



COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING, FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Expand Your Nursing Knowledge to Deliver Primary Care

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program with a specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) will prepare you to manage the care of individuals and families through all stages of life. If you already have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and wish to grow your knowledge, education, and skills to practice in an advanced role, the FNP is the program for you. You'll develop your abilities to think critically, make differential diagnoses, and use findings to improve health care. Your advanced skills will prepare you to diagnose illnesses, conduct health exams, and even prescribe medication. You'll work to help prevent disease, manage acute and chronic health conditions, and render primary care in clinics and other community-based settings.

FNPs use theories, models, frameworks, and concepts from nursing and non-nursing disciplines to design interventions that improve health care for diverse populations.

Upon graduation you'll be eligible to sit for the FNP national certification exams offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

Program highlights:

- Entire program can be completed online.
- No mandatory login time.
- Preceptor placement assistance in certain areas.
- Degree can be completed in as few as 12-18 months.
- 12-week courses.
- Board certification review course for nurse practitioner specialties.
- Post-Graduate Nurse Practitioner Certificates available to students who already hold an MSN or doctoral degree in nursing.
- Program practicum is completed in faculty-approved clinical settings. One day onsite meeting for each nurse practitioner practicum course.

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PLANETREE
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Person-Centered School

Hybrid Program
Starts Every January and July
WSCUC and CCNE Accredited



**NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY**

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Academic Program Director: Tina Ho;
(858) 309-3448; tho@nu.edu

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program is for Registered Nurses who hold a nursing diploma, or an associate nursing degree, or a Bachelor Degree in Nursing (BSN). In keeping with the standards for graduate education for advanced practice nursing delineated by the American Association of College 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.

This program is approved by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

MSN Admission Requirements

The following candidates are eligible for admission into the MSN program:

1. Candidates who hold a BSN degree from a nursing program that meets one of these criteria 1) State Board of Nursing approved, 2) Nationally accredited nursing program, 3) from a regionally accredited University/School, if applicable, and meet the University requirements for graduate study, listed in the General Catalog under Academic Information for Graduate Degrees.
2. Candidates who currently enrolled in the final course of their BSN degree program at National University or recently graduated from National University with their BSN. (Candidates in the RN-BSN Completion Program are eligible to take MSN courses in the last month of their RN to BSN Completion Program) and meet the University requirements for graduate study, listed in the General Catalog under Academic Information for Graduate Degrees including Admission in the Term prior to Bachelor's Degree Completion.

*Candidates will be conditionally accepted into the MSN program until the following proofs are provided. Students may not begin specialization courses until the

conditional acceptance is lifted, by providing proof of the following:

- Current, active and unencumbered RN license in the State of employment and/or residence
- Copy of BSN transcript
- Proof of Employment offer in the capacity of a registered nurse (RN)

If candidates are unable to show proof of BSN degree conferral, RN license and employment offer, admission to the MSN program will be rescinded.

RN to MSN Candidate Requirements

Candidates who hold a nursing diploma, or an associate nursing degree from a nursing program that meets one of these criteria 1) State Board of Nursing approved, 2) Nationally accredited nursing program, 3) from a regionally accredited University/School, if applicable and have completed a General Education curriculum or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) in these areas:

- Physical and Biological Sciences
- Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Arts, Humanities and Language
- Writing, Speech and Communication

***Exception:** Candidates do not need to have a Bachelor's degree for admission to the graduate program as specified in Academic Information for Graduate Degrees and Credentials, Admission procedures.

Candidates wishing to be admitted under the exception must select one of the RN-MSN pathway options, and successfully complete the required courses prior to beginning Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) core requirements. RN-MSN **Option 1** includes NSG 500 RN-MSN Portfolio Transition; **OR Option 2** includes NSG 444/444A Community Population Nursing with Lab, **and** NSG 442/442A Nursing Leadership and Management with Lab, **and** NSG 447/447A Quality Improvement with Lab).

All MSN Candidates including RN to MSN

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Candidates with a GPA of 2.5-2.99 will be considered by the MSN Admission Committee on a case by case basis
- Have completed the MSN application packet

Candidates who graduated from a BSN program other than NU must

- Provide proof of current, active and unencumbered RN license in the State of employment and/or residence.
- Complete the university admission application
- Provide one official transcript from each college or university attended to the Registrar's office
- Provide two professional recommendation forms, preferably from individuals who hold graduate or doctoral degrees

Prior to the start of their specialization courses, all candidates must

- 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 certification.

Additional Program Information

- A.** Candidates are required to meet with their Admission Advisor to review the process for applying to and acceptance into the Nursing program. The specifics described are: program of study, schedules of courses, requirements for progression in the program. Note: Prospective students should review the MSN and Post-Graduate Certificate packet before submitting the application.
- B.** 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.
- C.** MSN program is 100% online . All accepted applicants must attend one virtual online program orientation. In addition,

students in the FNP and PMHNP specializations are required to attend four one-day Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) in Costa Mesa. FNP and PMHNP practicum courses are offered as immersion practicum experiences, conducted in faculty approved, in-person, preceptored clinical settings.

