



2017-2018 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
Degree: Doctor of Nursing Practice
Program of Study: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

About This Program . . .

The Doctor of Nursing Practice is designed for those nurses who are interested in assuming an advance practice nursing role as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). DNP graduates are prepared as clinical experts in the delivery of primary care, with a focus on critical thinking, leadership, and political policy skills needed to advocate and create changes in healthcare practice at all levels. The program includes 1000 hours of immersion in clinical practice to build and assimilate knowledge for advanced practice at a high level of complexity. These experiences provide the context within which the final DNP scholarly project is completed.

The DNP degree is built upon the generalist foundation acquired through a baccalaureate in nursing; advanced placement is also available for students with a prior master's degree in nursing. Graduates prepared for an advance practice role as a Family Nurse Practitioner will demonstrate practice expertise, specialized knowledge, and expanded responsibility and accountability in the care and management of individuals and families.

The program is a hybrid format, providing flexibility for students to remain in their current work positions and home communities in western Colorado using online course delivery methods. Opportunities for personal interaction are included with faculty and peers in focused intensive sessions at selected points during each semester. Clinical coursework and immersion experiences will be arranged in primary care settings across the region. Students will complete most clinical requirements in their home community, but may need to travel for specialized clinical experiences including rural health care settings.

All CMU doctoral-level graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning. In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, a Doctor of Nursing Practice – Family Nurse Practitioner graduate will be able to:

1. Advance science, education, leadership, practice, or policy within a chosen discipline by completing an original research project approved by a faculty panel. (Specialized Knowledge/Applied Learning)
2. Employ discipline-specific logical, mathematical, or statistical methods, or other analytical processes to address a topic or issue. (Quantitative Fluency)
3. Create oral and written arguments or explanations, well-grounded in discipline-specific theories and methods, for specified audiences. (Communication Fluency)
4. Formulate and evaluate hypotheses as related to research problems, issues, concepts, and various perspectives. (Critical Thinking)
5. Synthesize, evaluate, or refine the information base of various scholarly sources. (Information Literacy)
6. Choose ethical and legal courses of action in research and professional practice. (Ethical Reasoning)

Advising Process and DegreeWorks

This document is intended for informational purposes to help determine what courses and associated requirements are needed to earn a certificate. Some courses are critical to complete in specific semesters while others may be moved around. Meeting with an academic advisor is essential in planning courses and discussing the suggested course sequencing. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and fulfill the requirements for her/his intended degree.

DegreeWorks is an online degree audit tool available in MAVzone. It is the official record used by the Registrar's Office to evaluate progress towards a certificate and determine eligibility for graduation. Students are responsible for reviewing their DegreeWorks audit on a regular basis and should discuss questions or concerns with their advisor or academic department head. Discrepancies in requirements should be reported to the Registrar's Office.

Graduation Process

Students must complete the following in the first two months of the semester prior to completing their certificate requirements (for one semester certificates complete in the first week of class):

- Review their DegreeWorks audit and create a plan that outlines how unmet requirements will be met in the final semester.
- Meet with their advisor and modify their plan as needed. The advisor must approve the final plan.
- Submit the “Intent to Graduate” form to the Registrar’s Office to officially declare the intended graduation date and commencement ceremony plans.
- Register for all needed courses and complete all requirements for each degree sought.

Submission deadlines and commencement details can be found at <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/graduation.html>.

If your petition for graduation is denied, it will be your responsibility to apply for graduation in a subsequent semester. Your “Intent to Graduate” does not automatically move to a later graduation date.

INSTITUTIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The following institutional requirements apply to all CMU graduate-level degrees. Specific programs may have different requirements that must be met in addition to institutional requirements.

- Graduate certificates consist of a minimum of 5 credit hours. Master’s degrees consist of a minimum of 30 credit hours. Doctoral degrees consist of a minimum of 60 credit hours
- All credits in a graduate program must be minimally at the 500-level.
- At least fifty percent of the credit hours must be taken at CMU.
- Students must achieve a 3.00 cumulative GPA or higher in all CMU coursework.
- A course may only be used to fulfill one requirement for each degree/certificate.
- Capstone exit assessment/projects (e.g., Major Field Achievement Test) requirements are identified under Program-Specific Requirements.
- The Catalog Year determines which program sheet and certificate requirements a student must fulfill in order to graduate. Visit with your advisor or academic department to determine which catalog year and program requirements you should follow.
- See “Requirements for Graduate Degrees and Certificates” in the catalog for a complete list of graduation requirements.

