

# Post-Graduate Certificate Family Nurse Practitioner



**SHENANDOAH<sup>®</sup>**  
UNIVERSITY

Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing

A synchronous online, part-time, five semester certificate program (25-33 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
  - 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.
- 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*) in state of residence.
- 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.*

## 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.

*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](http://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](http://www.naces.org) and <http://aice-eval.org/>.

### Transfer Credits

May transfer up to three credit hours of courses into the graduate program within a timeframe of five years from a regionally and nursing accredited institution. Courses for transfer credit are evaluated on an individual basis.

### Contact Us

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Office of Graduate Admissions  
[SUGradAdmissions@su.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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 25-33 total credit hours. Clinical practicum includes at least 600 hours of patient care.

Courses	Credits
Mental Health in Primary Care	3
Primary Care of Families: Chronic	3
Primary Care of Families (180 Clinical Hours)	3
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
Primary Care of Families Advanced Practicum (240 Clinical Hours)	4
Advanced Family Nurse Practitioner Immersion	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Additional Courses for Non-NPs</b>	
Advanced Practice Roles, Ethics & Policy	3
Transition to APRN Practice	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Prerequisite Courses for Non-NPs</b>	
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.