



UPMC
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

UPMC Pediatric Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship Program



Designing, Developing, and Evolving an Accredited APP Fellowship Program

APPLE Meeting January 28, 2026

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA



2024 Fast Stats

- 22,300**
Inpatient Stays and observation stays
- 223,000**
Emergency & Express Care Visits
- 24,600**
Surgical Procedures
- 1.6 million+**
Hospital & Outpatient Visits

A 313-bed acute care teaching hospital located on 10 acres in Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville neighborhood, UPMC Children's was the nation's first pediatric transplant center. With a history spanning 130-plus years, UPMC Children's today is renowned for its outstanding clinical, research, and medical education programs and services — and for its frontline role in advancing standards of excellence in pediatric care.

Our patients and their families are the focus of all we do, guided by our goal to provide excellent, accessible, and affordable care through:

Expanded community-based locations offering evening and weekend clinic hours
State-of-the-art technology like intraoperative magnetic resonance imaging (iMRI), the centerpiece of a new \$10 million operating room
Continual reinvestments in our physical plant





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administrative angles

*Associate Editors: Jennifer Graebe, DrPH, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
Sheri Cosme, DNP, RN, NPD-BC*
Authors: Whitney Lerch, PA-C; and Kathryn Williams, CRNP

Fellowship Fridays: A Case Study in Interdisciplinary Curriculum Design to Elevate an Advanced Practice Postgraduate Training Experience

Lerch, W., & Williams, K. (2025). Fellowship Fridays: A Case Study in Interdisciplinary Curriculum Design to Elevate an Advanced Practice Postgraduate Training Experience. *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 56(8), 309–311. <https://doi.org/10.3928/00220124-20250718-02>





APP Fellowship

- Develop APP Fellowship Training Programs in the core pediatric specialties.
- Structure:
 - **12 month program** with admission and program commencement on a rolling-basis.
 - APP enrolls in fellowship in **desired specialty** (optional if \geq 3yrs experience in subspecialty hired into).
 - The program prepares the APP above the level received through formal education.
 - Focus 85% in specialty specific training and 15% core curriculum.
- Core Curriculum
 - Pediatric Bootcamp
 - Professional development projects
 - Ethics training



Core Curriculum

- 3-week general pediatric training program
- Ambulatory and acute care APPs
- Program includes:
 - Didactic education
 - Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification
 - Hands-on simulation training
 - Clinical observerships



Why Fellowship Fridays?



Response to feedback



Improve learner competence related to educating other health care professionals.



SMART Goal - Increase self-reported engagement in professional development activities, such as presenting, publishing, and teaching.



Fellowship Fridays

- Started July 2023
- Designed to meet accreditation standards
- In-person delivery of core curriculum
- Multiple modalities used to deliver content
- Content introduced and integrated throughout 12-month fellowship
- Review of feedback

(OVP 4) Mentorship

(OVP 5) Peer Support

(OVP 6) Professionalism

(OVP 7) Event Management/Just culture

(OVP 8) Financial literacy

(PG/OM goals) Professional Growth

(PG/OM 4) Outcomes shared with stakeholders

(PBL 1) Time Management education

(PBL 2) Communication

(PBL 5) Interprofessional Teaming

(PBL 6) SDoH

(OE6) Provider Performance Metrics



Fellowship Friday Outcomes



IMPROVED PEER SUPPORT



200% INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE OF
LEARNERS ENGAGED IN PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.



IMPROVED RETENTION

February 13, 2026



Time	APPFA Accreditation Standards	Topic	Presenter(s)
1:00-1:15pm		Welcome/Housekeeping	Whitney Lerch, Katie Williams
1:15-2:15 pm	PBL 2 - Communication	Communication Workshop #2	Amanda Brown, Alyssa Baker, Kristen Thompson
2:30-3:00pm	PG/OM 4 – Outcomes shared with stakeholders	Review of Feedback	APP Leadership Team
3:00-3:30pm	PBL 1 – Time Management	Practice Efficiency –AI, EMR quick tips	APP Leadership Team
3:30-4:00pm	OVP 5 – Peer Support	Reflections and Gratitude	APP Fellows
4:00-5pm	PG/OM Goal 1 (Learner Professional Development)	Professional Development/ Leadership Open Office Hours	APP Fellows & APP Leadership Team

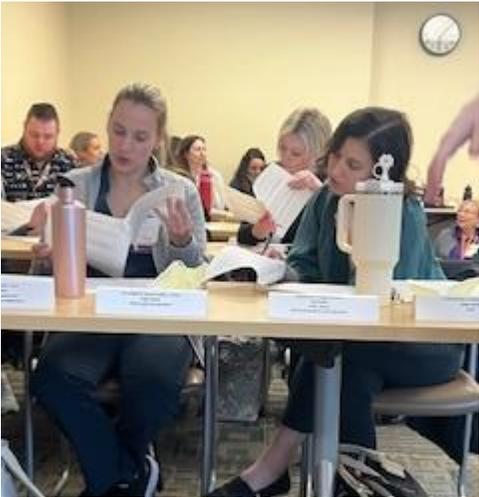


Fellows in Action



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[The Pittsburgh Parking Chair - Positively Pittsburgh](#)





References

- Lerch, W., & Williams, K. (2025). Fellowship Fridays: A Case Study in Interdisciplinary Curriculum Design to Elevate an Advanced Practice Postgraduate Training Experience. *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 56(8), 309–311. <https://doi.org/10.3928/00220124-20250718-02>



Contact Information

- Whitney Lerch, PA-C
Director of Advanced Practice
lerchwn2@upmc.edu
- Katie Williams, CRNP
Associate Director of Advanced Practice Quality and Education
williamska@upmc.edu