

Master of Science in Nursing: Family Nurse Practitioner



SHENANDOAH[®]
UNIVERSITY

Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing

A synchronous online, part-time, 7 semester professional degree program (47 credits)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program is designed to provide the bachelor's level educated 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. Didactic and clinical course content focuses on the assessment and management of health promotion and health maintenance strategies, risk reduction, common acute and chronic alterations in health status for individuals and families across the lifespan. 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 bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) from a CCNE or an ACEN accredited institution. Recommended 3.0 cumulative GPA.
 - Students whose prior degrees are from non-CCNE accredited schools, must have successful demonstration of AACN level 1 competencies (required by CCNE Accreditation) through Gap Analysis, Syllabi review, Independent Study and/or other observational method.
- Applicants must have completed or will complete the following prerequisite course requirements prior to enrolling at Shenandoah:
 - Undergraduate Health Assessment, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology courses. Recommended grade of "B" or better.
 - Undergraduate Statistics course with a grade of "C" or better.
 - Undergraduate Chemistry course with grade of "C" or better.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate Application with \$30 application fee.
- Unofficial transcripts from all institutions for initial admission
- Unencumbered RN license (*multi-state preferred*) in state of residence.
- Current resume/C.V.
- [Documentation of one year of direct patient care](#) prior to specialty courses
- Essay (250-500 words): Why are you choosing to pursue the FNP role?
- Three letters of recommendation
 - One from previous faculty (if graduated in the last five years)
 - Two professional references to attest to clinical experience
- 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 admissions 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.

ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Start Term

Fall (August)

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.

Two immersions are required as part of the FNP Program.

Immersions occur in Fall II and Fall III in Winchester at the SU 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

Dr. Sharon R. Simon
Director of FNP Programs
Associate Professor
ssimon@su.edu

Lindsey Lindsey
FNP Clinical Placement Coordinator
llindsey16@su.edu

Office of Graduate Admissions
SUGradAdmissions@su.edu
call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-546-6029

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 47 total credit hours. Clinical practicum includes at least 600 hours of patient care.

Courses	Credits
Advanced Practice Roles, Ethics & Policy	3
Advanced Concepts in Physiology & Pathophysiology	3
Introduction to Graduate Writing	1
Advanced Pharmacology & Therapeutics	3
Advanced Health Promotion & Assessment Across the Lifespan (Didactic and Lab)	4
Data Interpretation & Informatics	2
Mental Health in Primary Care	3
Primary Care of Families: Chronic	3
Primary Care of Families (180 Clinical Hours)	4
Family Nurse Practitioner Foundational Immersion	1
Primary Care of Families: Acute	3
Primary Care of Families: Practicum (180 Clinical Hours)	3
Women's Health in Primary Care	1
Primary Care of Pediatrics	2
Research & Evidenced-Based Practice	4
Transition to APRN Practice	2
Advanced Family Nurse Practitioner Immersion	2
Primary Care Advanced Practicum (240 Clinical Hours)	4
Total	47

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?**
MSN students typically graduate in seven semesters (including summers).
- **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 a Virginia RN license?**
You will need a license in the state where you will practice your clinicals. A multi-state license is recommended if possible.