

Western University of Health Sciences

College of Graduate Nursing

2026/2027 Catalog

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College of Graduate Nursing

Master of Science in Nursing

- **Pathways into Professional Nursing**
 - Master of Science in Nursing-Entry (Bachelor's to RN/MSN)
 - Master of Science in Nursing (BSN/RN to MSN)
- **MSN Concentrations**
 - Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

Doctor of Nursing Practice

- **Pathways into DNP**
 - Doctor of Nursing Practice (MSN to DNP with a leadership role)
 - Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN or MSN to DNP with an FNP or PMHNP Role)
 - Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN or MSN to DNP with FNP or PMHNP Role for applicants without 1 Year RN practice experience)
- **DNP Concentrations**
 - DNP/Leadership
 - DNP/Family Nurse Practitioner
 - DNP/Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Post-Master's Certificate Programs

- Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate
- Post-Master's Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate
- Post-Graduate Emergency Nurse Practitioner Certificate

The College catalog supplements the [University Catalog](#). The College faculty, staff, and students must abide by the content of the [University Catalog](#) in addition to the College catalog. The 2026-2027 catalogs supersede previous versions, and all students are held responsible for the information contained in both the University and the College 2026-2027 catalogs.

Approval, Accreditation, Licensure, and Certification

The following CGN programs and tracks are currently approved by The California Board of Registered Nursing (CA-BRN): Master's of Science in Nursing programs, the Doctor of Nursing Practice Programs/FNP and Doctor of Nursing Practice/PMHNP, and Post-Master's FNP and PMHNP Certificate programs offered by the College of Graduate Nursing (CGN) <https://www.rn.ca.gov/education/programs.shtml>.

The Master's degree program in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice program, and post-graduate APRN certificate program at Western University of Health Sciences are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccnaccreditation.org>).

The American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners (AAENP) has been validated the Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP) program.

Individuals who have successfully completed all California Board of Registered Nursing approved pre-licensure requirements within the MSN-Entry program may be eligible to apply and sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Eligibility may occur during the fifth semester, subject to verification by the Program Director and approval by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Pre-licensure students will be eligible to apply for Public Health Nurse (PHN) Certification with the CA-BRN upon graduation.

Individuals who complete the Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate, Post-Master's Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate, Master of Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner, Master of Science in Nursing/Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)/FNP Program, DNP/PMHNP program, and ENP Certificate are eligible to apply for a national nursing certification examination through the respective organizations and receive state recognition.

Filing a Complaint with CCNE and the California Board of Registered Nursing

The CGN strives for continuous program improvement in compliance with the accreditation standards set forth by CCNE. Any student directly affected by the policies or actions of the CGN may send a formal complaint to the accrediting body or to the CA-BRN at the following locations:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

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

Board of Registered Nursing for the State of California

<http://www.rn.ca.gov/enforcement/complaint.shtml#cpltfile>

Complaints may be filed by completing the [complaint form](#) and submitting to:

Board of Registered Nursing

Attn: Complaint Intake
PO Box 944210
Sacramento, CA 94244-2100
Fax: (916) 574-7693

General Information

The CGN's mission, vision, and values set the foundation to achieve educational excellence through a structure that addresses nursing education, leadership, and quality improvement, through interprofessional collaboration, scholarship, and practice.

Mission

Our mission is to advance nursing education, using a humanistic approach, to enhance health equity and quality of life.

We accomplish this mission by cultivating relationships and academic-service partnerships across health systems that further interprofessional collaboration, scholarship, and practice.

Vision

We are innovative catalysts educating nursing professionals who become expert clinicians, leaders, and system partners, transforming the health of people worldwide.

Our Values



Purpose

The purpose of the CGN at Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) is to educate nurses for the current and future workforce. The CGN accomplishes this purpose by providing various pathways and specialty concentrations. The CGN's offerings of either a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree, a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree or any of the post-graduate certificate options meet or exceed nursing educational standards.

Approaches to Graduate Nursing Education

The CGN's approach to nursing education is supported by campus-based and hybrid web-based programs. These approaches recognize that graduate students are active, self-directed adult learners, committed to safe and effective professional practice and rigorous courses of study. As learning is a personal responsibility, graduate students, guided by faculty mentors, are accountable for the integrity of academic accomplishments, professional practice, and self-assessment. Students bring distinct professional and personal backgrounds that foster various responses to the learning process.

Our teaching and learning strategies have consistently yielded high pass rates for the NCLEX licensing exam and high pass rates for national certification examinations. Our approaches also yield low attrition rates, expedient employment rates, and employer and student satisfaction.

