

# PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER, MSN

**Degree:** Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

**Field of Study:** Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

## Program Overview

Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNPs) are advanced degree nurses who provide primary health care for children from infancy to 21 years of age, including physical, psychosocial, and family dimensions of health. They diagnose and treat childhood illnesses, provide immunizations, perform developmental screenings and physical assessments, and much more in their objective to protect and enhance the health of children. Along with pediatricians and other providers, PNPs practice in settings such as private practice, primary care clinics, community health centers, and hospitals.

## Path to the MSN

The Master of Science in Nursing program prepares registered nurses for advanced practice either as a nurse practitioner or nurse midwife. Students in the MSN program choose from several different majors, but virtually all students must take at least ten core courses. Students must complete a required number of credit hours as well as clinical hours. Most majors require an average of 40 credit hours, usually completed in three or four semesters (including summer for some majors). MSN majors also require at least 600 or more clinical hours depending on major.

Students can choose either a part-time or full-time program, with full-time consisting of 9 or more credit hours per semester and part-time being anything less. Dual degree programs are offered in Bioethics (MSN/MA), Anthropology (MSN/MA), and Public Health (MSN/MPH). Post-master's certificates can be provided for most programs and are crafted according to individual needs and background education.

## Course Grades

Progression in the MSN program is contingent on a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and passing grades in all courses (A, B, C, P, or S). If the cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 during any semester, the student will be placed on academic probation. In addition, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) students in the MSN program must maintain an APRN GPA of 3.0 or higher in all APRN core courses (advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and advanced physical assessment) and APRN clinical courses. If either the cumulative or APRN GPA falls below 3.0 during any semester, the student will be placed on academic probation. To be removed from probation, the student must have a cumulative and APRN GPA of 3.0 or higher in the next academic semester they are registered. If the student fails to be removed from academic probation at this time, they may be separated from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

The grade of Incomplete (I) can only be assigned by the discretion of the instructor when: 1) There are extenuating circumstances, explained to the instructor before the assignment of the grade, which clearly justifies an extension of time beyond the requirements established for and met by other students in the class, and 2) The student has been passing the course and only an evaluative component of the course, such as a term paper, final exam, or project remains to be completed. The "Arrangement

to Resolve a Grade of Incomplete" form must be completed prior to the end of the semester, or the instructor may assign a grade of U or F. The instructor shall enter a final evaluative grade if and when the completed work has been submitted. A grade of Incomplete must be removed by the 11th week of the semester following the one in which the courses were taken. If the student does not complete the required work by the date established, the Registrar will convert the I to an F when the deadline for completion has passed. Students may not sit in the same course in a later semester to complete the work required for the original course. Please see the University Incomplete Policy.

A student who receives a grade of F or U for a required course must register for the course the next semester it is offered to continue in the MSN program. If the grade of U or F is in a course that is not required for the MSN program, the student may register for the same course or a substitute course and achieve a passing grade to continue in the MSN program. MSN students who receive 2 failing grades (F, U, NP) will be separated from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

## Majors and Sample Full-Time Curriculum

Virtually all MSN students must take at least ten core courses in Professional Development, Scientific Inquiry, and Nursing Practice. Although the MSN program itself requires a minimum of 36 credit hours to graduate, most majors require an average of 40 credit hours, usually completed between 18 and 30 months depending on the MSN major. Students are required to complete 600 or more clinical hours depending on MSN major. Post-master's certificates can be provided for most programs and are crafted according to individual needs and background education. Sample full-time curriculum are listed for each major.

## Program Requirements

As part of FPB's MSN program, the PNP major requires 40 credit hours of coursework, plus 600 hours of clinicals. The coursework is usually completed within 18 months (four semesters) for full-time students, and courses are offered in a distance-friendly format.

## Sample Plan of Study

### First Year

Fall		Credit Hours
NURS 405	Inquiry I - Theoretical Foundations	2
NURS 453	Advanced Pathophysiology	4
NURS 459	Advanced Physical Assessment	3
NUNP 410	Health Promotion Across the Life Span	2
NUNP 401	Pediatric Growth, Development, and Health Supervision	3
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>14</b>

### Spring

NURS 425	Inquiry II - Research Process	3
NURS 430	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUNP 402	Common and Acute Health Problems of Pediatric Patients	6
NURS 444B	Health Care Delivery and Finance in Advanced Practice	1
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>13</b>

### Summer

NURS 502	Inquiry III Evidence-Based Practice	2
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NURS 451	Leadership for Quality Healthcare within Organizations and Systems	3
NURS 444A	Ethical Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice	1
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 431	Psychosocial and Spiritual Dimensions of Advanced Nursing Practice	2
NUNP 403	Advanced Management in Pediatric Primary Care	5
NURS 444C	Health Policy Legislation and Legal Issues in Advanced Practice	1
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>41</b>