management of Adult Healthcare Problems in Primary Care	This course concentrates on the three levels of prevention and comprehensive primary care management of adult health care problems of individuals, and their families, within a culturally, and spiritually diverse environment, contextually within the health care delivery system. Advanced health assessment, advance pharmacology, spirituality and advanced physiology and pathophysiology principles are integrated along with advanced nursing theory. Evidence-based research is utilized to develop comprehensive, cost effective, least invasive, quality health care guidelines for adult health care problems. These guidelines are to include health promotion counseling, screening, and client education to optimize the client's health. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning to guide clinical decision-making. Management of client illness includes ordering diagnostic tests, prescribing pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic integrative healing therapies, collaboration with other health professionals and community agencies, and appropriate follow-up. A professional interpersonal relationship is to be learned between practitioner and patient. A collegial relationship is to be learned between practitioner and other allied-health professionals. Leadership opportunities in health economics and negotiating within the health care delivery system are provided. The student will collaborate with faculty members to select a community-based, adult-health focused, clinical site for completion of 150 clinical hours. Prerequisites: NUR 640, 642, 644 and 646.	6

NUR 651	Advance Practice Management of Pediatric and Adolescent Healthcare Problems in Primary Care	This course focuses on the three levels of prevention and comprehensive primary care management of pediatric and adolescent health care problems of individuals, and their families, within a culturally and spiritually diverse environment, contextually within the health care delivery system. Advanced health assessment, advanced pharmacology and advanced physiology and pathophysiology principles are integrated along with spirituality concepts and advanced nursing theory. Evidence-based research is utilized to develop comprehensive, cost effective, least invasive, quality health care guidelines for these pediatric and adolescent health care problems. These guidelines are to include health promotion counseling, client education, with appropriate screening to optimize the client's health. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning to guide clinical decision-making. Management of client illness includes ordering diagnostic tests, prescribing pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic integrative healing therapies, collaboration with other health professionals and community agencies, and appropriate follow-up. A professional interpersonal relationship is to be learned between practitioner and patient. A collegial relationship is to be learned between practitioner and other allied-health professionals. Leadership opportunities in health economics and negotiating within the health care delivery system are provided. The student will collaborate with faculty members to select a community-based, pediatric/adolescent-health focused, clinical site for completion of 150 clinical hours. Prerequisite: NUR 643 Advance Practice Management of Adult Healthcare Problems in Primary Care.	6
NUR 662	Advance Practice Management of Geriatric and Women's Healthcare Issues in Primary Care	This course concentrates on the three levels of prevention and comprehensive primary care management of geriatric and women's health care issues (including care of the pregnant patient) of individuals, and their families, within a culturally and spiritually diverse environment, contextually within the health care delivery system. Advanced health assessment, advance pharmacology, spirituality and advanced physiology and pathophysiology principles are integrated along with advanced nursing theory. Evidence-based research is utilized to develop comprehensive, cost effective, least invasive, quality health care guidelines for geriatric and women's health care problems. These guidelines are to include health promotion counseling, screening, and client education to optimize the client's health. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning to guide clinical decision-making. Management of client illness includes ordering diagnostic tests, prescribing pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic integrative healing therapies, collaboration with other health professionals and community agencies, and appropriate follow-up. A professional interpersonal relationship is to be learned between practitioner and patient. A collegial relationship is to be learned between practitioner and other allied-health professionals. Leadership opportunities in health economics and negotiating within the health care delivery system are provided. The student will collaborate with faculty members to select a community-based, geriatric and women's health focused, clinical site for completion of 150 clinical hours. Prerequisite: NUR 651 Advance Practice Management of Adult Healthcare Problems in Primary Care.	6
NUR 654	Diverse Applications of Advanced Practice Concepts	This course presents practice concepts that blend the function of the clinical nurse specialist with the FNP role for a futuristic vision for integration of these roles to include assessing and addressing the needs of client populations and nursing personnel across the continuum of care. Management concepts such as case management, teaching of professionals, program planning, and evaluation, peer review, and broad-based consultation as well as marketing, business management, resource management, cost effective use of formularies, and payment for services including processing insurance claims will be included. Prerequisite: NUR 662.	3

NUR 661	Advanced Practice Clinical Practicum	(4 clinical credits = 200 contact credits) A culminating practicum experience, completed in person with a preceptor, to provide comprehensive health care to diverse clients across the life span. This clinical practice will afford the student opportunity to refine their clinical decision management of common, acute and chronic health problems. The course includes the application of clinical nurse specialist concepts such as case management, teaching of professionals, peer reviews, cost effective use of formularies, coding for reimbursement. Online case study discussions analyzed by evidence-based practice guidelines using the SOAP format are required.	4
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Total Clinical Hours: 650

Total Family Nurse Practitioner Courses Core Credits: 28

Total Nursing Graduate Core Credits: 15

Total Advanced Nursing Core Credits: 9

Total Master of Science–Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner Courses Core Credits: 52