Philosophy

WesternU CGN develops leaders entering the nursing profession (Master's Entry) or advancing education to the Master's and/or doctoral level (MSN and/or DNP). CGN graduates are prepared to lead healthcare innovation in multiple practice settings. The following philosophy reflects the beliefs of the CGN regarding the profession of nursing, nursing education, and student-centered learning environments.

The Discipline and Profession of Nursing

The profession and discipline of nursing as a science and an art requires foundational knowledge in liberal arts and human sciences. The societal demand to improve health and health care outcomes of diverse populations provides context for nursing theory, research, and evidence-based nursing practice. Professional nurses are autonomous in providing preventive care, population health management, and direct patient-centered care based on the American Nurses Association's (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses (ANA, 2025). Graduate level nurses actively participate in the four spheres of care: disease prevention/promotion of health and well-being; chronic disease care; regenerative or restorative care; and hospice/palliative/support care (AACN Essentials, 2021, p.19). Within healthcare systems of local and global communities, nursing roles include advocates, coordinators of care, direct care providers, leaders, administrators, educators, and researchers.

Healthcare Systems-Based Practice

The Future of Nursing 2020-2030 report (National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2021) articulates that advancing nursing leadership will improve care of patients and communities. The CGN is uniquely positioned with its programs led by expert faculty and administrators to prepare nursing leaders to meet this challenge. Improvement of quality of life and patient satisfaction are indicators of nursing excellence. At the same time, healthcare cost containment assures patient centered care while providing efficient and effective use of resources. Therefore, nursing must encompass the larger context of the healthcare system and participate in economic solutions (American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN], AACN Essentials, 2021, p.7, <https://www.aacnnursing.org/essentials>).

Humanism in Local and Global Communities

The CGN includes graduate students, faculty, and staff from a variety of unique backgrounds and regions. Embracing humanism provides an opportunity for enrichment and influence on local and global communities. Through a unique hybrid format, the CGN students and faculty reach beyond the University, creating innovative learning environments. In doing so, humanism is valued as local and global communities are impacted by the scholarship and core characteristics seeded in our students, graduates, faculty, and staff.

Competency-Based Nursing Education

Graduate nursing students are the center of the learning experience, and performance expectations are clearly delineated and demonstrated along all pathways of education and practice (AACN Essentials, 2021, p.4). Nursing education draws upon various professions and involves organized learning experiences that

augment previous knowledge and skills in the preparation to practice graduate-level nursing. The educational process supports the personal, social, and intellectual development of graduate students to facilitate their achievement of academic and professional goals through identified competencies. Identified competencies are threaded throughout the curriculum and are reassessed at several points across courses. Course assignments and student experiences are competency-based to promote overarching program outcome competencies. Pre-licensure students practice within the AACN Level I competencies. Post-licensure students practice in AACN Level II competencies (AACN, 2021).

The CGN seeks to evoke the excitement of discovery, while encouraging self-expression, to promote life-long learning. Nursing education at the CGN is supported by eight pillars. Four of the pillars represent the core characteristics of our graduates, faculty, and staff, while four represent the Boyer Model of Scholarship (Boyer, 1990).

CGN Core Characteristics

Leadership

Nursing professionals, as leaders, must be strategically placed at the forefront of healthcare change as full partners with other health care professionals. Therefore, graduate Master's and doctoral prepared nurses are essential to advance healthcare and lead reform.

Innovation

The current healthcare system demands innovation and creative solutions to enhance quality patient outcomes in a safe environment. The future of healthcare requires critical thinking, competencies, and inter-professional collaboration to create new systems of care.

Interprofessional Collaboration

Optimizing the use of resources for the best outcomes requires working together in an inter-professional and intra-professional collaborative effort. Interprofessional collaboration enhances the capacity to recognize the uniqueness of others to optimize patient outcomes and achieve health systems' goals. A common purpose is achieved by sharing risks, resources, responsibilities, and rewards. Nurses at a graduate level practice beyond basic communication, coordination, and cooperation to become fully engaged collaborative partners.

Compassion

Compassion is caring in action, and humanism is a core philosophy of WesternU. Together, compassion and humanism guide the nursing curricula in the context of valuing diversity and the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities. The recipients of inclusive, compassionate, and humanistic nursing care are unique; complex beings influenced through genetic, biological, behavioral, cultural, and environmental factors.

