



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING IN FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER (MSNFNP)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This online graduate degree in nursing will provide students with the academic knowledge, skills, and expertise to apply for certification as family nurse practitioner. Graduates will be prepared to have integrated praxis philosophy throughout multiple courses. The program consists of core, specialty, and clinical courses. This program is for licensed registered nurses (current, unrestricted license) who have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and are interested in advancing their careers to become a certified family nurse practitioner.

Prior to enrollment, individuals considering a Master of Science in Nursing program (nurse practitioner tracks) should check with their applicable state board of nursing before enrolling in any graduate nursing program for any specific state requirements and required clinical courses for eligibility to apply for licensure.

CORE MSN PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Upon completion of their program, the student should be able to:

1. Integrate scientific evidence from nursing and biopsychosocial disciplines, genetics, public health, quality improvement, and organizational sciences when designing and implementing outcome measures in diverse settings and through the lifespan.
2. Demonstrate leadership skills that emphasize ethical and critical decision-making, fiscal responsibility, inter-professional relationships that promote safe, quality care within a systems framework.
3. Apply methods, tools, performance measures, and evidence-based standards when evaluating quality indicators within an organizational system.
4. Synthesize theories, models and research findings inherent to nursing practice, education and management to guide an organization or healthcare system towards achieving successful outcomes.
5. Apply client/patient care technologies and informatics to coordinate and ensure safe quality care and promote effective communication among members of the inter-professional healthcare team.
6. Analyze ethical, legal and sociocultural factors to influence policy development and healthcare delivery systems that promote the health of individuals and populations.
7. Articulate a leadership role within inter-professional teams through effective communication, collaboration and consultation with other professionals to manage, coordinate care and provide safe, quality family-centered and population-based care.
8. Incorporate organizational and culturally sensitive client and population centered concepts in the planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of direct and indirect evidence-based health promotion care and services to specified individuals, families and populations.
9. Implement scholarly activities in selected individuals, populations, and systems.

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Students are expected to meet all the core MSN program outcomes as well as the Family Nurse Practitioner program outcomes. Upon completion of their program, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking and holistic caring as an advanced practice nurse.
2. Analyze scientific literature for application to selected diagnoses and treatment plans.
3. Synthesize ethical principles into the management and evaluation of healthcare delivery concerns in culturally diverse care settings.
4. Articulate a personal philosophy and framework acknowledging professional and accrediting agency competencies relating to the role and scope of practice of the family nurse practitioner.
5. Implement the role of the family nurse practitioner in selected clinical settings.

THIRD PARTY TESTING

Assessment and remediation are critical components of nursing education. Students in the graduate nursing program may be required to take proctored third-party, standardized exams in an electronic format throughout the curriculum. These standardized tests are valid and reliable predictors of success on certification examinations and provide valuable feedback concerning student strengths and weaknesses. Student learning outcome data identifies content areas that require remediation, allowing faculty to personalize student support and

intervention. Courses that utilize third-party exams will incorporate the points based upon student performance as specified in the course syllabus.

CLINICAL PROFICIENCY EXAM AND POLICY

Students in the graduate nursing program are subject to a **clinical proficiency exam** following successful completion of the following courses: Advanced Assessment, Advanced Pathophysiology and Advanced Pharmacology (3P’s). This exam is a comprehensive assessment of all content covered in the three courses completed.

The Clinical Proficiency Exam is administered, utilizing a proctoring program, while completing either NU 611, NU 642, NU 664, or NU 671 depending on the student’s program.

If the “benchmark” score on the first attempt is not attained, a plan for remediation will be developed in collaboration with the faculty/program chair/success coach and a second attempt will be provided. If the student is below the” benchmark” score on the second attempt, the student cannot enroll in the next semester clinical courses. The student will be enrolled in any outstanding didactic courses as well as a Nursing Remediation course to provide remediation of the content. At the end of the remediation course, students will be provided a final attempt to demonstrate competency on the Clinical Proficiency exam.

If the student is unsuccessful on the final attempt to demonstrate competency, the student will be dismissed from the program and will not be eligible to re-enter into another practice program. A student who is dismissed may appeal to transfer into any other non-nursing program offered at Herzing University.

Students who are successful on the final retake exam will be rescheduled by Registrar Services in the next available clinical course.

PROGRAM CONTENT

A minimum of 48.00 semester credit hours is required for graduation.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

All courses, 15.00 semester credit hours, are required.

Course Number	Course Name	Prerequisites/Corequisites	Semester Credit Hours
HA 610	Health Policy and Management	None	3.00
NU 700	Knowledge for Nursing Practice	None	3.00
NU 725	Technology and Nursing Informatics in Advanced Practice	None	3.00
NU 730	Systems-Based Practice	None	3.00
NU 760	Scholarship for Nursing Practice	None	3.00

REQUIRED DIRECT CARE COURSES

All courses, 9.00 semester credit hours, are required.

Course Number	Course Name	Prerequisites/Corequisites	Semester Credit Hours
NU 610	Advanced Health Assessment	NU 700, NU 760	3.00
NU 621	Advanced Pathophysiology	NU 700, NU 760	3.00
NU 636	Advanced Pharmacology	NU 700, NU 760	3.00

REQUIRED SPECIALLY COURSES

All courses, 24.00 semester credit hours, are required.

Course Number	Course Name	Prerequisites/Corequisites	Semester Credit Hours
NU 611	Clinical Decision Making	NU 610, NU 621, NU 636, NU 760	2.00
NU 623	Adult Healthcare	NU 611	4.00
NU 627	Geriatric Healthcare +	All other courses, Final semester	4.00
NU 631	Healthcare of Women Across the Life Span	NU 623	4.00
NU 632	Healthcare of Infants, Children, and Adolescents	NU 611	4.00
NU 726	Professionalism and Leadership for Advanced Practice	NU 700, NU 760	3.00
NU 780	Population Health	None	3.00

+ Chair approval is needed for PMC students to take NU 627 with another clinical course simultaneously.

CLINICAL PROFICIENCY EXAM AND POLICY COURSES

The following courses are 0.00 semester credit hours associated with the policy outlined above. Students are required to take as co-requisite courses along with NU 611, NU 642, NU 664, or NU 671 depending on the program of study.

Course Number	Course Name	Semester Credit Hours
NSG 0600	Clinical Proficiency Course	0.00
NSG 0600R	Clinical Proficiency Remediation Course (if needed)	0.00

Distribution of Contact Hours by Course				
Course Number	Lecture Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Contact Hours	Credits
HA 610	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 610	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 611		90.00	90.00	2.00
NU 621	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 623	15.00	135.00	150.00	4.00
NU 627	15.00	135.00	150.00	4.00
NU 631	30.00	90.00	120.00	4.00
NU 632	15.00	135.00	150.00	4.00
NU 636	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 700	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 725	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 726	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 730	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 760	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 780	45.00		45.00	3.00

Totals	525.00	585.00	1110.00	48.00
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