

Nursing Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner

Degree Type

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

Admission Requirements

Procedure for Admission to Master of Science in Nursing Programs

Note: Not all Online Program offerings are available to residents of all U.S. states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.

The criteria to determine admission to the Master of Science in Nursing degree program include:

- Completion of the application for admission
- A bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) from an accredited institution with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale; or a master's degree in nursing (MSN/MN) from an accredited institution.
- Submission of official transcripts from every college or university attended within 5 weeks of the class start date (refer to Conditional Acceptance).
- A valid and unencumbered license as a Registered Nurse in all US states or territory in which the student is licensed, including the state in which the student completes all assignments and clinical rotations, for entry and maintenance of admission to the program. (Note that military, federal, and foreign educated nurses must meet their state/territory requirement for nursing licensure).

For additional admissions information please see the admissions section [here](#).

Program Overview and Outcomes

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

The Master of Science in Nursing degree program (MSN) is designed to develop and enhance the knowledge and skills of registered nurses. It is also designed for those nurses who want to pursue advanced positions in today's challenging healthcare environment. The program, based on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Master's Essentials, blends nursing theory with advanced practice concepts that prepare students to work within a healthcare organization or educational setting.

All applicants to the MSN program must hold a valid and unencumbered license as a registered nurse in all US states or territory in which the student is licensed, including the state in which the student completes all assignments for the program. (Note that military, federal, and foreign educated nurses must meet this state requirement for nursing licensure). An unencumbered license(s) must be maintained throughout the program. Additionally, all applicants must successfully complete a criminal background check and a drug screening. Clinical affiliation agencies may require additional personal testing.

Graduates will be required to sit for the national certification exam and obtain professional licensure in the state where the graduate plans to seek employment. Please see the Professional Licensure Disclosure in the South University Academic Catalog for the determinations if our program meets the professional licensure requirements in your state of residence.

The program consists of five core courses and courses in an area of specialization in education, administration, informatics, and various nurse practitioner programs. Program includes practica and experiences in areas of specialization.

Courses may be waived if the individual's master's transcript indicates that s/he has successfully completed the required course or its equivalent. Waivers and exceptions will be determined on the written request of individual students through a transcript analysis as determined by the Program Director, Chair, or College Dean.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will:

1. Synthesize current scientific research, theories, and concepts from nursing and other disciplines for application in advanced nursing roles.
2. Collaborates directly with other healthcare professionals using various resources and technologies in various aspects of the advanced nursing leadership role.
3. Model a professional leadership role to formulate comprehensive plans of action for ongoing contributions to healthcare systems improvement.
4. Formulate a plan for ongoing contributions to improvement of healthcare delivery and development of health policy in a cost-effective manner.
5. Demonstrate ethical and legal standards of practice in the decision-making process to assist with delivery of quality care associated with a specialty area of advanced nursing practice.

Master of Science in Nursing (Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner)

Offered at Online Programs and Tampa.

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The Master of Science in Nursing with a specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) degree program is designed to prepare advanced practice nurses for the current and evolving primary healthcare system. The South University College of Nursing program focuses on advanced health sciences knowledge and skills to prepare advanced clinicians to deliver leading edge, community-based primary healthcare to individuals and families across the lifespan. The program places a strong emphasis on health promotion as well as the development of positive health behaviors for clients at different developmental and age stages. FNP students share select course content with fellow students in the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) programs where appropriate. This structure exposes students to a variety of expert specialty faculty and supports development of inter-specialty relationships in client management.

The South University program is designed to prepare graduates to provide the full range of primary care services to individuals during the ante- partum period, infancy, childhood and adolescence through the adult lifespan. Competencies include provision of preventive care to children and adults as well as the diagnosis and management of common acute and chronic health problems. In addition to direct patient care, students also participate in clinical translational efforts, education, and policy activities relevant to advanced practice nursing and diverse population healthcare issues. National certification is available upon program completion through the national certifying bodies (ANCC; AANPCP).

Graduates will be required to sit for the national certification exam and obtain professional licensure in the state where the graduate plans to seek employment. Please see the Professional Licensure Disclosure in the South University Academic Catalog for the determinations if our program meets the professional licensure requirements in your state of residence.

The South University College of Nursing Master of Science in Nursing with a specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner degree program meets the Core Competencies for Family Nurse Practitioners outlined by the National Organization for Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). Upon graduation and entry into practice, family nurse practitioners are proficient in the following areas:

1. Providing health promotion, health protection, disease prevention, and treatment.
2. Assessing health status.
3. Diagnosing health status.
4. Creating a plan of care and implementation of treatment.
5. Ensuring a professional, collegial, and collaborative approach to care.
6. Serving as a teacher and coach to patients.
7. Committing to advancing the profession.
8. Assisting patients in managing and negotiating the healthcare delivery system.
9. Monitoring and ensuring high quality healthcare practice.
10. Demonstrating cultural competence

The plan of study and required courses for the Master of Science in Nursing with a specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner degree program includes the Master's Core requirements (20 credits) with the addition of the following clinical course requirements (42 credits):

Specialization Program Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will:

1. Formulate and document for various differential and presumptive diagnoses in patients across the lifespan with meticulous detail, so coders and billers can apply the correct codes for appropriate reimbursement.
2. Develop plans of care based on theories of development, assessment findings, and best-practices to provide holistic, patient-centered care across the lifespan.
3. Collaborate with interprofessional associates to provide culturally competent, and sensitive patient-centered care for individuals and families across the lifespan.

Master of Science in Nursing (Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner): 62 Credits

MSN Foundation Courses: 12 Credits

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
NSG5000	Role of the Advanced Practice Nurse: Transformational Leadership in Advanced Practice	4.0
NSG6002	Health Policy and Health Promotion in Advanced Nursing Practice	4.0
NSG6101	Nursing Research Methods	4.0

Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner: 50 Credits

Course Code	Title	Quarter Credits
NSG5003	Advanced Pathophysiology	4.0
NSG6005	Advanced Pharmacology	4.0
NSG6020	Advanced Health and Physical Assessment	6.0
NSG6021	Pre-Clinical Evaluation	0.0
NSG6205	Decision Making for the Advanced Practice Nurse I	4.0
NSG6206	Decision Making for the Advanced Practice Nurse II	4.0
NSG6420	Practicum I Family Health: Adults and Gerontology	6.0
NSG6430	Practicum II Family Health: Women's Health	6.0
NSG6435	Practicum III Family Health: Pediatrics	6.0
NSG6440	Practicum IV Family Health: Primary Care	6.0
NSG6998_F	Transition to the Professional Nurse Practitioner Role	4.0

Note(s):

**If the student receives a failing grade in [NSG6021](#), the student must enroll in and successfully pass the following four (4) credit course: [NSG6023](#) Nurse Practitioner Enhancement.*

**If the student is unsuccessful in [NSG6998_F](#) please refer to Program Progression Policy for Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Students*

Total Credits

62
