

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

The College of Nursing at the University of Rhode Island offers a **Master of Science degree** with a family nurse practitioner area of emphasis. Its purpose is to educate family nurse practitioners capable of providing primary health care to individuals and families in a variety of primary health care settings. This program is partially funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

CURRICULUM

The Primary Health Care-Family Nurse Practitioner curriculum consists of courses totaling 43 semester credit hours. Of these, 14 credits are in nursing core courses consisting of theories and concepts in nursing practice, research, leadership, and role development. In addition, 28 credits in the area of primary health care and related courses are required. The program culminates with a written comprehensive examination and the submission of a substantial scholarly work involving significant independent study which is referred to as the major paper. This requirement is an extension of work completed from prior coursework in the master's program.

REQUIRED NURSING CORE COURSES (14 credits)

NUR 500 Theoretical Study of the Phenomena in Nursing (4 credits)

NUR 505 Nursing Research (3 credits)

NUR 507 Theories of Practice for Nursing (3 credits)

NUR 510 Advanced Leadership in the Health Policy Process (3 credits)

NUR 520 Graduate Study Seminar (1 credit)

REQUIRED COURSES FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (28 credits)

NUR 503 Advanced Adult Physical Assessment (4 credits) Expansion of nursing assessment skills, including health history taking and physical, psychological and social assessment skills.

NUR 504 Advanced Child Physical Assessment (1 credit) Application of expanded nursing assessment skills to children.

NUR 531 Primary Health Care Nursing I (3 credits) Theoretical knowledge and skills for the development of nursing strategies in analyzing, managing, and preventing health-related problems.

NUR 532 Practicum in Primary Health Care Nursing I (3 credits) Clinical application of knowledge and skills of NUR 531.

NUR 533 Primary Health Care Nursing II (3 credits) A theoretical study for the development of nursing competency in family primary care practice.

NUR 534 Practicum in Primary Health Care Nursing II (6 credits) Clinical application of theoretical knowledge and skills of NUR 533.

NUR 535 Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nurses (3 credits) Clinical decision making based on synthesis of in-depth study of pathophysiological phenomena across the life span.

NUR 582 Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice Nursing (3 credits) Integration of pharmacotherapeutic and decision-making theories with human pathophysiology.

NUR 590 Directed Study and Practice in Advanced Clinical Nursing (3 credits) In depth study and supervised clinical practice in a specialized area of nursing.

CLINICAL PRACTICE

Clinical practice is available in a variety of settings - hospital clinics, community health centers, health maintenance organizations, and private offices in both urban and rural settings.

Preceptorship on a one-to-one basis is provided by nurse practitioners. Students manage a patient caseload with increasing independence as they progress in the program. The practicum experiences are planned with the student, taking into consideration the student's interests, learning needs, and employment plans. The student has the option of focusing on preferred areas of family practice later in the practicum.

CERTIFICATE OPTION ~ The post-master's certificate option consists of courses totaling **28 credits** ~ NUR503, NUR504, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 582, and 590.

TRANSPORTATION

A car is necessary to reach the various clinical practice locations in the cities and rural areas. A local bus service connects the University to most major health service facilities, shopping, and service centers, but the bus routes and schedules may not always be convenient for the graduate student.

COLLEGE OF NURSING

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the College of Nursing is to educate nursing students at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels; conduct, disseminate, and apply nursing research and scholarship; and contribute to the profession of nursing and to society through political, legal and professional activities that are aimed at improving health and health care of the people of Rhode Island and beyond.

Faculty are committed to prompting students' ethical development, critical thinking and motivation for life-long learning and responsible practice. The baccalaureate program prepares professional nurses to practice in multiple types of health care settings. The master's program prepares leaders who use advanced knowledge from nursing theory, research, practice, and leadership as advanced practice nurses, educators, or administrators. The doctoral program prepares nursing scholars and researchers who can contribute to the development of nursing knowledge. Students are sought from a wide range of cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. The College encourages close student-faculty interaction and interdisciplinary research partnerships involving faculty, students, and practitioners from within and outside the University.

Faculty are responsive to changing health care needs and changing roles of nurses within society. Faculty respond through collaboration with professional organizations, governmental and other agencies, and other educational institutions, and with health care agencies. The College strives for excellence in teaching, research/scholarship in diverse scholarly activities, practice, and service through cooperative governance and ongoing evaluation.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Admission to the Graduate School.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0.
- **Three** letters of recommendation (academic and professional).
- Curriculum vita
- Completion of MAT or GRE with a satisfactory score.
- Baccalaureate degree in nursing accredited by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing or the National League for Nursing with an upper-division major in nursing.
- Eligibility for R.N. licensure in Rhode Island.
- At least two years of clinical nursing experience.
- A basic statistics course is a prerequisite for NUR 505.
- Candidates with non-nursing degrees will be evaluated on an individual basis. Completion of challenge of upper-division nursing courses is required prior to acceptance into the master's program.

For further information contact:

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THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

COLLEGE OF NURSING

