



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
UNIVERSITY of
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program, post master's

Cohort: FNPC 7

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Program Description

The Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Certificate Program was developed for RNs with a master's (or higher) degree in nursing or a health-related specialty who wish to expand their nursing practice to the role as a FNP. The mission of the FNP certificate program is consistent with the University mission. It will develop clinicians who can manage care and participate in system change through identification of best practice in the care of the family. Graduates of this program will increase their contribution to healthcare through the knowledge and skills developed in this program.

As with the other nursing programs within the University, applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and hold a current unencumbered RN license in his/her state of residence. At least one year of clinical experience is preferred.

The *Domains and Core Competencies* (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), 2012), and the *Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs, 4th edition* (National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, 2012) were used to frame the requirements of the FNP track. The program of study includes courses in advanced physical assessment, advanced pharmacology, and advanced pathophysiology. The program also includes content in health promotion and disease prevention, and differential diagnosis and disease management. Students complete 43 credit hours that includes 720 clinical hours

Graduates from the FNPC program will be eligible to sit for the Family Nurse Practitioner certification exam offered by either the American Association of Nurses Practitioner Certification Board (AANPCB) or the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). This program does not lead to a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

The FNP Certificate Program is committed to the development of the nursing professional who can:

- Assume a family nurse practitioner role in a variety of health care settings
- Assess, diagnose and manage common acute and chronic primary health care problems of individuals and families
- Identify the epidemiologic roots of health problems affecting family/community systems;
- Evaluate the impact of environmental stressors on individual, family and community health.
- Design and implement health promotion and illness prevention strategies based on clinical evidence and best practice literature.
- Demonstrate analytical methodologies for the evaluation of clinical practice and the application of scientific evidence.
- Collaborate with interprofessional teams necessary to improve clinical care for populations of clients

Program Outline

| Course Code & Title | | Credits |
|--|--|-----------|
| Didactic Courses (12 courses, 31 credits required): | | |
| DNP 630 Advanced Practice Roles | | 3 |
| DNP 650 Epidemiology & Population Health | | 3 |
| DNP 654 Advanced Health Assessment | | 3 |
| DNP 656 Advanced Pathophysiology | | 3 |
| DNP 664 Advanced Pharmacology I | | 3 |
| DNP 669 Specialty Focus I Didactic (Adult) | | 3 |
| DNP 701 Specialty Focus II Didactic (Women's Health & Geriatrics) | | 3 |
| DNP 702 Advanced Pharmacology II | | 2 |
| DNP 708 Health Promotion & Preventative Care | | 3 |
| DNP 721 Specialty Focus III Didactic (Pediatrics) | | 3 |
| DNP 733 Clinical Internship I Didactic | | 1 |
| DNP 743 Clinical Internship II Didactic | | 1 |
| Didactic Required Credits: | | 31 |
| Clinical Courses (5 courses, 12 credits/720 clinical clock hours required): | | |
| DNP 668 Specialty Focus I Clinical (Adult) (120 clinical clock hours) | | 2 |
| DNP 700 Specialty Focus II Clinical (Women's Health & Geriatrics) (120 clinical clock hours) | | 2 |
| DNP 720 Specialty Focus III Clinical (Pediatrics) (120 clinical clock hours) | | 2 |
| DNP 732 Clinical Internship I Clinical (180 clinical clock hours) | | 3 |
| DNP 742 Clinical Internship II Clinical (180 clinical clock hours) | | 3 |
| Clinical Required Credits: | | 12 |
| Total Program Required Credits: | | 43 |

Program Calendar

(Semesters in **Blue** include required on-site class sessions)

