



SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Faculty Advisor: Barbara Piper; (858) 309-3469; bpiper@nu.edu

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program is for baccalaureate prepared nurses. In keeping with the standards for graduate education for advanced practice nursing delineated by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in the Essentials of Master’s Education for Advanced Practice Nurses, the purpose of the MSN program is to prepare students to assume leadership roles in their particular specialization. Masters level nursing education is the appropriate level of education for nursing professionals who are seeking roles that require advanced practice skills in order to function as providers and organizers of the health care delivery process.

Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the MSN program at National University, candidates must:

- Meet the University requirements for graduate study, listed in the General Catalog under admission requirements
- Hold a BSN degree from a State Board of Nursing approved and accredited school of nursing (State Board of Nursing, and CCNE and/or NLNAC)
- Must demonstrate evidence of completed coursework in undergraduate nursing research methodology & application, statistics, and community health nursing
- Provide proof of current, active, and unencumbered RN license in the State of residence.
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with a GPA of 2.5- 2.99 will be considered by the MSN Admissions Committee on a case by case basis
- Have completed the University Application for Graduate Admissions, including the application fee
- Provide one official transcript from each college or university attended to the Nursing Department
- Have completed the MSN application packet
- Provide three professional recommendation forms, preferably from individuals who hold graduate or doctoral degrees
- Provide evidence of current, active professional liability and malpractice insurance coverage throughout the program
- Provide evidence of specified immunizations, a report of a recent physical examination, a clear drug screen and background check, and current BLS- AED certification

Additional Prerequisite Requirements

Students should be proficient in operating a personal computer, including: demonstrated competency in standard computer operating systems and electronic filing systems, basic keyboarding skills, organizing and sorting electronic documents; demonstrated knowledge of standard computer applications to include Microsoft Word and Excel; familiarity with using internet browsers and standard email systems such as MS Outlook.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Implement appropriate theories, models, frameworks, and concepts from nursing and non-nursing disciplines when designing interventions that

influence healthcare outcomes for diverse populations in a variety of settings.

- Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to evaluate fiscally appropriate healthcare delivery systems that integrate research and clinical expertise to provide evidence-based, patient-centered care.
- Evaluate economic, policy, environmental, and social forces that impact nursing practice, health care delivery and quality of health care.
- Participate in the analysis, implementation and evaluation of strategies for improving nursing practice through the implementation of health information systems and technologies.
- Demonstrate a professional commitment to creating an environment of lifelong learning for patients, families, communities, and other healthcare practitioners.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Nursing requires a minimum of 58.5 graduate quarter units, with 45 of those units completed at National University. A total of 13.5 units of graduate credit may be granted for graduate work completed at another institution as it applies to this program and provided the units were not used to earn another advanced degree. Refer to the General Catalog section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding admission and evaluation.

Prerequisite Courses

(2 courses; 9 quarter units)

- MTH 210 Probability and Statistics
Prerequisite: Accuplacer test placement evaluation or MTH 12A and MTH 12B
- NSG 422 Nursing Research
Prerequisite: BST 322

Core Requirements

(6 courses; 27 quarter units)

Students should take all core courses before taking specialization courses.

- NSG 600 Advanced Practice Nursing
- NSG 620 Theory in Advanced Practice
- NSG 623 Biomedical Statistics
- NSG 606 Health Policy & Finance
- NSG 622 QI & Project Management
- NSG 607 EBP for Advanced NSG Practice

Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner

Faculty Advisor: Tina Ho; (858) 521-3919; tho@nu.edu

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) specialization will prepare advanced practice nurses to manage the care of individuals and families across the lifespan. The FNP Program is designed for nurses who hold a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing (BSN) who wish to advance their knowledge, education, and skills to practice in an Advanced Practice role as a FNP. Graduates are eligible to sit for the FNP national certification examinations offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. The Program emphasis is to foster the FNP’s abilities to critically think; make differential diagnoses; use evidence-based findings to improve healthcare outcomes; and be accountable for the provision of healthcare to diverse individuals

and families in the areas of health promotion, disease prevention, management of acute and chronic health conditions and primary care. The FNP provides clinical management of primary care conditions in a variety of clinics and community-based settings.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge derived from the physical and behavioral sciences and humanities as a basis for professional advanced clinical nursing practice.
- Devise evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention strategies at the patient, family, organizational, community, and population levels for the purpose of improving healthcare outcomes.
- Utilize current technologies to deliver, enhance, and document care across multiple settings to achieve optimal outcomes.
- Advocate for culturally sensitive health care systems and policies that meet ethical and legal standards as a means to improve outcomes and reduce disparity.
- Model collaboration with interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary teams in healthcare systems delivering care to complex, multi-need patients, families, and communities.
- Analyze the impact of national and global health policy on the cost, quality, and access to care in diverse patient populations.

