

Program Overview: Doctor of Nursing Practice, Family Nurse Practitioner



Program Highlights:

Flexibility

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

Clinical Experience

Clinical coursework and immersion experiences will be in primary care settings across the region. Students can complete most clinical requirements in their home community, but can elect to travel for specialized clinical experiences.

Care for a Variety of Populations

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

- Urban populations
- Underserved populations
- Rural populations
- Vulnerable populations

Be a Leader

Students assume leadership roles to inform clinical practice.

About This Major . . .

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is designed for nurses who are interested in the scholarly work of implementing evidence-based practice to inform clinical care. The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) track prepares the graduate nurse to assume an advanced practice nursing role as a FNP. DNP-prepared nurses are well-equipped to fully implement the science developed by nurse researchers prepared in PhD, DNS, and other research-focused 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.

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. Appraise organizational and system leadership principles in the analysis, delivery, and management of nursing care for safe practice environments.
3. Design practice environments that support quality improvement, a culture of safety, accountability and communication to improve patient outcomes in diverse settings.
4. Critique complex primary care clinical situations and health care systems to promote optimal outcomes through evidence-based practice.
5. Evaluate current and emerging health technologies to improve care delivery and organizational systems.
6. Design evidence-based, ethical, safe, and cost-effective strategies that use technology to improve health care outcomes for individuals and/or populations.
7. Advocate for social justice, equity, and ethical policies in health care.
8. Initiate changes in health care systems through the design and implementation of health policies that strengthen the health care delivery system.
9. Facilitate intra- and interprofessional collaboration to address health disparities and to improve health-care quality across diverse populations and cultures.
10. Lead practice initiatives that influence population health care outcomes with a focus on underserved individuals, families, and communities
11. Employ advanced nursing practice to facilitate the delivery of quality, cost-effective primary care for families across the lifespan.



Program Requirements

The DNP degree is built upon the generalist foundation acquired through a baccalaureate degree in nursing. The post baccalaureate program consists of 79 total credit hours and is designed to prepare nurses for the highest level of practice in the clinical area. 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 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
- Advanced Practice Nursing Issues
- Primary Care of the Child/Adolescent with Practicum
- Primary Care of the Adult with Practicum
- Primary Care of the Older Person with Practicum
- Rural Health with Practicum
- Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship
- Transition into Advanced Nursing Practice

DNP scholarly project.

Oral Comprehensive Exam

Oral and written comprehensive defense.

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 DNP 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.

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.