The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program prepares graduates to assume leadership roles as administrators, educators, or family-nurse practitioners. The curriculum prepares graduates to design and implement nursing practices that take into account the values, beliefs, self-care practices, and dependent self-care of families experiencing family-system deficits. Graduates are supported in acquiring expertise to evaluate and manage situations that may compromise a family in meeting universal, developmental, or health-deviation self-care requests. Each MSN degree candidate specializes in family health nursing.

- Candidates choose a professional role concentration in one of three program areas:
  - Nursing administration
  - Nursing education
  - Family or Gerontological nurse practitioner

### Family Nurse Practitioner Program Overview

**Program**
The FNP curriculum prepares graduates by assisting them in providing family-centered care. The population in primary care family practice includes newborns, infants, children, adolescents, adults, pregnant and postpartum women, and older adults in ambulatory care setting. Upon graduation or entry into practice, the family nurse practitioner should demonstrate competence in assessment and management of both health and illness states, diagnostic reasoning, planning and implementing therapeutic interventions to provide optimal care to the patient.

Graduate level courses in advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, and pharmacology are prerequisites to the Family Nurse Practitioner practicum courses. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the certification examination for family nurse practitioner through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). All family nurse practitioner students complete a minimum of 640 direct clinical practice hours with patients across the life span. A post-masters certificate option is available for nurses who already hold a Master’s degree in nursing from an accredited school. Individual transcripts and previous course work are evaluated via a gap analysis by the NP Program Coordinator to determine individualized plans of study.

### CURRICULUM: COURSES AND CREDIT HOURS

#### Core Courses
- NURS 600 Theoretical Foundation ........................................... (3)
- NURS 602 Design & Methodology of Nursing Research .................... (3)
- NURS 604 Issues in Advanced Practice ......................................... (3)

#### Advanced Practice Core Courses
- NURS 606 Practicum for Health Assessment ................................... (1)
- NURS 616 Advanced Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning .................. (3)
- NURS 651 Advanced Pathophysiology .............................................. (3)
- NURS 652 Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice ..................... (3)

#### Population Specialty Focused Courses
- NURS 655 Primary Healthcare of Families I .................................. (3)
- NURS 656 Primary Healthcare of Families II ...................................(3)

#### Role Preparation Courses
- NURS 653 NP Practicum I ..........................................................(6)
- NURS 654 NP Practicum II ..........................................................(6)

#### Research Project
- Nurs 696 Clinical Research Project...............................................(3)
Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Program Overview

Program
The Advanced Practice Gerontological Nursing Program seeks to develop outstanding clinicians and leaders in the field of Gerontological nursing. Students who are enrolled in the gerontological program offerings complete coursework geared to becoming either a nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist, and gain direct clinical experience with older adult patients aged 55 years or older across a variety of settings and clinical complexities. Students who enroll in the gerontological nurse practitioner program complete a minimum of 512 direct clinical practicum hours in preparation for the gerontological nurse practitioner role.

A post-masters certificate option is available for nurses who already hold a Master’s degree in nursing from an accredited school. Graduate level courses in advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, and pharmacology are prerequisites to the Gerontology role options.

Students will meet similar requirements of credit hours and 512 direct clinical practicum hours. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the certification examination for Gerontological nurse practitioner or Gerontological clinical nurse specialist through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

CURRICULUM: COURSES AND CREDIT HOURS

Core Courses
NURS 600 Theoretical Foundation ..............................(3)
NURS 602 Design & Methodology of Nursing Research .............(3)
NURS 604 Issues in Advanced Practice ............................(3)

Advanced Practice Core Courses
NURS 606 Practicum for Health Assessment..............................(1)
NURS 616 Advanced Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning .................................................(3)
NURS 651 Advanced Pathophysiology ...........................................(3)
NURS 652 Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice ............................(3)

Population Specialty Focused Courses
NURS 621 Advanced Practice Gerontological Nursing ..................(3)
NURS 622 Advanced Practice Gerontological Nursing ..................(3)

Role Preparation Courses
NURS 623 Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Practicum I .................(4)
NURS 624 Gerontological Nurse Diagnostic Reasoning ..................(4)

Research Project
Nurs 696 Clinical Research Project ...........................................(3)