Specialization Requirements

(12 courses; 55.5 quarter units)

NSG 681 Advanced Physical Assessment (6 quarter units)

NSG 682 Advanced Pathophysiology

NSG 641 Advanced Pharmacology I

NSG 642 Advanced Pharmacology II

FNP 683A Primary Care of Adult and Aged
Corequisite: FNP 683B

FNP 683B Care of Adult & Aged Practicum
Corequisite: FNP 683A

FNP 680 Diversity Issues in APN

FNP 684A Primary Care-Women & Children
Corequisite: FNP 684B

FNP 684B Women and Children Practicum
Corequisite: FNP 684A

FNP 685A FNP Residency
Corequisite: FNP 685B

FNP 685B FNP Residency Practicum
Corequisite: FNP 685A

FNP 689 FNP Capstone

* May be used to satisfy general education requirements.

Specialization in Nursing Administration

Faculty Advisor: Barbara Piper; (858) 309-3469; bpiper@nu.edu

The Master of Science in Nursing Specialization in Nursing Administration prepares nurse managers who will provide leadership and management services to clinical care organizations. Successful decision-making strategies, evidence-based practice, team building and collaboration, fiscal management, quality improvement, and creating a learning culture that supports high quality and safe patient care are considered within a systems approach to management. The specialization courses offered in the MSN, Specialization in Nursing Administration are designed using the Interprofessional Education Model to develop IPE competencies.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Effectively communicate with members of the multidisciplinary healthcare team in the design and management of healthcare delivery systems.

- Employ best evidence and judgment to make sound and ethical decisions that advance the quality and safety of healthcare and care delivery systems.
- Create and implement a plan for day-to-day operations for a clinical facility in order to maintain accreditation, meet organizational goals, achieve quality and safety outcomes, and carry out the mission of the facility.
- Provide effective, caring, culturally sensitive and fiscally responsible leadership to other members of the healthcare team in order to facilitate excellence in patient care services to diverse patient populations.
- Apply principles of leadership and management to foster an organizational culture that engenders lifelong learning, quality, safety, and competence in a clinical care organization.

Specialization Requirements

(5 courses; 22.5 quarter units)

Students take the MSN Core courses, then take the Specialization courses. The Capstone course is the final course of the program; all other courses must be taken before the Capstone.

HCA 600 U.S. Healthcare System

HCA 620 Health Organization Management
Prerequisite: COH 602

HCA 624 Healthcare Planning & Marketing
Prerequisite: COH 611

HCA 670 Healthcare Leadership
Prerequisite: HCA 624

HCA 692 Healthcare Capstone
Prerequisite: HCA 691 or permission by instructor.

Specialization in Nursing Informatics

Faculty Advisor: Barbara Piper; (858) 309-3469; bpiper@nu.edu

The Specialization in Nursing Informatics is designed for nurses who seek advanced education in informatics theory and practice. Nurses play an important leadership role in the implementation of health information technology in health care delivery organizations. Potential students include nurses who participate and in some instances lead the successful deployment of health information technologies to achieve improvement in the quality, safety, outcomes and thus value of health services in the United States. The goal is to equip RNs for leadership roles in informatics that includes the information and knowledge management best practices and effective technology capabilities for nurses identified through the Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform Initiative (<http://www.tigersummit.com/>).

The Specialty courses offered in the MSN Program of Study in Nursing Informatics are designed using the Interprofessional Education (IPE) Model to develop IPE Competencies.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Collaborate with interprofessional teams to conduct a needs assessment, plan, design, transition to and evaluate information systems and innovative technologies.
- Employ evidenced-based practice resources and references to support the adoption and use of healthcare technologies at the point of care.
- Evaluate ongoing quality and process improvement for patient-centered care systems that optimize clinical workflow, care coordination, and patient outcomes.
- Appraise the healthcare technology environment to ensure compliance with ethical, legal and regulatory mandates and professional standards for advanced practice.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Nursing, Specialization in Nursing Informatics requires a minimum of 49.5 graduate quarter units, with 45 of those completed at National University. A total of 4.5 units of graduate credit may be granted for graduate work completed at another institution as it applies to this program and provided the units were not used to earn another advanced degree. Refer to the General

Catalog section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding admission and evaluation.