Boyer Model of Scholarship

Scholarship is integral to the learning environment and defines outcomes achieved by students, faculty, and staff. The CGN embraces the *Boyer Model of Scholarship* as a dynamic framework fitting for leaders

in advanced practice nursing who engage in activities that transcend knowledge acquisition and traditional learning.

Discovery

The pursuit of new knowledge through research and creative activities such as publishing journal articles, authoring/editing books, presenting papers at conferences, reporting on new research, and/or literary works.

Integration

The connection of knowledge and discovery into larger patterns and contexts, creating new perspectives and transcending disciplinary boundaries to give meaning to isolated facts.

Application

The employment of disciplinary expertise to results that can be shared and/or evaluated by peers. The application advances beyond the provision of service to those within WesternU to the greater community of health care and education.

Sharing knowledge

Theory, evidence-based practice, and research create a dynamic process that fosters creativity, independence, clinical reasoning, and moral imagination.

Student-Centered Learning Environments

Student-Centered Learning Environments position students to be active participants in the learning experience. In safe and respectful environments, faculty engage in interactive processes with students. In this atmosphere, faculty are facilitators and role models while focusing on the provision and organization of the curriculum to guide students in the construction and structure of their nursing knowledge. Together, students and faculty co-create a milieu of respectful questioning, mutual growth, and evaluation. Students bring self-directed learning, a desire to excel, reflection, a respectful attitude, and willingness to participate in active engagement activities. The CGN administrative staff guide students through university and college processes to assure support within learning environments.

References

Alqurashi, E. (2020). *Handbook of research on fostering student engagement with instructional technology in higher education*. IGI-Global.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2021) [The Essentials: Competencies for Professional Nursing Education \(aacnnursing.org\)](https://www.aacnnursing.org/essentials)

American Nurses Association. (2025). Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretative Statements. Silver Springs, MDoyers, E. L. (1990). *Scholarship reconsidered: Priorities of the professoriate*. Jossey-Bass.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2021). *The future of nursing 2020–2030: Charting a path to achieve health equity*. The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25982>.

Program Offerings

The CGN offers two graduate degrees and three professional certificates.

Degrees and Certificates

- Master of Science in Nursing Degree
- Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree
- Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate
- Post-Master's Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate
- Post-Graduate Emergency Nurse Practitioner Certificate

MSN Entry Pathways

- Master of Science in Nursing-Entry (Bachelor's to RN/MSN) (Nurse Generalist)

MSN Advanced Degree Concentrations

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

DNP Degree Concentrations

- Leadership
- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)

Program Descriptions

Online learning is integrated into all programs. Our hybrid graduate level courses combine online learning with campus-based seminars, synchronous virtual sessions, and practice intensive or clinical/procedural skills days specific to the program of study. Online learning includes reading and video assignments, asynchronous and/or synchronous discussion boards, group projects, written assignments, competency assessments, and other learning activities. On-campus or virtual synchronous sessions include didactic classes, clinical training and workshop simulation experiences, faculty and peer interaction, student presentations, competency assessments, and guest presentations. This educational model is designed to satisfy the needs of traditional and non-traditional learners, minimize time on campus for specific programs, and prepare graduate-level professional nurses for clinical practice. MSN-Entry courses also include online learning, clinical simulation, and interactive computer-based exercises in an on-campus environment.

International applicants applying for post-licensure programs are responsible for determining if the program selected is feasible to complete within their country of residence. All students will be expected to adhere to the policies, procedures and expectations as described within the CGN Catalog, program specific guidelines, and Clinical Handbook.

Nursing Curriculum – 30 Unit option for Licensed Vocational Nurses

The California Board of Registered Nursing mandates a 30-unit option and candidates completing this are eligible to take the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Examination (NCLEX) to acquire licensure as a Registered Nurse in the State of California. Other states may not recognize this option as valid preparation for R.N. licensure and therefore not grant licensure. Individuals completing this option are not graduates of Western University of Health Sciences, and a Master's degree in nursing is not awarded upon completion of the 30-unit option. Applicants are admitted on a space available basis. Students seeking this option should contact the College of Graduate Nursing Student Affairs office during May each year to determine space availability. Accepted students will need to show verification of a current LVN license, completion of all required pre-requisite courses, and complete a Non-Degree Seeking Student Application and if accepted must follow the same requirements to enter the program, such as background check, completing student health documentation and acquiring the needed uniforms or supplies.

