

MASTER OF SCIENCE – FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Dr. Betty Beimel, Graduate Nursing Program Director

Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program is to prepare ethical, safe, and effective advanced practitioners of professional nursing across the lifespan.

Program Description

The Master of Science in Nursing program prepares students for their role as an advanced practice nurse who functions as the primary care practitioner to individuals across the lifespan in a variety of inpatient and outpatient clinical settings.

The degree offers an emphasis on practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), to enable students to take their career to a higher level. Through this program, you can develop the knowledge and skills to assume advanced practice roles. The didactic courses provide the knowledge, theoretical concepts, and research that inform today's patient care and evidence-based practice. The clinical courses enable students to gain skills in clinical decision making and differential diagnosis, patient teaching, assessments, and interventions.

Our degree enables graduates with the knowledge and skills to sit for the FNP national certification board examination offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). There is a 1:7 credit-to-contact hour ratio for practicum which includes a combined total of 787.5 hours for the program. This comprises 750 direct care clinical hours across the three clinical courses and virtual simulation that are incorporated into courses. There are two annual starts: fall and spring. There are two program options: full- (five terms) and part-time (seven terms). MSN FNP majors must meet all University of Charleston graduation requirements and complete all program and course assignments.

Program Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course of study, the graduate will:

1. Deliver safe, high quality, patient-centered and population care through an advanced understanding of nursing and relevant sciences through health promotion and preventative measures.
2. Implement the role of the advanced practice registered nurse through lifelong learning, reflective practice, and enlightened living informed by evidence and research.
3. Advocate for policies that lead to change in quality health outcomes through interprofessional collaboration in the delivery of primary care.
4. Integrate ethical, critical thinking and decision making in the leadership role to plan, implement, and evaluate primary care interventions with culturally and age diverse populations.
5. Apply patient healthcare technologies and informatics in practice within a systems framework to promote effective communication and to organize care.

What You Will Study

The MSN FNP degree program includes 42 credits of academic work.

Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner – Required Courses

Course	Title	Credits
NURSM 501	Advanced Practice Roles	3
NURSM 502	EBP Research	3
NURSM 503	Advanced Leadership	3
NURSM 504	IT in Advanced Practice	3
NURSM 505	Healthcare Policy	3
NURSM 510	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURSM 515	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NURSM 520	Advanced Assessment	3
NURSM 525	FNP Capstone	3
NURSP 625	Primary Care I	5
NURSP 635	Primary Care II	5
NURSP 645	Transitions: Advanced Nursing	5
Total Required Credits for MSN FNP degree focus:		42

Admission Requirements

Students must gain general admission to the University of Charleston and must:

Have a BSN from an accredited institution and at least a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA

Have a current, active, unencumbered US registered nurse (RN) license

Additional Requirements

MSN FNP majors must meet all University of Charleston graduation requirements, complete all program and course assignments, and must take and pass a comprehensive examination during the final semester.