Specialization Requirements

(5 courses; 22.5 quarter units)

After completion of the MSN core classes, the students will complete the Informatics specialization courses.

HTM 552 EHR Meaningful Use

HTM 660 System Management and Planning

HTM 520 Health Information Exchange

HTM 680 Health Informatics Case Study

Prerequisite: HTM 520, HTM 552, HTM 660

HTM 692 Health Informatics Capstone

Prerequisite: HTM 680

Specialization in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - Lifespan

Faculty Advisor: Jovita Ezirim; (310) 662-2181; jezirim@nu.edu

The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner-Lifespan (PMHNP) is a registered nurse prepared at the master's degree level who specializes in primary mental health care for individuals, groups and populations across the lifespan. The PMHNP program is designed for nurses who hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) who wish to advance their knowledge, education, and skills to practice in an advanced practice role as a PMHNP. This advanced practice nurse maintains a critical role in the health care team and ensures collaboration and the provision of safe, effective, coordinated care. As an independent member of the health care team, and in partnership with patients, the PMHNP provides a variety of evidence-based services and therapies. The PMHNP assesses, makes diagnoses and plans care for complex psychiatric and concomitant medical issues, including the prescription and management of psychopharmacologic agents. The PMHNP advocates for patients and their families within a recovery and trauma-informed paradigm. The PMHNP ensures that patients and their families are engaged and actively participate in their behavioral health (mental health and substance use) care as they respond to the illness experience. The PMHNP continuously enhances their care through quality improvement and safety efforts and influences policy at the local, regional and national levels. The PMHNP melds the art and science of professional nursing and skillfully manages the acute and enduring issues posed by people with behavioral health issues across the lifespan. Graduates of this PMHNP Program are eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan; formerly known as Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner) competency-based examination.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge derived from the physical and behavioral sciences and humanities as a basis for professional advanced clinical nursing practice.
- Devise evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention strategies at the patient, family, organizational, community, and population levels for the purpose of improving health care outcomes.
- Utilize current technologies to deliver, enhance, and document care across multiple settings to achieve optimal outcomes.
- Apply organizational and systems leadership to current healthcare issues for the promotion of quality, effective and safe patient care, including the emphasis on ethical and critical decision making, effective working relationships, and a systems-perspective approach.
- Model collaboration and coordination with interprofessional teams in health care systems delivering care to complex, multi-need patients, families and communities.
- Synthesize broad organizational, client-centered, and culturally appropriate concepts in the planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of evidence-based clinical prevention and population behavioral health care and services to individuals, families, and identified populations.

Specialization Requirements

(12 courses; 55.5 quarter units)

NSG 681 Advanced Physical Assessment (6 quarter units)

NSG 682 Advanced Pathophysiology

NSG 641 Advanced Pharmacology I

MNP 643 Psychopharmacology in MH Care

MNP 694 MH Care: Adults/Aging Adults

MNP 696A Adults/Aging Adults Practicum
Corequisite: MNP 694

MNP 687 MH Care: Children/Adolescents

FNP 680 Diversity Issues in APN

MNP 696B Children/Adoles Practicum
Corequisite: MNP 687

MNP 688A Introduction to Psychotherapy
Corequisite: MNP 688B

MNP 688B Intro Psychotherapy Practicum
Corequisite: MNP 688A

MNP 697 PMHNP Capstone

POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Post-Graduate Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate

Faculty Advisor: Tina Ho; (858) 521-3919; tho@nu.edu

The Post-Graduate FNP Certificate will prepare advanced practice nurses to manage the care of individuals and families across the lifespan. This program is designed for nurses who hold a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) who wish to advance their knowledge, education, and skills to practice in an advanced practice role as a FNP. Graduates are eligible to sit for the FNP national certification examinations offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). The program emphasis is to foster the FNP's abilities to critically think; make differential diagnoses; use evidence-based findings to improve healthcare outcomes; and be accountable for the provision of healthcare to diverse individuals and families in the areas of health promotion, disease prevention, management of acute and chronic health conditions and primary care. The FNP provides clinical management of primary care conditions in a variety of clinics and community-based settings.

*This certificate program is a non-degree, graduate-level program. Upon completion of the program, participant receives a Post-Graduate Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate.

Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the Post-Graduate FNP Certificate program at National University, candidates must:

- Meet the University requirements for graduate study, listed in the General Catalog under admission requirements
- Hold a Master's or doctoral degree in nursing from a regionally and CCNE and/or NLNAC accredited program in nursing
- Provide proof of current, active, and unencumbered RN license in the State of residence
- Have a GPA of at least 3.0 in graduate course work, on a 4.0 scale
- Have 2-year recent clinical practice as a professional nurse
- Have completed the University Application for Graduate Admissions, including the application fee
- Have completed the Post-Graduate Certificate application packet
- Provide one official transcript from each college or university attended to the Department of Nursing
- Have three professional recommendation forms, preferably from individuals who hold graduate or doctoral degrees

- Provide evidence of specified immunizations, a report of a recent physical clearance, a clear drug screen and background check, and current BLS-AED certification

Additional Prerequisite Requirements

Students should be proficient in operating a personal computer, including: demonstrated competency in standard computer operating systems and electronic filing systems, basic keyboarding skills, organizing and sorting electronic documents; demonstrated knowledge of standard computer applications to include Microsoft Word and Excel; familiarity with using internet browsers and standard email systems such as MS Outlook.

Additional Information

This is a hybrid program that includes both online, onsite, and clinical preceptored learning activities. It is offered at an accelerated pace of full-time study using an executive weekend format once a month (e.g., Thursday-Saturday, all day sessions) and once every 3 month on-site Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). All clinical courses are offered as immersion practicum experiences, conducted in faculty approved, in-person, preceptored clinical settings. All students must complete all courses with a B or better to progress in the program. The entire program will take a minimum of 12 months to complete.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge derived from the physical and behavioral sciences and humanities as a basis for professional advanced clinical nursing practice.
- Devise evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention strategies at the patient, family, organizational, community, and population levels for the purpose of improving healthcare outcomes.
- Utilize current technologies to deliver, enhance, and document care across multiple settings to achieve optimal outcomes.
- Advocate for culturally sensitive health care systems and policies that meet ethical and legal standards as a means to improve outcomes and reduce disparity.
- Model collaboration with interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary teams in healthcare systems delivering care to complex, multi-need patients, families, and communities.
- Analyze the impact of national and global health policy on the cost, quality, and access to care in diverse patient populations.

Degree Requirements

The Post-Graduate FNP Certificate Program of Study includes 46.5 quarter units, at least 600 clinical preceptored hours with expected completion in 4 quarters, each 12 weeks in length, over a 12-month time period. A total of 13.5 units of graduate credit may be granted for graduate work completed at another institution as it applies to this program and provided the units were not used to earn another advanced degree. Refer to the General Catalog section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding admission and evaluation.

Requirements for Certification

(10 courses; 46.5 quarter units)

NSG 681 Advanced Physical Assessment (6 quarter units)

NSG 641 Advanced Pharmacology I

NSG 682 Advanced Pathophysiology

NSG 642 Advanced Pharmacology II

FNP 683A Primary Care of Adult and Aged
Corequisite: FNP 683B

FNP 683B Care of Adult & Aged Practicum
Corequisite: FNP 683A

FNP 684A Primary Care-Women & Children
Corequisite: FNP 684B

FNP 684B Women and Children Practicum
Corequisite: FNP 684A

FNP 685A FNP Residency
Corequisite: FNP 685B

FNP 685B FNP Residency Practicum
Corequisite: FNP 685A

Experienced, practicing Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) can waive NSG 641 and NSG 681 if taken less than five (5) years prior to application to the Certificate Program. In addition, experienced, practicing APRN can waive NSG 682 if taken less than ten (10) years prior to application to the Certificate Program.

Post-Graduate Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate

Faculty Advisor: Jovita Ezirim; (310) 662-2181; jezirim@nu.edu

The Post-Graduate PMHNP Certificate program will prepare advanced practice nurses to provide primary mental health care for individuals, groups and populations across the lifespan. This Certificate Program is designed for nurses who hold a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) who wish to advance their knowledge, education, and skills to practice in an advanced practice role as a PMHNP. This advanced practice nurse maintains a critical role in the health care team and ensures collaboration and the provision of safe, effective, coordinated care. As an independent member of the health care team, and in partnership with patients, the PMHNP provides a variety of evidence-based services and therapies. The PMHNP assesses, makes diagnoses and plans care for complex psychiatric and concomitant medical issues, including the prescription and management of psychopharmacologic agents. The PMHNP advocates for patients and their families within a recovery and trauma-informed paradigm. The PMHNP ensures that patients and their families are engaged and actively participate in their behavioral health (mental health and substance use) care as they respond to the illness experience. The PMHNP continuously enhances their care through quality improvement and safety efforts and influences policy at the local, regional and national levels. The PMHNP melds the art and science of professional nursing and skillfully manages the acute and enduring issues posed by people with behavioral health issues across the lifespan. Graduates of this Post-Graduate PMHNP Certificate Program are eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan; formerly known as Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner) competency-based examination.

