

Master of Science in Nursing Advanced Practice Online Program, M.S.N.

Degree Offered

- Master of Science in Nursing

Nature of the Program

DESCRIPTION

The West Virginia University School of Nursing offers a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree that provides the skills necessary to sit for advanced practice certification. The major area of study is Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). Throughout the curriculum, students are guided in the process of self-development aimed at pursuing excellence in scholarly and professional endeavors. Courses are offered via web-based modalities using synchronous and asynchronous formats. The MSN program offers a curriculum that allows students to enroll on a part-time or full-time basis. The 47-credit program can be completed in five semesters (including a summer session) of full-time study (average of nine to twelve credit hours per semester)*. Flexibility within the basic curricular structure is achieved through the individualization of learning experiences and students may complete the program over a longer duration. The pattern and duration of the student's plan of study is determined in consultation with a faculty advisor and is based upon the student's background and goals.

Graduates meet all requirements to sit for the national certification examination in his or her major area of study, family nurse practitioner. They are prepared to offer care at the advanced practice level to select populations and are able to perform all activities encompassed in the traditional scope of practice.

*It is a strong recommendation by the University and the School of Nursing that graduate students limit their credit load if they are also involved in full-time work. Full-time work and studies may negatively affect the student's ability to succeed academically.

Admissions for 2026-2027

MSN CRITERIA

- Bachelor of Science in nursing degree from a nationally accredited nursing program and regionally accredited institution.
- A minimum overall nursing GPA of a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- A minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale on all college work attempted. (Provisional admission may be considered if the overall GPA is 2.75-2.99 depending upon space available and other qualifications).
- An active, unrestricted RN license in at least one state at the time of application.
- Letters of good standing (required for transfer students or those that have taken courses in another graduate program but did not complete the degree).

Students must satisfactorily complete background checks and drug screens upon admission.

Notes: To be considered, applicants must meet all WVU admission requirements (<https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/apply-for-2024-2025/>), in addition to program specific admission criteria. Admission criteria are subject to change. Please see the School of Nursing website for the most up-to-date criteria at <https://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu> (<https://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/>).

READMISSION

Any student who has been dismissed from the West Virginia University School of Nursing or any other nursing program may be considered for readmission if the dismissal was academic and was followed by successful completion of an additional degree. Any student who has withdrawn from the WVU School of Nursing program may be considered for readmission. See Graduate Readmission Policy.

ADMISSION AS A NON-DEGREE

Non-degree seeking students may only enroll in NSG 706 Advanced Pathophysiology, NSG 705 Advanced Lifespan Health Assessment, and NSG 701 Advanced Pharmacology

PROVISIONAL ADMISSION-GRADUATE STUDENTS

Provisional graduate admission may be offered to students when they have earned a baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree from a regionally accredited college or university but do not meet the criteria for regular admission. Provisionally admitted graduate students may have *program-defined deficiencies* or an undergraduate or graduate scholastic record that shows promise but is below the required 3.0 overall and/or nursing GPA for admission to the nursing program. Students will be considered for provisional admission on a case-by case basis depending upon space available and other qualifications.

If admitted, all graduate students are required to maintain a 3.0 in all work attempted in the nursing program. International students may not be admitted provisionally because such students are not eligible to receive a student visa. WVU will only submit visa paperwork for regularly admitted graduate students.

Provisional graduate students who fail to meet the provisions of admission or who fail to achieve the required grade point average will be dismissed from the program and reclassified as non-degree.

RECLASSIFICATION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Provisional graduate students may be reclassified as regular graduate student's if/when they meet the program requirements specified in the offer of admission and the WVU minimum grade point average of 2.75.

