

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Option Course Requirements

Program Description

The Family Nurse Practitioner Option is designed to prepare graduates to provide global primary health care to diverse and underserved. Upon completion of the program of study, graduates are eligible to write a national certification examination for family nurse practitioners. The program of study is designed to be completed in five semesters (including one summer) of full-time continuous study.

Course Requirements

THE DEGREE PLAN OF STUDY (THESIS PLAN)

Fall 1		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NU 501	Role Development	2 hrs.
NU 502	Advanced Pathophysiology	3 hrs.
NU 503	Advanced Pharmacology	3 hrs.
NU 504	Theoretical Foundations in Nursing	3 hrs.
Spring 1		
		Credits
NU 505	Advanced Health Assessment	3 hrs.
NU 505L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (60)	1 hr.
NU 506	Research Methods	3 hrs.
NU 507	Rural Health Care Policy	2 hrs.
Summer 1		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NU 508	Clinical Management Theory I	2 hrs.
NU 509	Clinical Management Practicum (120)	2 hrs.
NU 514	Introduction to Human Genetics	2 hrs.
Fall 2		
Course Number	Course Title	Credits
NU 510	Clinical Management Theory II	2 hrs.
NU 511	Clinical Management Practicum II (120)	2 hrs.
NU 512	Clinical Management Theory III	2 hrs.
NU 513	Clinical Management Practicum III (120)	2 hrs.
NU 590A	Thesis I	3 hrs.
Spring 2		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NU 518	Synthesis Practicum (240)	4 hrs.
NU 590B	Thesis II	3 hrs.
Total		44 hrs.

THE PLAN OF STUDY (NON-THESIS PLAN)

Fall 1		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NU 501	Role Development	2 hrs.
NU 502	Advanced Pathophysiology	3 hrs.
NU 503	Advanced Pharmacology	3 hrs.
NU 504	Theoretical Foundations in Nursing	3 hrs.
Spring 1		
		Credits
NU 505	Advanced Health Assessment	3 hrs.
NU 505L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (60)	1 hr.
NU 506	Research Methods	3 hrs.
NU 507	Rural Health Care Policy	2 hrs.
Summer 1		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NU 508	Clinical Management Theory I	2 hrs.
NU 509	Clinical Management Practicum (120)	2 hrs.
NU 514	Introduction to Human Genetics	2 hrs.
Fall 2		
Course Number	Course Title	Credits
NU 510	Clinical Management Theory II	2 hrs.
NU 511	Clinical Management Practicum II (120)	2 hrs.
NU 512	Clinical Management Theory III	2 hrs.
NU 513	Clinical Management Practicum III (120)	2 hrs.
NU 591A	Project I	3 hrs.
Spring 2		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
NU 518	Synthesis Practicum (240)	4 hrs.
NU 591B	Project II	3 hrs.
Total		44 hrs.

Nursing Course Descriptions (NU)

NU 500 – GRADUATE NURSING STYLE WRITING

(3 Credits)

This online course is designed to teach standards for writing and editing at the graduate level. Emphasis will be placed on the analysis and synthesis of scholarly literature.

Pre-Requisite: Conditional Admission

NU 501 – ROLE DEVELOPMENT

(2 Credits)

In this core course the student will examine the theoretical bases and strategies for effective enactment of advanced nursing. Practice roles: nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, clinical nurse specialist or nurse anesthetists. The student will analyze various theoretical frameworks, examine expectations and strategies, and analyze issue surrounding role behaviors in advanced nursing practice. Enactment of sub-roles such as researcher, leader, consultant and educator will also be examined.

Pre-requisite: Graduate Standing

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 502 – ADVANCED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

(3 Credits)

This online course examines current research in human pathophysiology, as well as explores physiological alterations underlying disease entities and relating knowledge to interpret changes in normal function that result in symptoms indicating an illness process across the life continuum.

Pre-requisite: Graduate Standing

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 503 – ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY

(3 Credits)

This online course prepares nurses for professional roles in advanced nursing practice with knowledge of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic principles of common drug categories used to prevent illness, and to restore and maintain health for client systems across the life span. Mechanisms of action, pharmacologic response, usual doses, adverse effects, indications, interactions, compatibilities, contradictions, and routes of administration will be emphasized in acute and chronic conditions. Legal consideration of prescription writing is incorporated. A scholarly approach is used to apply theory and research to pharmacotherapeutic regimens in rural family communities.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 504 – THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS IN NURSING

(3 Credits)

This online course examines the development of philosophical and theoretical bases for nursing practice. It includes the study and critique of nursing theories and theories from related disciplines. The interrelationships between nursing theories, research, and practice are emphasized. This course provides students the opportunity to begin to develop a conceptual framework for their own practice and research. Students are also introduced to the roles of advanced practice.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 505 – ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT

(3 Credits)

This online course examines current health assessment techniques and provides students the opportunity to synthesize interviewing, health history, and physical examination skills; laboratory/diagnostic data collection and interpretation; diagnostic reasoning and clinical decision-making for advanced nursing practice across the life continuum in a variety of settings.

Pre-requisite: Graduate Standing

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 505L – ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT LAB

(1 Credit)

This hybrid course is a practicum that focuses on the students' performance and interpretation of assessment and diagnostic for advanced practice nursing. This course requires sixty (60) laboratory/clinical hours. This practicum course is the first in the sequence of clinical courses, and is pre-requisite to other practicum courses.

Pre-requisite: Graduate Standing

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 506 – RESEARCH METHODS

(3 Credits)

This online course builds upon the knowledge of the research process learned at the baccalaureate level. It focuses on the process of empirical investigation in the development of nursing theory, which includes scientific inquiry and ethical issues of conducting research. Emphasis is on the formulation of testable hypotheses and the development of a research proposal.