- D.** Students who request a change in specialization after they have been admitted to a prior specialization must resubmit an application packet including a new goal statement, and one recommendation form completed addressing the new specialization area. A new resume is not required. All prerequisites must be met prior to admissions into the new specialization. The new application will be re-submitted via the Graduate Nursing e-form Application in SOAR by the Admission Counselor.
- E.** Students who withdraw from the program or withdraw their application prior to beginning the program will not need to reapply if the point of initial application occurred within one year of re-application. Students requesting to be re-admitted after one year of initial application for admissions will need to resubmit a new application packet including all required items needed for the application packet and drug screening, background check, immunizations and physical examination. Re-application to the program does not guarantee acceptance or provide an advantage to being accepted.

NOTE: Additional fees apply as described:

- RN-MSN students taking NSG 500 carry additional fee of \$3,280
- FNP and PMHNP Area of Specializations carry additional program fees of \$11,325
- NA and NI Area of Specializations carry additional program fees of \$475

Program Learning Outcomes

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

- Implement appropriate theories, models, frameworks and concepts for 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 49.5-82.5 quarter units of graduate credit, with a minimum of 40.5 quarter units completed at National University. Refer to the General Catalog section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding admission and evaluation. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must maintain a B (84%) in all core and specialization courses.

RN-MSN Pathway Options

Candidates that do not hold a Bachelor's degree for admission to the graduate program will follow one of the RN-MSN pathway. Candidates accepted into the RN-MSN must provide completion of an associate degree in nursing or diploma Nursing Program and hold an unencumbered Registered Nurse license.

Option 1 - Only if a student holds an associate degree in nursing or diploma in nursing and have at least one year of registered nursing experience in leadership, community health and quality improvement are eligible to complete NSG 500.

Option 2 - Student holds an associate degree in nursing or diploma in nursing with no registered nursing experience in leadership, community health and quality improvement.

RN-MSN Pathway Course Requirements

(1 course; 6 quarter units **OR** 6 courses; 25.5 quarter units)

Option 1

NSG 500 RN-MSN Portfolio Transition
(6quarter units)

OR

Option 2

ALL the following **six (6)** courses

NSG 444	Community Population NSG (6 quarter units) <i>Corequisite: NSG 444A</i>
NSG 444A	Comm Pop NSG Practicum (3 quarter units) <i>Corequisite: NSG 444</i>
NSG 442	NSG Leadership and Management <i>Corequisite: NSG 442A</i>
NSG 442A	NSG LDRSHP & MGMT Practicum (3 quarter units) <i>Corequisite: NSG 442</i>
NSG 447	Qual Improvement <i>Corequisite: NSG 447A</i>
NSG 447A	Qual Improvement Practicum <i>Corequisite: NSG 447</i>

Core Requirements

(6 courses; 27 quarter units)

NSG 600	Advance 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

Students must pass all core courses before beginning specialization courses.

Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner

Academic Program Director: Tina Ho;
(858) 309-3448; 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 nursing diploma, or an associate nursing degree, or 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 (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.

Admission Requirements

Students applying for the FNP area of specialization must be accepted to the MSN program.

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 population

Degree Requirements

Students must complete a total of 55.5 quarter units for the FNP specialization. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must maintain a B (84%) in all courses. Students must obtain at least 600 hours at an approved practicum site with a designated approved preceptor during the practicum courses.

NOTE: Program Fees.....\$11,325

Total Specialization Requirements

(12 courses; 55.5 quarter units)

Preparation for FNP Specialization

(3 courses; 15 quarter units)

NSG 641*	Advanced Pharmacology I
NSG 681*	Advanced Physical Assessment (6 quarter units)
NSG 682*	Advanced Pathophysiology

*Students have the option of taking the preparation for FNP specialization concurrently with the 6 MSN core courses.

Specialization Requirements

(9 courses; 40.5 quarter units)

Students must pass all MSN core and preparation for FNP Specialization courses before beginning any specialization courses.

NSG 680	Diversity Issues in APN
FNP 642	Advanced Pharmacology II
FNP 683A	Primary Care of Adult and Aged <i>Corequisite: FNP 683B</i>
FNP 683B	Care of Adult & Aged Practicum <i>Corequisite: FNP 683A</i>
FNP 684A	Primary Care-Women & Children <i>Corequisite: FNP 643B</i>
FNP 684B	Women and Children Practicum <i>Corequisite: FNP 684A</i>
FNP 685A	FNP Residency <i>Corequisite: FNP 685B</i>
FNP 685B	FNP Residency Practicum <i>Corequisite: FNP 685A</i>
FNP 689	FNP Capstone