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Admission to the program follows the general admissions policies & procedures for graduate programs outlined in the university catalog.
- A bachelor’s degree in nursing from a regionally accredited college or university is required, prior to beginning the program. Applicants must have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or better in baccalaureate nursing coursework.
- 82 semester hours are required for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.
- No class grade lower than a “B” will be counted toward the degree.
- Applicants must hold a current, unrestricted license to practice as a registered nurse in their State of Practice.
- It is recommended that students work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting courses and scheduling classes prior to registration.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE, FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER REQUIREMENTS (79 semester hours)

Required Core Courses (27 semester hours)

- NURS 500 - Theoretical Foundations (3)
- NURS 501 - Nursing Research Methods (3)
- NURS 502 - Health Information Systems (3)
- NURS 503 - Organizational Leadership (3)
- NURS 504 - Health Policy (3)
- NURS 505 - Quality Assessment and Improvement in Health Care Settings (3)
- NURS 625 - Statistics for Health Sciences (3)
- NURS 626 - Epidemiology (3)
- NURS 700 - Evidence-Based Practice (3)

Advanced Nursing Practice Cognate (46 semester hours)

- NURS 525 - Pathophysiologic Concepts (3)
- NURS 526 - Pharmacology for Advanced Nurse Practitioners (3)
- NURS 527 - Advanced Health Assessment (3)
- NURS 530 - Chronic Illness Management (3)
- NURS 535 - Health Promotion & Disease Prevention (3)
- NURS 600 - Advanced Practice Nursing Issues (2)
- NURS 601 - Primary Care of the Child/Adolescent (3)
- NURS 602 - Primary Care of the Adult (3)
- NURS 603 - Primary Care of Elderly (3)
- NURS 604 - Primary Care of Rural and Vulnerable Populations (1)
- NURS 610 - Clinical Practicum - Child/Adolescent (3)
- NURS 620 - Clinical Practicum - Adult (3)
- NURS 630 - Clinical Practicum - Elderly (3)
- NURS 640 - Clinical Practicum - Rural Health Care (2)
- NURS 650 - Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (6)
- NURS 660 - Transition into ANP (2)

Capstone (6 semester hours)

- NURS 750 - Application of Evidence-Based Practice I (3)
- NURS 760 - Application of Evidence-Based Practice II (3)

Other Requirements

- Completion of Oral Comprehensive Exam

GENERAL ELECTIVES (3 graduate-level semester hours)

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SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCING

Year One, Fall Semester

- NURS 501 - Nursing Research Methods (3)
- NURS 500 - Theoretical Foundations (3)

Year One, Spring Semester

- NURS 525 - Pathophysiologic Concepts (3)
- NURS 503 - Organizational Leadership (3)

Year One, Summer Semester

- NURS 527 - Advanced Health Assessment (3)
 - NURS 530 - Chronic Illness Management (3)
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Year Two, Fall Semester

- NURS 502 - Health Information Systems (3)
- NURS 504 - Health Policy (3)

Year Two, Spring Semester

- NURS 505 - Quality Assessment and Improvement in Health Care Settings (3)
- NURS 526 - Pharmacology for Advanced Nurse Practitioners (3)

Year Two, Summer Semester

- Elective (3)
 - NURS 535 - Health Promotion & Disease Prevention (3)
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Year Three, Fall Semester

- NURS 601 - Primary Care of the Child/Adolescent (3)
- NURS 610 - Clinical Practicum - Child/Adolescent (3)

Year Three, Spring Semester

- NURS 600 - Advanced Practice Nursing Issues (2)
- NURS 602 - Primary Care of the Adult (3)
- NURS 620 - Clinical Practicum - Adult (3)

Year Three, Summer Semester

- NURS 603 - Primary Care of Elderly (3)
 - NURS 604 - Primary Care of Rural and Vulnerable Populations (1)
 - NURS 630 - Clinical Practicum - Elderly (3)
 - NURS 640 - Clinical Practicum - Rural Health Care (2)
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Year Four, Fall Semester

- NURS 626 - Epidemiology (3)

Year Four, Spring Semester

- NURS 625 - Statistics for Health Sciences (3)
- NURS 700 - Evidence-Based Practice (3)

Year Four, Summer Semester

- NURS 650 - Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (6)
 - NURS 660 - Transition into ANP (2)
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Year Five, Fall Semester

- NURS 750 - Application of Evidence-Based Practice I (3)

Year Five, Spring Semester

- NURS 760 - Application of Evidence-Based Practice II (3)
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