Academic records of full-time degree seeking students who are admitted provisionally will be reviewed no later than the end of the term in which the students complete 18 credit hours.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications may apply at any time for fall admission. Complete applications will be considered up to July 1st for MSN and post-master's certificate programs. Applicants can apply via the West Virginia University Graduate Admissions website and completing the main graduate student application. Applicants should select the fall term, "Masters" as the admission type, "Nursing MSN" as the intended program, and FNP track. Applicants will then be asked to select a full-time or part-time progression plan. Please note that full-time and part-time placements are based on space availability. The most qualified applicants will receive priority for full-time placements. Class size and progression plans may be limited based on available faculty resources and space. Applicants to the MSN program need to complete the following steps in order to be considered for admission:

1. Application for Admission to Graduate Studies (available at: https://westvirginia.force.com/wvugrad/TX_SiteLogin?startURL=%2Fwvugrad%2FTargetX_Portal__PB (https://westvirginia.force.com/wvugrad/TX_SiteLogin/?startURL=%2Fwvugrad%2FTargetX_Portal__PB))
2. Request an official transcript of records from each college or university attended.
 - a. It is preferred that official transcripts be sent via an online, secure service such as eScrip-Safe (<https://escrip-safe.com/signup/>), National Student Clearinghouse (<https://studentclearinghouse.org/>), or Parchment (<https://www.parchment.com/>) to graduateadmissions@mail.wvu.edu.
 - b. Alternatively, sealed, untampered, physical official transcripts can be sent directly to WVU Graduate Admissions, P.O. Box 6510, Morgantown, WV 26506-6510.
 - c. Applicants who completed prior education outside of the U.S. must have their transcripts evaluated by World Education Services (WES) (<https://www.wes.org/evaluations-and-fees/education/graduate-admissions/>). Please request a "course-by-course" International Credential Advantage Package (ICAP).
3. Submit a current curriculum vitae, evidence of licensure, and applicable letters of good standing.

For more information, visit the website at <https://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu> (<https://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/>), write to West Virginia University School of Nursing, P.O. Box 9600, Morgantown, WV 26506-9600; or call (304) 293-1386.

Major Code: 8646

Master of Science in Nursing Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required		
A minimum grade of C- is required in all courses		
Core Courses		
NSG 622	Theoretical Foundations and Disciplined Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NSG 623	Foundations of the Nurse Practitioner Role and Interprofessional Practice	3
NSG 625	Statistics for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NSG 626	Advanced Practice Nursing Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Lifespan	3
NSG 627	Evidence Based Practice Quality Improvement	3
NSG 628	Leadership/Policy/Ethics	3
NSG 706	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NSG 709	Informatics & Healthcare Technologies	3
NSG 715	NP Experiential Learning	1
Required Area of Emphasis		22
Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)		
Total Hours		47

Suggested Plan of Study for Family Nurse Practitioner Area of Emphasis - Full-Time

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
NSG 622		3 NSG 625		3 NSG 626	3
NSG 623		3 NSG 627		3 NSG 712	3
NSG 706		3 NSG 701		3 NSG 715	1
		NSG 705		3	
		9		12	7

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
NSG 709		3 NSG 628		3	
NSG 714		3 NSG 721		5	
NSG 720		5			
		11		8	

Total credit hours: 47

Suggested Plan of Study for Family Nurse Practitioner Area of Emphasis - Part-Time

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
NSG 622		3 NSG 625		3 NSG 626	3
NSG 623		3 NSG 627		3	
		6		6	3

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
NSG 709		3 NSG 701		3 NSG 712	3
NSG 706		3 NSG 705		3 NSG 715	1
		6		6	4

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
NSG 714		3 NSG 628		3	
NSG 720		5 NSG 721		5	
		8		8	

Total credit hours: 47

A minimum of 10 credits of Family Practicum (including Practicum 1 and 2) is required for graduation. This equates to a total of 600 hours of supervised clinical experience.

Area of Emphasis

- Family Nurse Practitioner

Family Nurse Practitioner Area of Emphasis Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
NSG 701	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NSG 705	Advanced Lifespan Health Assessment	3
NSG 712	Primary Care of Families 1	3
NSG 714	Primary Care of Families 2	3
NSG 720	FNP Primary Care Practicum 1	5
NSG 721	FNP Primary Care Practicum 2	5
Total Hours		22

Progression Standards

To progress in the MSN and post-master's curricula, a student must meet the following performance standards. Failure to meet the criteria below will result in dismissal from the program.

- Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement
 - Degree seeking students are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA. A student who falls below a 3.0 in program courses after nine or more credit hours are completed in the program will be placed on academic notice.
 - Full-time degree-seeking graduate students will have only one semester to bring up their GPA to the 3.0 requirement. Failure to raise the program GPA to 3.0 by the next enrolled semester will result in program dismissal.
 - Part-time graduate students will have two semesters to bring up the GPA to the 3.0 requirement. Failure to raise the program GPA to 3.0 by the next enrolled semester will result in program dismissal.
- Post-graduate certificate seeking students are required to take fewer credits than those in the degree programs. Therefore, a GPA lower than 3.0 will not be grounds for probation or dismissal. However, a minimum GPA of 2.75 based on courses applied to a certificate is required for the award of a certificate.
- Course grade requirements:
 - Students must earn A, B, C, Pass, or Satisfactory in all required courses.
 - A grade of F, Fail, or Unsatisfactory in any course results in program dismissal.
 - Students can only carry forward one C grade in a nursing course. A second C in any nursing course will result in program dismissal.
 - Students can only carry forward two course withdrawals (resulting in a "W" on the academic transcript). The withdrawals cannot occur in the same course more than one time.
- Course age requirements:
 - Students are permitted to continue in a graduate nursing program for a maximum of seven years following their term of admission to the programs. A course completed more than seven years prior to the term of degree or certificate completion will be reviewed by program administrators and the Associate Dean of Curriculum. The student may be required to validate current knowledge in the subject area, repeat the course(s), or complete competency evaluation. The University's time limit requirement (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/degree_regulations/#timelimittext) must also be met.

GRADUATE READMISSION POLICY

Any student who has been dismissed from the West Virginia University School of Nursing or any other nursing program may be considered for readmission if the dismissal was academic and was followed by successful completion of an additional degree. Any student who has withdrawn from the WVU School of Nursing program may be considered for readmission. Students may apply for readmission in accordance with the following guidelines and criteria but must follow the standard admission procedures. Students must meet all original admission requirements.

- Students previously enrolled in a WVU nursing program must complete all exit procedures and forms during the semester of withdrawal to be eligible for readmission.
- Readmission to a WVU graduate nursing program will be considered one time only.
- Students unable to complete the program within 7 years of the original admission date (all graduate programs) and within 5 years of entry into candidacy (PhD program) will be required to restart the program if readmitted.
- Readmission is not guaranteed and is dependent upon space available, applicant qualifications, and academic discretion.
- Students may be required to repeat courses, revise the original progression plan, and/or validate clinical skills/knowledge obtained from previous courses.

GRADING SCALE

The grading scale for nursing as posted in each course syllabus is:

A = 93-100, B = 85-92, C = 77-84, F = 76 and below.

Major Learning Outcomes

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

At the completion of the program, the graduate will be able to:

Integrate theories and evidence based on the art and science of nursing knowledge, as well as other disciplines, to make clinical decisions in the delivery of advanced practice nursing care.

Formulate and communicate compassionate, ethical, evidenced-based individualized plans of care in consideration of social determinants of health.

Collaborate with interprofessional teams and other stakeholders to formulate initiatives, influence health policies, and improve advanced practice nursing health care delivery and health outcomes for individuals and populations.

Disseminate evidence-based recommendations to improve advanced practice nursing health care delivery and patient outcomes for diverse patients.

Evaluate advanced nursing practice healthcare delivery for the purpose of quality improvement, improved patient outcomes, reduction of risks to patients and providers, and reduced fragmentation of care.

Coordinate healthcare system resources to provide safe, quality, inclusive, equitable advanced practice nursing care.

Utilize technologies to provide evidence-based advanced practice nursing care, gather data to drive clinical decision-making, and deliver healthcare services in accordance with ethical and professional standards.

Model behaviors that reflect nursing values, accountability, collaborative leadership, and ethical principles in advanced nursing practice.

participate in activities and self-reflection that foster compassionate self-care, resilience, well-being, lifelong learning, and leadership development as an advanced practice nurse.

Courses

NSG 622. Theoretical Foundations and Disciplined Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice. 3 Hours.

An in-depth study of theoretical frameworks as the foundation of advanced nursing practice and research. Students will incorporate middle-range nursing theories and theories borrowed from other disciplines to inform and guide holistic care of patients, families, and communities.

