

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAMS

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING: FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER (MSN:FNP)

Faculty

- Sheryl Steadman, Dean
- Julie Balk, Program Director

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The Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program builds on a baccalaureate nursing degree to prepare advanced practice nurses in the areas of primary health care.

After graduation, FNP students are eligible to take the American Nurse Credential Center (ANCC) or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) certification exam and apply for Utah licensure as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) with prescriptive authority.

Philosophy

The Family Nurse Practitioner program is based on a philosophy of holistic health care for patients and families in today's dynamic and complex health care environment. Graduates will use their clinical competence and political efficacy to improve both individual health outcomes and the overall quality of the healthcare system.

Mission

The Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program at Westminster College provides students the expertise required in advanced nursing practice and leadership. The program builds on a baccalaureate nursing education to develop attributes essential to providing comprehensive, holistic healthcare across the lifespan. Students integrate clinical judgment and critical thinking for culturally appropriate patient-centered care. Students will establish an advanced understanding of the art and science of nursing and are encouraged to seek additional continuing education and volunteer their services to the local community.

Program Outcome

FNP graduates will:

- Establish therapeutic relationships and use a holistic, culturally appropriate, evidence-based approach to assess, diagnose, and prescribe treatments for individuals, families, and clinical populations.
- Assume a leadership role in developing and implementing health promotion interventions for individuals, families, and communities.
- Analyze healthcare policy and the effect of these policies on nursing practice and healthcare delivery to advocate for improved public healthcare outcomes and the profession of nursing.
- Integrate theory, evidence, clinical judgment, research, and interprofessional perspective to improve patient populations' practice and associated health outcomes.
- Employ interprofessional collaborative strategies utilizing information and communication technologies in the design, coordination, and evaluation of patient-centered care.

Progression in the Program

The student must:

- Receive a grade of B or higher in all courses. Cumulative test/quiz scores must average 80% or higher in all courses, or the student will not be able to progress. If a student does not achieve 80% or higher, the course grade will reflect only the average test/quiz scores achieved by the end of the course.
- Complete the program in 4 years from time of initial admission.
- Maintain a current, unencumbered Utah RN license.
- Complete all scholarly paper requirements according to identified time schedules.
- Maintain a background check free of arrest and/or criminal incidents. Report any arrests and/or incidents related to legal and/or licensure concerns to the Program Director within 24 hours.
- Maintain a negative drug screen. Report any change or prescribed use of mind-altering substances, including narcotics, within 24 hours to the Program Director.
- Remain in good standing at clinical sites.

Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for a Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) degree, students must satisfy the following conditions to qualify for graduation from Westminster College:

- Meet all credit hour and other course requirements
- Maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above
- Be enrolled at Westminster College during the semester in which they wish to graduate
- Maintain good academic standing
- Earn a grade of B or higher in all graduate courses

Please note that the program requires that students must earn a grade of B or higher in all graduate courses to qualify for graduation, regardless of their cumulative GPA. The final responsibility for being informed about, and adhering to, graduation requirements rests with the individual. Continued communication with the faculty advisor is recommended.

Program Requirements

A minimum of 42 semester hours is required for graduation. The acceptance of transfer credit, up to 9 hours, is individually evaluated. The minimum number of clinical practice hours for the program is 720 hours.

Requirement Description	CH	PREQ
I. Required Courses	42	
MSN 500 Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning 4 MSN 501 Advanced Pathophysiology 3 MSN 532 Pharmacology for Advanced Practice 3 MSN 500, 501 MSN 540 Theoretical Found. of Advanced Practice Nursing 2 MSN 550 Health Care and Health Promotion of Adults And Older Adults/Clinical Seminar 4 MSN 540; Pre- or Co-requisite: MSN 532 MSN 570 Research in the Practice Setting 3 MSN 581 Health Care and Health Promotion of Young Adults/Clinical Seminar 4 MSN 570 MSN 582 Health Care and Health Promotion of Infants through Adolescents/Clinical Seminar 4 MSN 581 MSN 584 Ambulatory Care Procedures 3 MSN 550 MSN 601 Role and Leadership in Advanced Practice Nursing 2 MSN 610 Master's Project 3 MSN 540, 570 MSN 639 Advanced Nursing Practicum/Clinical Seminar 5 MSN 582, 584, 601 MSN 670 Synthesis: Practice in Context 2 MSN 550, 582, 601		
Total Hours for the FNP Program	42	

Recommended Plan of Study

Year 1	MSN 500 (3/1) MSN 501 (3/0) MSN 540 (2/0)	MSN 532 (3/0) MSN 550 (2/2) MSN 570 (3/0)	MSN 584 (3/0) MSN 581 (2/2) MSN 601 (2/0)
Year 2	MSN 582 (2/2) MSN 610 (3/0)	MSN 670 (2/0) MSN 639 (0/5) MSN 699 (0) [if needed]	MSN 650 (0) [if needed] MSN 699 (0) [if needed]

Note: One (1) academic credit hour of clinical equals sixty (60) clock hours