| Semester | Course | Credits | On-site Dates |
|---|--|-----------|--------------------|
| Semester 1 Summer 2021 <i>May 3-Aug. 20</i> | DNP 650 Epidemiology & Population Health | 3 | — |
| | DNP 654 Advanced Health Assessment | 3 | — |
| | DNP 656 Advanced Pathophysiology | 3 | — |
| | Semester Totals: | 9 | Online Only |
| Semester 2 Fall 2021 <i>Aug. 30-Dec. 17</i> | DNP 664 Advanced Pharmacology I** | 3 | — |
| | DNP 668 Specialty Focus I Clinical (Adult) (120 clinical clock hours)** | 2 | — |
| | DNP 669 Specialty Focus I Didactic (Adult) | 3 | — |
| | Semester Totals: | 8 | Online Only |
| Semester 3 Winter 2022 <i>Jan. 4-Apr. 22</i> | DNP 702 Advanced Pharmacology II** | 2 | — |
| | DNP 720 Specialty Focus III Clinical (Pediatrics) (120 clinical clock hours)** | 2 | — |
| | DNP 721 Specialty Focus III Didactic (Pediatrics) | 3 | — |
| | Semester Totals: | 7 | Online only |
| Semester 4 Summer 2022 <i>May 2-Aug. 19</i> | DNP 700 Specialty Focus II Clinical (Women's Health & Geriatrics) (120 clinical clock hours)** | 2 | 3 days on-site |
| | DNP 701 Specialty Focus II Didactic (Women's Health & Geriatrics) | 3 | — |
| | Semester Totals: | 5 | May 16-20 |
| | | | |
| Semester 5 Fall 2022 <i>Aug. 29-Dec. 16</i> | DNP 630 Advanced Practice Roles | 3 | — |
| | DNP 732 Clinical Internship I Clinical (180 clinical clock hours)** | 3 | 3 days on-site |
| | DNP 733 Clinical Internship I Didactic | 1 | — |
| | Semester Total: | 7 | Sep. 12-16 |
| Semester 6 Winter 2023 <i>Jan. 9-Apr. 28</i> | DNP 708 Health Promotion & Preventative Care** | 3 | — |
| | DNP 742 Clinical Internship II Clinical (180 clinical clock hours)** | 3 | 3 days on-site |
| | DNP 743 Clinical Internship II Didactic | 1 | — |
| | Semester Total: | 7 | Jan. 23-27 |
| Total Program Required Credits: | | 43 | |
| <i>Four-year deadline for program completion from start of program is May 3, 2025</i> | | | |

**Course includes pre-requisite and/or co-requisite requirement(s). Refer to course description below.

Course Descriptions

Didactic Courses

DNP 630 Advanced Practice Roles (3 credits; Online)

This course will provide emphasis on the exploration of the advanced practice role as it relates to quality and delivery of health care in rapidly changing health care systems. Historical as well as current issues, which affect professional development including regulation of practice and professional responsibilities, will be included.

DNP 650 Epidemiology and Population Health (3 credits; Online)

This course will provide an introduction to epidemiology that will prepare the advanced practice nurse with an understanding of epidemiological concepts as they relate to health and healthcare. Concepts that pertain to clinical practice and population health as well as implications for screening, prevention and disease control will be included.

DNP 654 Advanced Health Assessment (3 credits; Online)

This course will focus on advanced physical assessment, communication and diagnostic reasoning skills for the advanced practice nurse to care for individuals and families across the lifespan. Skills obtained in this course will be used to analyze health and alterations in health for individuals and families and prepare the student for independent practice.

DNP 656 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credits; Online)

This course is a system-focused pathophysiology course that includes advanced concepts of functioning as it relates the family nurse practitioner's ability to manage illness across the lifespan. Special attention will be given to advanced concepts that correlate with clinical decisions related to diagnosis and therapeutic management. Genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors will also be included as they relate to the epidemiology of disease.

DNP 664 Advanced Pharmacology I (3 credits; Online)

This course is designed to provide the comprehensive pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic understanding required by advanced practice nurses to safely and appropriately utilize pharmacotherapeutics. Students acquire the knowledge needed for the promotion of health and treatment of illnesses encountered in various settings, diverse populations, and across the lifespan. *Pre-requisite: DNP 656; Co-requisite: DNP 668*

DNP 669 Specialty Focus I Didactic (Adult) (3 credits; Online)

This is the first of three courses with a specialty focus. Students will apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and non-pharmacotherapeutics in recognition and management of acute and chronic primary care conditions most often seen in the adult population aged 18-65 years of age. Genetic, age, gender and cultural influences will be considered as differential diagnosis and treatment plans are proposed. Laboratory findings, diagnostic studies and primary care procedures associated with the common conditions will be explored. This course is a companion to DNP 668.