MSN, Entry Program (MSN-E)

The MSN-E is designed as an entry into Master's level nursing for students with bachelor's degrees or higher that are not in nursing. MSN-E students complete 94 units (56 units didactic and 25 units clinical) in the curriculum. The MSN entry program adheres to the nursing education standards from the AACN Level I Essentials and Quality and Safety Education for Nursing (QSEN). Graduates of the program are prepared to lead patient quality and safety initiatives, apply evidence-based practice within interprofessional teams, and lead systems of care delivery.

The curriculum is delivered in six semesters with a full-time unit load and is campus-based with elements of virtual learning. Upon successful completion of all California Board of Registered Nursing–approved prelicensure coursework, including required clinical hours and licensure preparation components, students may apply to the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) for authorization to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Authorization to test is granted by the BRN following program verification and Board approval. Students will receive the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree upon successful completion of all program requirements.

The goal of the MSN-Entry program is to prepare students for entry into professional nursing practice to meet society's healthcare needs. The program develops graduates who think critically and demonstrate leadership in providing safe, competent, and evidence-based nursing care. The curriculum emphasizes application of the nursing process as a framework for clinical decision making and clinical reasoning. Through assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation, students develop the humanistic, technical, and scientific competencies required for professional nursing practice. The program integrates evidence-based principles of health promotion, disease prevention, restoration of health, client advocacy, cultural sensitivity, safety, hygiene, care, and comfort. The curriculum for the MSN-Entry program combines on-campus didactic learning, clinical training at regional clinical facilities, hands-on skills practice, and competency-based simulation experiences. Students can expect to be on campus for at least one to two days per week, with additional time at clinical agencies depending on semester and course requirements. MSN-Entry students must complete the Master Project series, a scholarly work aligned with program objectives, that integrates AACN's *Level One Essentials*. MSN-E students who wish to enter one of CGN's NP or DNP programs will first receive the MSN degree and will be required to submit a Post-Master's application. Students wishing to enter the NP Certificate or DNP programs must submit a standard application through the Office of Admissions. MSN graduates wishing to enter the Post-Master's NP Certificate program will be required to have completed 1800 hours (1 year, full-time) registered nurse (RN) practice experience (paid employment) prior to acceptance into the Post-Master's NP Certificate program. Students wishing to enter the DNP/FNP or DNP/PMHNP program, without one year of RN work experience may do so and will be placed into the appropriate pathway and are expected to work as an RN during their first year in the program. All WesternU CGN graduates will be given priority consideration for a seat offer.

Students are required to complete the CGN's MSN-Entry pre-program orientation prior to the start of the program. The orientation introduces graduate students to CGN policies, expectations, and resources.

MSN/Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN/FNP)

The Master of Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN/FNP) curriculum requires the completion of 42 didactic semester units and 15 clinical semester units over a two- or three-year period. A three-year curriculum option is recommended for those students who are taking Advanced Physical Assessment, Advanced Pathophysiology, and Advanced Pharmacology courses. MSN/FNP students average 8-12 clinical hours per week starting the second semester in the program.

Graduates of the MSN/FNP program will be prepared to meet the criteria established by the CA-BRN as advanced practice nurses and be eligible for national certification. The goal of this program is to guide students learning the FNP role by incorporating the AACN Level II Essentials and the Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, sixth edition (2022)

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nonpf.org/resource/resmgr/ntfstandards/ntfs_final.pdf.

Family Nurse Practitioners work in various health care settings independently, or in groups of health care professionals, under collaboratively developed and legal standardized procedures (under California code).

Students are required to successfully complete CGN's pre-program orientation prior to entry. The orientation introduces graduate students to online learning, CGN policies, expectations, and resources.

Doctor of Nursing Practice / Leadership

The DNP/Leadership program is designed for Master's level prepared nurses. The curriculum requires the completion of 30-39 didactic semester units and (1,000 hours of supervised direct or indirect practice hours) over a two-year period. Supervised clinical and practice hours completed in the student's Master's in Nursing program or related health care field may contribute to the DNP practice hours, per CGN review. A maximum of 500 graduate hours can be transferred, while the remainder of DNP practice hours are completed in the program of study. DNP practice hours can be completed each semester. Students complete a practice-based DNP Scholarly Project and submit a written manuscript describing their work. Graduates will be prepared for the expanding role functions and the requirements for future advanced nursing practice. The goal of this program is to guide students by incorporating the AACN Level Two Essentials to transform health care delivery, recognizing the critical need for clinicians to design, evaluate, and continuously improve the context within which care is delivered. Nurses prepared at the doctoral level with a blend of clinical, organizational, economic, and leadership skills will positively affect health systems, policy, and safety outcomes.