Pre-requisite: Graduate Standing

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 507 – RURAL HEALTH CARE POLICY

(2 Credits)

This online course introduces students to global health care systems and models, and their influence on health disparities and healthcare delivery. A major focus of this course is for students to critically think about and discuss health and health care within a global environment. Patterns of influence that drive current policy development are examined and proposal of advocacy behaviors is encouraged.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 508 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT THEORY I

(2 Credits)

This online clinical management course is the acquisition of advanced knowledge and skills for primary care and disease management of acute and chronic health problems in the adult and older adult (geriatric) populations in a variety of settings. Theories of aging, health, health promotion and restoration are included. Uses of diagnostic procedures, pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies are emphasized.

Pre-requisite: NU502, NU503, NU503L

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 509 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICUM I

(2 Credits)

This online clinical management practicum course places emphasis on assessment, diagnosis, goal-setting and interventions in management and treatment of acute and chronic health problems for the adult and older adult (geriatric) populations. Application of primary care and case management services in a variety of settings in collaboration with physicians (MD or DO) and nurse practitioners. A minimum of 120 hours of clinical practice is required.

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 510 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT THEORY II

(2 Credits)

This online clinical management course is the acquisition of advanced knowledge and skills for primary care and disease management of acute and chronic health problems in women's health across the life continuum. Theories of health, health promotion and restoration are included. Uses of diagnostic procedures, pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies are emphasized.

Pre-requisite: NU507, NU508

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 511 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICUM II

(2 Credits)

This online clinical management practicum course places emphasis on assessment, diagnosis, goal-setting and interventions in management and treatment of acute and chronic health problems for women's health across the life continuum. Application of primary care and case management services in collaboration with physicians (MD or DO) and advanced practice nurses. A minimum of 120 hours of clinical practice is required. Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study.

NU 512 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT THEORY III

(2 Credits)

This third online clinical management theory course is the acquisition of advanced knowledge and skills for primary care and disease management of acute and chronic health problems in the pediatric population. Theories of human growth and development, health promotion and disease prevention are included. Uses of diagnostic procedures, pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies are emphasized. All information is presented within the context of the individual, family system, and community as a whole.

Pre-requisite: NU509, NU510

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 513 – CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICUM III

(2 Credits)

This online clinical management practicum course places emphasis on assessment, diagnosis, goal-setting and interventions in management and treatment of acute and chronic health problems for pediatric populations. Application of primary care and case management services in collaboration with physicians (MD or DO) and nurse practitioners. A minimum of 120 hours of clinical practice is required.

Pre-requisite: NU509, NU510

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 514 – INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GENETICS

(2 Credits)

This course provides an introduction to the organization of the human genome and basic principles of inheritance in humans. Course content includes an overview of cells and development, organization of the human genome, chromosome structure and function, gene structure and function, genes in pedigrees and populations, and the implications of genetic variation on health.

Pre-requisite: NU501, NU503, NU504, NU505, NU505L, NU507

Co-requisite: NU508, NU509

NU 518 – SYNTHESIS PRACTICUM

(4 Credits)

This the final practicum experience focuses on the synthesis of previously gained knowledge and skills in the provision of advanced nursing care to individuals, families, and communities. Emphasis is placed on health promotion, disease prevention, and clinical management of clients with common acute and chronic illnesses. A minimum of 240 hours of clinical practice is required.

Pre-requisite: NU507, NU508, NU509, NU510, NU512, NU513

Co-requisites : Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 530 – CURRICULUM THEORY & DESIGN IN NURSING EDUCATION

(3 Credits)

This online course explores curriculum development in nursing education with emphasis on theories and procedures. Included is an introduction to philosophies, program objectives and conceptual framework development inherent to the role of the nurse educator

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 531 – CURRICULUM STRATEGIES & ROLES IN NURSING EDUCATION

(3 Credits)

This online course explores the competencies and roles of the advanced nurse as educator, practitioner and scholar. Consideration is given to learning theories, legal and ethical issues, and resources utilized for integration into classrooms and clinical settings.

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 532 – ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION IN NURSING EDUCATION

(3 Credits)

This online course is designed to explore methods of evaluation, with emphasis on test preparation and the clinical performance appraisal.

Co-requisites: Refer to the Plan of Study

NU 533 – NURSING EDUCATION PRACTICUM

(4 Credits)

This guided practicum experience places emphasis on theory, critical thinking, and analysis in the use of teaching strategies. A minimum of 240 hours of clinical practice is required.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 539 – CAPSTONE PROJECT

(4 Credits)

This capstone is a scholarly project that addresses an issue, need, gap or opportunity resulting from an identified phenomenon in nursing education or healthcare need. The capstone project provides the opportunity for the graduate nursing student to demonstrate competency through design, application and evaluation of advanced nursing knowledge and higher level leadership skills for ultimately improving health outcomes.

NU 590 – THESIS

(3 Credits)

The thesis is derived from the investigation of a major educational or clinical problem based on the specialty and meets the research requirements for graduation from a Master of Science in Nursing Program. Students are required to be continuously enrolled in a minimum of six (6) semesters hours or until the thesis is completed and approved.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study

NU 591 – RESEARCH PROJECT

(3 Credits)

This course will require, in lieu of thesis, the utilization of evidence based knowledge to develop a scholarly paper that is manuscript ready. Students must be enrolled in the course three consecutive semesters for a minimum of six (6) semester hours or until the manuscript is completed and approved.

Co-requisites: Refer to Plan of Study