

## Program Overview: Doctor of Nursing Practice, Family Nurse Practitioner



### About This Major . . .

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is designed for nurses who are interested in assuming an advanced practice nursing role as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). DNP-prepared nurses are well-equipped to fully implement the science developed by nurse researchers prepared in PhD, DNS, and other research-focused nursing doctorates.

The curriculum enables the graduate to conduct complex diagnostic and treatment modalities, utilize sophisticated informatics and decision-making technology, and assimilate in-depth knowledge of biophysical, psychosocial, behavioral, and clinical sciences. Graduates focus on providing care to populations and communities with an emphasis on improving quality and access to diverse populations. In addition, graduates can choose to prepare for educator positions to address the critical nursing faculty shortage.

The DNP-FNP program is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

**All CMU 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, DNP graduates will be able to:

1. integrate advanced knowledge of nursing theories, methods of inquiry, humanities, and sciences in the delivery of care to individuals, families, and communities.
2. facilitate intra- and inter-professional collaboration to address health disparities and to improve health-care quality across diverse populations and cultures.
3. critique complex primary care clinical situations and health care systems to promote optimal outcomes through evidence-based practice.
4. advocate for social justice, equity, and ethical policies in health care.
5. employ advanced nursing practice to facilitate the delivery of quality, cost-effective primary care for families across the lifespan and population health outcomes with a focus on underserved individuals, families and communities.
6. appraise organizational and system leadership principles in the analysis, delivery, and management of nursing care for safe practice environments.
7. evaluate current and emerging health technologies to improve care delivery and organizational systems.
8. design practice environments that support quality improvement, a culture of safety, accountability and communication to improve patient outcomes in diverse settings.

### Program Highlights:

#### Enjoy Flexibility

The curriculum is delivered in a hybrid format, providing flexibility for students to remain in their current work positions and home communities using online course delivery methods. This format also provides opportunities for personal interaction with faculty and peers in focused intensive sessions at selected points during each semester.

#### Get Clinical Experience

Clinical coursework and immersion experiences will be arranged in primary care settings across the region. Students will likely complete most clinical requirements in their home community, but may need to travel for specialized clinical experiences including rural health care settings.

#### Care for a Variety of Populations

Students work in a variety of areas providing primary care to:

- Urban populations
- Underserved populations
- Rural Populations
- Populations with special needs such as Asthma, Diabetes, Oncology

#### Be a Leader

Students assume leadership roles in clinical practice.

## Program Requirements

The DNP degree is built upon the generalist foundation acquired through a baccalaureate degree in nursing. The post baccalaureate program consists of 72 total credit hours and is designed to prepare nurses for the highest level of practice in the clinical or leadership areas. There is an option for advanced placement of applicants possessing a prior MSN or NP (at a master's level). Candidates desiring advanced placement should meet with an advisor to determine a plan of study.

The program includes 1000 hours of immersion in clinical practice to build and assimilate knowledge for advanced nursing practice at a high level of complexity. These clinical experiences also provide the context within which the scholarly capstone project is completed.

In general, CMU's programs of study are based on two curriculum types:

### 1. Essential Learning

The program prepares experts in advanced nursing practice to utilize specialized knowledge and evidence-based nursing to influence and deliver primary care to diverse populations. Graduates will translate scientific findings, evaluate programs and outcomes, produce clinical scholarship, and transform health care systems and policies.

### 2. What You Will Study in This Major

#### Core Knowledge

The core knowledge component requires 27 credit hours including:

- Theory
- Research
- Health Information Systems
- Leadership
- Health Policy
- Quality Improvement
- Statistics
- Epidemiology
- Evidence-based Practice

#### Advanced Nursing Practice Cognate

The advanced nursing practice cognate requires 36 credit hours including:

- Pharmacology
- Pathophysiology
- Health Assessment
- Chronic Illness Management
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Family Nurse Practitioner Issues
- Primary Care of the Child/Adolescent with Practicum
- Primary Care of the Adult with Practicum
- Primary Care of the Elderly with Practicum
- Rural Healthcare Practicum
- Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship
- Transition into Advanced Nursing Practice

#### Capstone

6-credit hour capstone project.

#### Oral Comprehensive Exam

Oral and written comprehensive defense.

#### Elective Coursework

Requires 3 credit hours of elective coursework that may be taken in another discipline if deemed applicable.

#### Other Requirements

The DNP program requires a minimum of 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 for the capstone project. A graduate of the DNP program must complete the prescribed course of study with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher within six (6) years.

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For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/healthsciences/DNP-FNPNursing.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Health Sciences, 170 Maverick Center, 970.248.1398.