DNP 701 Specialty Focus II Didactic (Women's Health & Geriatrics) **(3 credits; Online)**

This course is the didactic companion to DNP 700 (clinical). Students will continue to apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and non-pharmacotherapeutics in acute and chronic primary care conditions most often seen in women's and men's health and in the older adult (65 plus years of age) population. Topics will include genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences, and laboratory findings, diagnostic studies and primary care procedures. The physical and social aspects of providing primary care to women and aging adults, as well as palliative and end-of life care, will be explored. *Pre-requisite: DNP 720*

DNP 702 Advanced Pharmacology II **(2 credits; Online)**

This course builds on the synthesis of knowledge gained from Advanced Pharmacology I. Students focus on prescribing and monitoring pharmaceutical and alternative therapeutic agents in select conditions commonly encountered by the advanced practice nurse. This course integrates evidence-based prescribing, as well as ethical and legal aspects of pharmacotherapeutics. *Pre-requisite: DNP 664; Co-requisite: DNP 720*

DNP 708 Health Promotion and Preventive Care **(3 credits; Online)**

This course will direct the student in the examination of published guidelines designed to integrate and institute evidence based clinical prevention and health services for individuals, aggregates, and populations across the life span. *Pre-requisite: DNP 650*

DNP 721 Specialty Focus III (Pediatrics) **(3 credits; Online)**

This is the second of three courses with a specialty focus. Students will continue to apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and non-pharmacotherapeutics in recognition and management of **acute and chronic primary care conditions most often seen in the pediatric and adolescent population aged 0-18 years of age**. Genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences will be considered as differential diagnosis and treatment plans are proposed. Content includes the evidence base for use of laboratory findings, diagnostic studies and primary care procedures associated with the common conditions. Developmental milestones, variations in laboratory findings and prescriptive approaches will be explored. Strategies and interventions in education, family support, and facilitated family communication will be included. This course is a companion to DNP 720.

DNP 733 Clinical Internship I Didactic **(1 credit; Online)**

This course is the first of two that prepares students for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. It is a companion course to DNP 732 Clinical Internship I (clinical). Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions.

DNP 743 Clinical Internship II Didactic **(1 credit; Online)**

This course is the second of a two series clinical practicum that completes student preparation for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application

processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner. This course is a companion to DNP 742.

Clinical Courses

DNP 668 Specialty Focus I Clinical (Adult) (2 credits; 4 days on-site)

Students will apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and non-pharmacotherapeutics in recognition and management of acute and chronic primary care conditions most often seen in the adult (18 to 65 years of age) population. Genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences will be considered as differential diagnosis and treatment plans are proposed. Laboratory findings, diagnostic studies and primary care procedures associated with the common conditions will be explored. (120 clinical clock hours) *Pre-requisites: DNP 654, 656; Co-requisite: DNP 664*

DNP 700 Specialty Focus II Clinical (Women's Health & Geriatrics) (2 credits; 3 days on-site)

This course is the clinical companion to PMH 701 (didactic). In clinical settings, students will continue to apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and non-pharmacotherapeutics in recognition and management of acute and chronic primary care conditions most often seen in women's and men's health and in the older adult (65 plus years of age) population. Treatment plans will include genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences, laboratory findings, diagnostic studies, and primary care procedures. Laboratory findings, diagnostic studies and primary care procedures will be integrated. The physical and social aspects of providing primary care to women and aging adults, as well as palliative and end-of life care, will be incorporated into the plan of care. (120 clinical clock hours) *Pre-requisite: DNP 720*

DNP 720 Specialty Focus III Clinical (Pediatrics) (2 credits; 5 days on-site)

This is the second of three clinical courses with a specialty focus. In the clinical setting, students will continue to apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and non-pharmacotherapeutics in recognition and management of **acute and chronic primary care conditions most often seen in the pediatric and adolescent population aged 0-18 years of age**. Genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences will be considered as differential diagnosis and treatment plans are proposed. Laboratory findings, diagnostic studies and primary care procedures associated with the common conditions will be included in patient management. Developmental milestones, variations in laboratory findings and prescriptive approaches will be selected and implemented. Strategies and interventions in education, family support, and facilitated family communication will be employed. This course is a companion to DNP 721 (120 clinical clock hours) *Pre-requisite: DNP 668; Co-requisite: DNP 702*

DNP 732 Clinical Internship I (3 credits; 3 days on-site)

This course is the first of a two series clinical practicum that prepares students for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. It is a companion course to DNP

733 Clinical Internship I (didactic). Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. (180 clinical clock hours) *Pre-requisite: DNP 700*

DNP 742 Clinical Internship II **(3 credits; 2 days on-site)**

This course is the second of a two series clinical practicum that completes student preparation for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. This course is a companion to DNP 743. (180 clinical clock hours) *Pre-requisite: DNP 732*