*This certificate program is a non-degree, graduate-level program. Upon completion of the program, participants receive a PMHNP Certificate of Completion.

Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the Post-Graduate PMHNP Certificate program at National University, candidates must:

- Meet the University requirements for graduate study, listed in the General Catalog under admission requirements
- Hold a Master's or doctoral degree in nursing from a regionally and CCNE and/or NLNAC accredited program in nursing
- Provide proof of current, active, and unencumbered RN license in the State of residence
- Have a GPA of at least 3.0 in graduate course work, on a 4.0 scale
- Have 2-year recent clinical practice as a professional nurse
- Have completed the University Application for Graduate Admissions, including the application fee
- Have completed the Post-Graduate Certificate application packet
- Provide one official transcript from each college or university attended to the Department of Nursing
- Have three professional recommendation forms, preferably from individuals who hold graduate or doctoral degrees
- Provide evidence of specified immunizations, a report of a recent physical clearance, a clear drug screen and background check, and current BLS-AED certification

Additional Prerequisite Requirements

Students should be proficient in operating a personal computer, including: demonstrated competency in standard computer operating systems and electronic filing systems, basic keyboarding skills, organizing and sorting electronic

documents; demonstrated knowledge of standard computer applications to include Microsoft Word and Excel; familiarity with using internet browsers and standard email systems such as MS Outlook.

Additional Information

This is a hybrid program that includes both online, onsite, and clinical preceptored learning activities. It is offered at an accelerated pace of full-time study using an executive weekend format once a month (e.g., Friday-Sunday, all day sessions). All clinical courses are offered as immersion practicum experiences, conducted in faculty approved, in-person, preceptored clinical settings.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge derived from the physical and behavioral sciences and humanities as a basis for professional advanced clinical nursing practice.
- Devise evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention strategies at the patient, family, organizational, community, and population levels for the purpose of improving health care outcomes.
- Utilize current technologies to deliver, enhance, and document care across multiple settings to achieve optimal outcomes.
- Apply organizational and systems leadership to current healthcare issues for the promotion of quality, effective and safe patient care, including the emphasis on ethical and critical decision making, effective working relationships, and a systems-perspective approach.
- Model collaboration and coordination with interprofessional teams in health care systems delivering care to complex, multi-need patients, families and communities.
- Synthesize broad organizational, client-centered, and culturally appropriate concepts in the planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of evidence-based clinical prevention and population behavioral healthcare and services to individuals, families, and identified populations.

Degree Requirements

The Post-Graduate PMHNP Certificate Program of Study includes 46.5 quarter units, at least 600 clinical preceptored hours with expected completion in 4 quarters, each 12 weeks in length, over a 12-month time period. A total of 13.5 units of graduate credit may be granted for graduate work completed at another institution as it applies to this program and provided the units were not used to earn another advanced degree. Refer to the General Catalog section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding admission and evaluation.

Requirements for Certification

(10 courses; 46.5 quarter units)

NSG 681 Advanced Physical Assessment (6 quarter units)

NSG 641 Advanced Pharmacology I

NSG 682 Advanced Pathophysiology

MNP 643 Psychopharmacology in MH Care

MNP 694 MH Care: Adults/Aging Adults

MNP 696A Adults/Aging Adults Practicum
Corequisite: MNP 694

MNP 687 MH Care: Children/Adolescents

MNP 696B Children/Adoles Practicum
Corequisite: MNP 687

MNP 688A Introduction to Psychotherapy
Corequisite: MNP 688B

MNP 688B Intro Psychotherapy Practicum
Corequisite: MNP 688A

Experienced, practicing Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) can waive NSG 641 and NSG 681 if taken less than five (5) years prior to application to the Certificate Program. In addition, experienced, practicing APRN can waive NSG 682 if taken less than ten (10) years prior to application to the Certificate Program.