



Program of Study: Registered Nurse to Master of Science–Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Program Description

This program is a blend of the existing Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science–Nursing programs. The RN to BSN curriculum will be truncated by several courses whose content will be covered in the Master’s materials. After the third semester in the course of study below, students will be eligible to transfer into the existing MS-FNP concentration, which 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.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the general Undergraduate Admission Requirements listed in the Admission Policy and Procedure section of the Grand Canyon University catalog, the following admission requirements must be met.

1. Applicants for the RN to MSN track must have a current unencumbered, unrestricted license as a registered nurse in the state where they are employed as an RN.
2. Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater is required for admittance to the program.
3. Applicants must have at least 84 undergraduate credits that include Statistics and Pathophysiology classes with or transferable to Grand Canyon University before beginning the Program of Study listed below.

RN to MSN Undergraduate Core:

Course Number	Course Title	Course Description	Credits
NRS 430	Professional Dynamics	This course is a bridge course for the RN returning to formal education for the baccalaureate degree in nursing. The course focuses on differentiated nursing practice competencies, nursing conceptual models, professional accountability, integrating spirituality into practice, group dynamics, and critical thinking. Emphasis is placed as well on writing and oral presentation skills.	3

NRS 429	Family Centered Health Promotion	This course focuses on family theories, health promotion models, cultural diversity and teaching learning principles. The course emphasizes the family as the client, family FHP health assessments, screenings across the life span, communication, community resources, and family education. Appropriate health promotion education will be evaluated against evidence based research and practice.	3
NRS 433	Introduction to Nursing Research	This course promotes the use of research findings as a basis for improving clinical practice. Quantitative and qualitative research methodologies are presented. Emphasis is on the critical review of research studies and their applications to clinical practice. An overview of evidence-based practice is provided. This course is designated as a GCU Writing Intensive Course.	3
NRS 434	Health Assessment	This course focuses on methods of health history taking, physical examination skills, documentation, and health screening. The course emphasizes the individual as the client, functional health patterns, community resources, and the teaching learning process.	3
NRS 431	Community Health Systems and Concepts I	This course focuses on the community as a large system of people, cultures, geography, economics, spiritual values, and legal-political influences that impact the health of the community. Emphasis is placed on critical analysis, using epidemiological data and functional health pattern assessments to plan and intervene in areas of health promotion with community groups.	3
NRS 438	Community Health Systems and Concepts II	This course focuses on nursing care of populations and communities, especially health promotion and communication. There is a concentration on selected vulnerable subgroups in the community. Emphasis is placed on critical analysis, using epidemiological data and functional health pattern assessments to plan and intervene with vulnerable groups.	3
NRS 437	Ethical Decision Making in Healthcare	This course is a general introduction to the field of biomedical ethics. Students study the application of ethics and moral theories to concepts and issues arising in the health care professions. The course provides students, both as consumers and providers, an opportunity to study ethical decision making, health care situations with implications for ethical decision making and analysis of ethical behavior of individuals involved in health care. Topics will include exploration of major ethical theories and principles, informed consent, confidentiality and ethical implications of selected issues such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide and allocation of scarce resources.	3
NRS 451	Nursing Leadership and Management	Registered nurses with current licensure have a basic understanding of the role of the professional nurse. This course emphasizes further development of the professional nurse role. Critical management and leadership values, styles, and skills are a major focus. Particular attention is given to the identification of personal leadership styles and values. Importance is placed on development of effective management and leadership skills with emphasis on effective communication.	3
NRS 349	Spirituality in Healthcare	This course explores the concept of spirituality as it relates to the person who is involved in the health care system. Since illness and stress can amplify spiritual concerns and needs, health care professionals are in a unique position to assist the patient/client in meeting those needs. This course explores the relationship between health care professionals and those they serve. Topics include performing spiritual assessment, identifying those experiencing spiritual well-being as well as those experiencing a threat to spiritual well-being, and planning and evaluating care related to spiritual wellness. A spiritual care framework is used to apply these concepts to a variety of populations in diverse clinical settings.	3

Total RN to BSN Undergraduate Core Credits: 27

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 from 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

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 in 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
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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 RN to BSN Undergraduate Core Credits: 27

Total Registered Nurse to Master of Science–Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner Courses Core Credits: 79