

# GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM NEWS

Spring 2026



MOSS SCHOOL  
OF NURSING  
COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

## Colorado Mesa University

Health Sciences Building  
1100 North Avenue  
Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122

8 am–5 pm, Monday–Friday

970.248.1306 • 800.982.6372

[coloradomesa.edu/health-sciences](http://coloradomesa.edu/health-sciences)

## ABOUT OUR PROGRAM ...

Colorado Mesa University (CMU) offers Master of Science in Nursing degrees in family nurse practitioner (FNP) and adult-gerontology nurse practitioner (AGNP) tracks. CMU also offers a Doctor of Nursing Practice FNP. The CMU graduate nursing program is focused on the care of rural and underserved populations. Courses in our curriculum include primary care across the lifespan, mental and behavior health, and a rural and underserved capstone. CMU boasts relatively small class sizes, allowing students to have meaningful interactions with peers and course faculty. CMU graduates also perform at or above the national average for nurse practitioner certification pass rates.

## FYI: SPRING 2026 SEMESTER:

Did you know you can join the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) as a student member for the exceptionally low rate of \$55 — and you'll receive not only a discount on AANP conferences and on your American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANPCB) application, but you'll also unlock special rates on digital clinical reference tools UpToDate®, VisualDX® and DynaMed®, among many other benefits!

<https://www.aanp.org/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**National Nurse Practitioners Symposium 2026**  
**Keystone Conference Center**  
633 Tennis Club Road  
Dillon, CO 80435  
**July 14 - July 18, 2026**

**New Graduate Student Orientation: May 18, 2026** at 8 am to 2:30 pm (MST); Students may attend in person or virtual (via Zoom)

**Spring OSCES & GPS** for students in clinical courses 577, 615, 610, 630, 640 (in person) May 12, 13, & 14, 2026

**Spring Faculty Meetings**  
You are all welcome to attend all or part of a meeting!  
**Time:** 3-4:30 pm (MST)  
**Tuesdays:** Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup>

Meetings are held in person in one of the DHS conference rooms and there is an option to join via Zoom. RSVP to Mr. Cruse if you wish to attend in person or want to receive a Zoom invite.

**Spring Classes start Jan. 20, 2026**  
**Summer Classes start May 27, 2026**

## ADVISING

Please contact your assigned advisor should you vary from your Course Progression Sheet.

- Dr. Urban will advise all MSN FNP students.
- Dr. Hall will continue to advise all AGNP and NE students.
- Dr. Marshall will advise DNP students.

## Welcome 2026: The Year of Impact and Growth

- In 2026, NP roles are expanding, with a projected 45% growth in jobs over the next decade.
- **Own Your Expertise:** Confidence comes from action—lean into your clinical training and trust your clinical judgment.

## Strategies for Success in 2026

- **Master the Technology:** 2026 is seeing an acceleration in AI-driven diagnostic tools and telehealth. Develop your digital literacy to thrive in virtual care settings and reduce administrative burdens.
- **Build Your Network Now:** With high competition for top clinical sites, start securing your preceptors early, particularly in popular regions for family practice, women's health, and psychiatry.
- **Focus on Value-Based Care:** Your ability to demonstrate measurable patient outcomes is key to the future of reimbursement. Focus on evidence-based practice and solid documentation.

## A Gentle Reminder: Grace and Balance

- Protect your mental health and well-being by setting boundaries—you cannot pour from an empty cup.
- You are in training. Give yourself grace, learn from errors, and know that you are not expected to be perfect—you are expected to be diligent.
- **Balance Ambition with Wellness:** While advancing your career, remember to nurture your own life. Sustainable careers are built by nurses who care for themselves as much as their patients.

Happy New Year! 2026 is your year to shine.



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*Embrace challenges as growth, stay curious, and remember that your purpose is rooted in something bigger than yourself. Your journey is shaping the future of health!*

**AACN Essentials** outline the necessary curriculum content and expected competencies of graduates from baccalaureate, master's, and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs. Our CMU Graduate Nursing Program aligns with this model. Students are encouraged to explore the Essentials' domains and concepts: <https://www.aacnnursing.org/essentials>

**HAVE A WONDERFUL SPRING SEMESTER!**

Mr. Cruse, Mr. Craft, and Drs. Bailey, Eyre, Hall, Marshall, Ridgway, Stanley, and Urban

## CLINICAL PLACEMENT COORDINATOR NEWS

Mr. Steven Cruse continues as our clinical placement coordinator.  
([scruse@coloradomesa.edu](mailto:scruse@coloradomesa.edu))

- **Students will not be given course overrides unless their Typhon documentation is up to date.**

### Message from Mr. Cruse:

*A most gracious "Thank You!" to all the preceptors and clinical sites for accepting CMU's Graduate Nursing students! We could not do, what we do without you!*

### FYI: Clinical site and Preceptor selection for All Clinical Practicums in the DNP-FNP, MSN-FNP, and MSN-AGNP tracks:

- *Students are expected to begin seeking clinical placements upon acceptance to the graduate nursing program. Please reach out to Mr. Cruse to determine if there is a clinical contract once you have identified a potential preceptor. Students may not begin clinical rotations until approved by the course instructor and Mr. Cruse.*
- *Acceptable clinical sites include Primary Care Clinics, Family Practice Clinics, Rehabilitation facilities, Skilled Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, County Health Department Clinics, and Urgent Care Clinics.*
- *Specialty Care Clinics are acceptable for completing some of the required hours for a practicum course (discuss this option with the course instructor).*
- **Acute care settings including the Emergency Room are not acceptable for most clinical practicums. Exceptions may be considered on an individual basis. The student should provide evidence (from Typhon data) to demonstrate the experience will meet a gap in learning. The student must justify why they are doing hours outside of a primary care setting.**



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