Students are required to successfully complete CGN's pre-program orientation prior to entry. The orientation introduces graduate students to online learning, CGN policies, expectations, and resources.

Doctor of Nursing Practice/Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP/FNP)

The DNP-FNP program is designed for bachelor's or Master's level prepared nurses. The curriculum requires the completion of 63 didactic semester units, 15 clinical semester units (675 hours) of supervised patient care hours, and 325 additional Doctoral level practice hours over a three-year period. Clinical and/or practice hours may be initiated or completed each semester. Students begin clinical experiences in the second semester, after they have been approved by the FNP faculty in Advanced Physical Assessment skills, and pass Advanced Pathophysiology, and Advanced Pharmacology courses. Students will then average 8-12 clinical hours per week starting the second semester in the program. A curriculum plan is available for students that do not have one year (1800 hours) of RN work experience, and they begin clinical in the fifth semester. Students will be required to complete 1800 hours of RN employment by the end of the first year in the program. If students do not fulfill the RN work requirement, they will not be allowed to move on to the second year of the program. If students are not employed as an RN by the end of the first semester in the first year will be referred to the Student Performance Committee in alignment with the SPC Procedures contained in this Catalog.

Graduates will be prepared to meet the criteria established by the CA-BRN as advanced practice nurses and be eligible for national certification. The goal of this program is to guide students' learning to the FNP role by incorporating the AACN Level II Essentials and the Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner

Education, sixth edition (2022). Students will achieve the FNP Program outcomes by graduation. Family Nurse Practitioners work in a variety of health care settings independently, or in groups of health care professionals, under collaboratively developed and legal standardized procedures (under California code) or pursuant to their respective state board of registered nursing regulations and statutes.

Students will complete a practice-based improvement DNP Project during the last year of the DNP/FNP program. Engagement and preparation for this Project begins during the second year of the DNP/FNP program. With completion of this Project, graduates will be prepared for the expanding role functions and the needs of future advanced nursing practice. Nurses prepared at the doctoral level with a blend of clinical, organizational, economic, and leadership skills will be able to positively affect health systems, policy, and safety outcomes.

The curriculum consists of self-directed hybrid/online courses designed around competency-based assignments/experiences, exams, and online synchronous or asynchronous discussions where students will collaborate with faculty to achieve learning objectives in the DNP/FNP curriculum. Further, seminars will include two synchronous/virtual or campus-based practice seminar intensives each semester for FNP and DNP core courses, or other synchronous virtual activities as designed within didactic sessions. The seminars include clinical skill-building labs and competency assessments, selected clinical experiences with faculty, interactive lectures, student presentations and content assessments across the DNP/FNP curriculum.

Students must successfully complete a comprehensive competency course at the end of each of the three years of the FNP/DNP program to continue progression towards degree or certificate attainment. .

Students are required to successfully complete CGN's pre-program orientation prior to entry. The orientation introduces graduate students to online learning, CGN policies, expectations, and resources.

Doctor of Nursing Practice/Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (DNP/PMHNP)

The DNP program is designed for bachelor's or Master's level prepared nurses. The curriculum requires the completion of 57 didactic semester units, 15 clinical semester units (675 hours) of supervised patient care hours, and 325 additional Doctoral level practice hours over a three-year period. Clinical and/or practice hours will be completed each semester. Students begin clinical experiences in the second semester, after they have been cleared by the PMHNP faculty in basic clinical assessment skills. A curriculum plan is available for students that do not have one year (1800 hours) of RN work experience, and they begin clinical in the fifth semester. *Students will be required to complete the 1800 hours of RN employment by the end of the first year in the program. If students do not fulfill the RN work requirement, they will not be allowed to move on to the second year of the program. If students are not employed as an RN by the end of the first semester in the first year will be referred to the Student Performance Committee in alignment with the SPC Procedures contained in this Catalog.*

Students will complete a practice-based DNP Project. Graduates will be prepared for the expanding role functions and the needs of future advanced nursing practice. Nurses prepared at the doctoral level with a blend of clinical, organizational, economic, and leadership skills will affect health systems, policy, and safety outcomes.

Graduates will be prepared as advanced practice nurses and be eligible for national certification. The goal of this program is to guide students' learning the DNP/PMHNP role by incorporating the AACN Level II Essentials, the Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, sixth edition (2022), and the Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice (2014). Students will achieve the DNP/PMHNP

Program outcomes by graduation. Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners work in a variety of health care settings independently, or in groups of health care professionals.