NSG 623. Foundations of the Nurse Practitioner Role and Interprofessional Practice. 3 Hours.

This course introduces students to the various roles of the nurse practitioner including clinician, scholar, advocate, collaborator, leader, and lifelong learner.

NSG 625. Statistics for Advanced Nursing Practice. 3 Hours.

This course provides an introduction to the collection and analysis of nursing and health sciences data. Topics include sampling, data presentation, summary measures, probability, confidence interval, hypothesis testing, t-test and ANOVA, correlation analysis, simple/multiple linear regression, chi-square test, power and sample size calculation.

NSG 626. Advanced Practice Nursing Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Lifespan. 3 Hours.

PR or CONC: NSG 622 and NSG 623. An in-depth study of theoretical foundations, epidemiological principles, and advance practice strategies for the promotion of health and prevention of disease across the life-span.

NSG 627. Evidence Based Practice Quality Improvement. 3 Hours.

PR: NSG 625. Application of EBP and QI frameworks to improve health outcomes, quality, and safety related to a practice or leadership issue.

NSG 628. Leadership/Policy/Ethics. 3 Hours.

PR: NSG 627. An exploration of the concept of leadership in the advanced practice role and application of these leadership behaviors to health care policy and ethical decision making.

NSG 701. Advanced Pharmacology. 3 Hours.

PR: NSG 706. Examination of the relationship between pharmacologic principles and the APRN's selection of pharmacologic agents in altered health states across the lifespan.

NSG 705. Advanced Lifespan Health Assessment. 3 Hours.

PR: NSG 706. The focus of this course is the advanced health assessment of individuals across the lifespan. Skilled interviewing and advanced assessment skills are emphasized.

NSG 706. Advanced Pathophysiology. 3 Hours.

Theoretical basis of pathophysiological changes in acute and chronic illnesses confronted across the lifespan is presented. The course serves as the foundation for clinical assessment, decision making, and management.

NSG 709. Informatics & Healthcare Technologies. 3 Hours.

Utilize technologies to gather data to drive clinical decision making, and support advanced nursing professionals in the delivery of healthcare services in accordance with best practice, and ethical and professional standards.

NSG 712. Primary Care of Families 1. 3 Hours.

PR: NSG 701 and NSG 705. An introduction to the knowledge and skills basic to the health maintenance, diagnosis, treatment, evaluation, and revision of care of individuals as members of family units in the primary care setting.

NSG 714. Primary Care of Families 2. 3 Hours.

PR: NSG 712. Further acquisition of knowledge and skills basic to the health maintenance, diagnosis, treatment, evaluation, and revision of care of individuals as members of family units in the primary care setting. The change in course hours reflects change in content.

NSG 720. FNP Primary Care Practicum 1. 5 Hours.

PR: NSG 712 and PR or CONC: NSG 714. Supervised practicum designed to facilitate the student's competency at the advanced practice level in the delivery of primary health care across the lifespan.

NSG 721. FNP Primary Care Practicum 2. 5 Hours.

PR: NSG 720. Supervised practicum that builds upon Family Practicum 1 and applies theory and evidence to the advanced practice of nursing. Further role and competency development at the advanced practice level of lifespan primary health care.

NSG 770. Pediatric Primary Care 1. 3 Hours.

PR or CONC: NSG 767. An introduction to the knowledge and skills basic to the health maintenance, diagnosis, treatment, evaluation and revision of care of children in the primary care setting.

NSG 771. Pediatric Primary Care 2. 3 Hours.

PR: NSG 770. Further acquisition of knowledge and skills central to the assessment of health status, diagnosis, treatment and evaluation of children in the primary care setting.

NSG 772. Pediatric Practicum 1. 5 Hours.

PR or CONC: NSG 771. Supervised practicum designed to facilitate the student's competency in the delivery of primary health care to children.

NSG 773. Pediatric Practicum 2. 5 Hours.

PR: NSG 772. Supervised practicum that builds on NSG 772 [Pediatric Practicum 1] and applies theory and evidence to the advanced practice of nursing. Further role and competency development at the advanced practice level for the delivery of primary health care to pediatric populations.