



Post-Graduate Certificate Family Nurse Practitioner

A synchronous online, part-time, 1.5-year certificate program (26-31 credits)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Post-Graduate Certificate (PGC) Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program is designed for RNs who already hold a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. The FNP Certificate is designed to provide the nurse with the necessary knowledge, skills, values, meanings, and experiences to assume the role of a primary health care provider in a variety of clinical settings. Upon successful completion of the program, the student will be eligible to take the national certification exam given by either the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

- A master's degree in nursing (MSN) from a CCNE or an ACEN accredited institution. Recommended 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Active nurse practitioners (NPs): Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pathophysiology, and Advanced Pharmacology courses. Recommended grade of "B" or better.
- For applicants with an MSN in a non-NP area:
 - Undergraduate Chemistry course with grade of "C" or better.
 - Will be required to take Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pharmacology, Advanced Pathophysiology at Shenandoah before progressing to specialty courses.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate Application with \$30 application fee.
- Unofficial transcripts from all institutions for initial admission
- Unencumbered RN license (*multi-state preferred*)
- Copy of Advanced Practice Nursing certification as applicable. Applicants without national certification will be individually evaluated and must submit evidence of their specialty expertise.
- Current resume/C.V.
- Documentation of 2,080 [RN](#) or [APRN](#) hours (direct patient care required).
- Essay (250-500 words): Why are you choosing to pursue the FNP role?
- Two letters of recommendation
 - One from previous faculty (if graduated in the last five years)
- Language proficiency must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details: <https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students>
- A recorded video introduction/interview will be required.

If admitted, the admission will be provisional until the completion of all required health records, documentation of up-to-date required immunizations, completion and acceptable Criminal Background Check and a negative urine drug screen. Proof of valid CPR certification from AHA is also a requirement for admission.

For international students who require a visa, due to limited on-campus hours, F-1 visas are not issued for this program.

ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Start Term

Summer (May)
Fall (August) for non-NPs only

Admission Deadline

Priority: February 15
Final: April 15
Applications are reviewed continuously starting in January until the cohort is full.

Format/Location

Synchronous online courses meet one day each week.

An immersion experience may be required during the fall and spring semesters at the Winchester Main Campus.

How to Apply

Begin the online application process by going to www.su.edu/sonapp

Foreign Transcripts

International transcript evaluation by an accredited agency is an admission requirement. Approved services are listed at www.naces.org and <http://aice-eval.org/>.

Transfer Credits

A maximum of two courses with a grade of "B" or better are transferable. Upon admission, courses may be submitted for review and approval by the Program Director.

Contact Us

Office of Graduate Admissions
SUGradAdmissions@su.edu
call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-401-5709

Donna Hoffman
FNP Clinical Placement Coordinator
dhoffman1@su.edu

Office of Financial Aid
<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/>
finaid@su.edu | call: 540-665-4538



Dr. Sharon Simon
Assistant Professor
Director, Family Nurse Practitioner Program



Shenandoah University's baccalaureate degree in nursing, master's degree in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice and post-graduate APRN certificates are accredited by:

Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

655 K Street NW
Suite 750
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 887-6791

CURRICULUM

The degree requirement is 26-31 total credit hours. Clinical practicum includes at least 780 hours of patient care.

Courses	Credits
Mental Health in Primary Care	3
Primary Care of Families: Chronic	3
Primary Care Practicum (240 Clinical Hours)	4
Primary Care of Families: Acute	3
Primary Care of Families: Practicum (240 Clinical Hours)	4
Primary Care of Women & Children	3
Diagnostics & Procedures	1
Primary Care Advanced Practicum (300 Clinical Hours)	5
Total	26
Additional Courses for Non-NPs	
Advanced Practice Roles, Ethics & Policy	3
Advanced Nurse Practitioner Role Development	2
Total	31
Prerequisite Courses for Non-NPs	
Advanced Pathophysiology	3
Advanced Pharmacology	3
Advanced Health Assessment	4

ABOUT THE ELEANOR WADE CUSTER SCHOOL OF NURSING

Graduate programs in the [Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing](#) are challenging, but the rewards of completing your degree are many. We are committed to providing an outstanding education to nurses at all levels. Our programs are dynamic and responsive to the needs of our students and the health care industry.

The curricula for the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Graduate Certificates, and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs combine important knowledge and skills with a friendly and caring spirit. Students share diverse backgrounds and professional experiences with seasoned teaching faculty and clinical preceptors, who contribute to robust classroom discussions and enrich clinical interactions. Our goal is to prepare and challenge you for that next step in your professional career.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Review our full FAQ section [on our program page](#).

- How long will it take to complete the program?**
PGC students typically graduate in five semesters (including summer).
- How does Shenandoah help with clinical placements?**
Clinical placement is a collaborative process between the student and the faculty. We try to customize the clinical experience to your needs and wants as much as possible. We have current articulation agreements with several sites but will also look at starting up new contracts with sites if you have a relationship with them already.
- Do applicants need to be currently practicing NPs in order to apply?**
No, we offer two tracks with our graduate certificates for students with an MSN and a content area in leadership, education, etc. Non-NPs may be required to take additional courses at Shenandoah which could add up to two semesters of study.