

# Graduate Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner

---

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Graduate Certificate is available to nurses who already have a graduate degree in nursing and are certified as psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners, adult nurse practitioners, women's health nurse practitioners or pediatric nurse practitioners. The program expands their scope of practice to assist them to acquire the theory, knowledge and skills needed to provide primary care for families. Courses and seminars are scheduled to allow students to attend classes with content specific to expand their specialty practice to include a family scope. The curriculum includes didactic, seminar and clinical hours in practicum coursework. The graduate certificate program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326, (404) 975-5000. Students who successfully complete the graduate certificate program will be eligible to take the family nurse practitioner examination offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) to become certified as a family nurse practitioner. These examinations are given nationwide throughout the year.

## Scheduling of Courses

The FNP clinical courses are in a hybrid format with some short face-to-face intensives required (usually 1-2 campus visits/semester). Additional course work is held throughout the semester at scheduled times, with distance students participating live via software programs such as Skype or Collaborate. All FNP clinical must be completed in the state of Alaska and in most instances clinical is done in the students' own community. Decisions for clinical sites are based on there being adequate experiences and preceptors locally that allow the student to meet the course and program outcomes. Thus, it is possible for students who reside in Alaska, outside of Anchorage, to take advantage of the opportunity to pursue a graduate certificate at UAA. In addition, all students have the opportunity to take advantage of clinical learning opportunities throughout the state, including both urban and rural settings.

## Licensure and/or Certification

Please go to UAA's Authorization by State (<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/office-of-academic-affairs/uaa-state-authorization/authorization.cshtml/>) website for information about licensure or certification in a state other than Alaska.

## Admission Requirements

Satisfy the Admission Requirements for Graduate Certificates (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/graduate/>).

## School of Nursing Admission Deadlines

Information on admission deadlines can be found on the SON website. (<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/schoolofnursing/>) The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program admits once a year and has a specific deadline for the application.

## School of Nursing Admission Requirements

To be eligible for the FNP Graduate Certificate applicants must submit documentation of the following:

- Graduate degree in nursing (master's or doctoral) from a school of nursing accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).
- Registered professional nurse license in the state of Alaska. License must remain active and unencumbered while in the School of Nursing (SON) graduate program. There are different reasons for a license to be encumbered and some may not preclude admission to the program. Students with encumbered licenses should meet with the graduate chair to determine program eligibility.
- Active unencumbered license as an advanced practice nurse in the state of Alaska. License must remain active and unencumbered while in the graduate certificate program.
- Documentation of national certification as an advanced nurse practitioner.
- Meet with faculty advisor to develop an academic plan of study based on a gap analysis (see SON website (<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/schoolofnursing/>) for advisor contact information).

## School of Nursing Admission Process

The UAA School of Nursing application process can be found on the SON website (<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/schoolofnursing/>).

## Additional School of Nursing Requirements

Once accepted to the FNP Graduate Certificate program, students will receive instructions for submission of the following requirements<sup>1</sup>:

- Documentation of continuous current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for adults, infants, and children;
- Evidence of satisfactory health status, including immunity to chicken pox, rubella, rubeola, and hepatitis A and B (by titer); documentation of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) immunization within the past 10 years; annual PPD skin test or health examination indicating freedom from active tuberculosis; documentation of an annual HIV test (results not required); and
- The results of the SON-sanctioned national level criminal background check.

<sup>1</sup> The above requirements may change based on the demands of clinical facilities. Please check with the SON for the most recent list of requirements.

Students are required to provide their own transportation to clinical sites. They are also responsible for their portion of the cost of audio conferencing. Students must have access to a personal computer and reasonable Internet connectivity. Prior to entry into the nursing program, students are expected to have graduate-level writing and American Psychological Association (APA) referencing skills, as well as basic computer and typing skills, for example:

- Word processing,
- Sending and receiving e-mail with attachments,
- Accessing and navigating the Internet/World Wide Web, and
- Basic understanding of hardware, software, and operating systems.

## FNP Clinical Requirements

Alaska clinical site decisions are based on the availability of qualified preceptors and agencies that provide adequate experiences so the student can meet the course and program outcomes. Whenever possible we assign sites in or near a student's home community. Student clinical hours must follow the preceptors' work schedules (usually M-F). All students are encouraged to take advantage of clinical learning opportunities throughout Alaska in both urban and rural settings.

## Academic Requirements

Students enrolled in the FNP Graduate Certificate program must make continuous progress toward completion of the certificate and remain in good standing with the SON. A detailed schematic of the SON good standing policy can be found in the SON Graduate Handbook (<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/schoolofnursing/studenthandbooks.cfm>). Noncompliance with the good standing policy and academic progress expectations will result in probation and possible dismissal from the program. In order to remain in good standing students must:

- Maintain professional and academic standards at all times.
- Maintain continuous registration each fall and spring semester until certificate is granted.
- Earn a minimum grade of 3.00 (B) in all required coursework.

## Graduation Requirements

- Complete the General University Requirements for Graduate Certificates. (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/gradcertrequirements/>)
- Complete the program requirements below.

The program requirements are based on what type of nurse practitioner certification the individual already has; additional coursework may be required based on the transcript gap analysis that is done by the academic advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Requirements for Practicing Adult Nurse Practitioners</b>		
NSG A660	Family Nurse Practitioner I	5
NSG A661	Family Nurse Practitioner II	4
NSG A663	Family Nurse Practitioner IV	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Requirements for Practicing Pediatric Nurse Practitioners</b>		
NSG A661	Family Nurse Practitioner II	4
NSG A662	Family Nurse Practitioner III	5
NSG A663	Family Nurse Practitioner IV	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Requirements for Practicing Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioners</b>		
NSG A660	Family Nurse Practitioner I	5
NSG A661	Family Nurse Practitioner II	4
NSG A662	Family Nurse Practitioner III	5
NSG A663	Family Nurse Practitioner IV	6
NSG A601	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NSG A602	Advanced Health Assessment in Primary Care	4
NSG A610	Pharmacology for Primary Care	3
NSG A611	Psychopharmacology for Advanced Nursing	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>33</b>

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Women's Health Nurse Practitioner</b>		
NSG A660	Family Nurse Practitioner I	5
NSG A662	Family Nurse Practitioner III	5
NSG A663	Family Nurse Practitioner IV	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>

**A total of 15-33 credits is required for the certificate.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Students need to have had an advanced pharmacology, pathophysiology and health assessment course in their original nursing master's program; if their program did not include some or all of these courses, they may need to be taken for the graduate certificate.

## Program Student Learning Outcomes

The graduate is prepared to:

- Engage in scholarly inquiry, including evaluation and application of evidence-based research to advanced nursing practice or nursing leadership.
- Practice in a manner that incorporates ethical, legal, and professional standards for advanced nursing practice or nursing leadership.
- Collaborate across disciplines and in partnership with communities, groups, families and individuals through culturally sensitive practice.

- Demonstrate competence and caring in the professional nurse role to serve as a leader, provider, and educator in the health care system.
- Articulate a plan for self-directed, lifelong learning and professional development.