The DNP/PMHNP is a hybrid online learning program that delivers the knowledge and skills to prepare graduates for the PMHNP role DNP degree within a flexible schedule. The campus-based seminar intensives on the WesternU California campus, asynchronous/synchronous learning activities, and clinical experiences in a designated community will prepare graduates for clinical and doctoral practice within a variety of healthcare settings.

Students are required to complete pre-program orientation prior to entry. The orientation introduces graduate students to online learning, CGN policies, expectations, and resources.

Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate (FNP)

The Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate program (Post-Master's FNP) curriculum requires 32 didactic semester units and 15 clinical units and can be completed in six semesters (two years). This program requires the completion of 675 precepted clinical hours. The Post-Master's FNP certificate program is for nursing professionals who have a Master's Nursing degree, Master's degree in a health-related discipline, and/or a Doctorate in Nursing and want to become certified as an FNP. Individuals who complete the curriculum will be prepared to meet the criteria established by the CA-BRN or other states as applicable as advanced practice nurses and be eligible for national certification. The goal of this program is to guide students learning the FNP role by incorporating sections of the Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, sixth edition (2022). Students will achieve the FNP Certificate Program outcomes by graduation.

Students are required to successfully complete CGN's pre-program orientation prior to entry. The orientation introduces graduate students to online learning, CGN policies, expectations, and resources.

Post-Master's PMHNP Certificate (Post-Master's PMHNP)

The PMHNP Certificate program curriculum requires 25 didactic semester units and 15 clinical units (675 hours) and can be completed in 4 semesters.

The Post-Master's PMHNP certificate program is for nursing professionals who have a Master's in nursing degree, Master's degree in a health-related discipline, and/or a doctorate in nursing and want to become certified as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. The goal of this program is to guide students learning the PMHNP role by incorporating the Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice (2014) and sections of the Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, sixth edition (2022). Individuals who complete the curriculum will be prepared to meet the criteria established by the CA-BRN or other states as applicable pursuant to their board of nursing rules, regulations, and statutes as advanced practice nurses and be eligible for national certification. Students will achieve the PMHNP Certificate Program outcomes by graduation.

Students are required to successfully complete CGN's pre-program orientation prior to entry. The orientation introduces graduate students to online learning, CGN policies, expectations, and resources.

Post-Graduate Emergency Nurse Practitioner Certificate (ENP)

The Post-Graduate Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP) Certificate curriculum is a flexible web-accessible program including clinical preceptorship in the urgent care and emergency department setting. The ENP Post-Graduate Certificate is offered for the nationally certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). The goal

of this program is to guide students learning the ENP role by incorporating the American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners (AAENP) and Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) competencies for the ENP Specialty (2021).

The curriculum itself consists of two, 6-unit courses that combine didactic, synchronous sessions, and clinical immersion experience. The ENP curriculum includes 500 supervised clinical practice hours in the urgent care and emergency department setting divided across the two semesters. CGN's ENP post-graduate certificate curriculum prepares students in two semesters and become eligible to apply for the national certification exam as Emergency Nurse Practitioners via the American Association of Nurse Practitioners-Certification Board (AANP-CB). Two mandatory on-campus procedural skills days are offered each semester.

Instructional Design

Campus Learning (MSN-E Pre-Licensure Courses)

The curriculum for the MSN-E program is designed for adult learners and uses traditional campus-based learning with online access to a Learning Management System. Didactic courses include lectures, simulated clinical experiences, clinical skills training, and structured laboratory experiences. Students will begin acute care hospital experiences during the first semester.

Hybrid Learning (Post-Licensure Courses)

The College of Graduate Nursing programs are designed for the adult learner and to promote critical thinking. The design uses educational and instructional learning theories that emphasize outcome competencies as the desired goal, rather than time on task, and individualized instructional strategies as well as classroom and clinical instruction.

The instructional modality that is most evident in this curriculum is online learning. Several courses may include or require asynchronous and synchronous discussion sessions in which students and faculty participate in collaborative learning. These sessions may be delivered as synchronous sessions via video-conferencing software, the Learning Management System, and other varied virtual platforms, depending upon the program or course of study. Students are expected to be online and engaged in learning activities from the first day of the first semester, including being on camera, dressed professionally as defined by the College Catalog. The CGN Learning Management System (LMS) is Canvas and courses are designed to provide the learner with the information needed to be successful in each course including learning objectives, content, learning activities, evaluation methods and grading criteria.

Integrated Courses

All MSN degree programs and for the Post-Master's DNP Leadership, BSN to DNP Nurse Practitioner concentrations (i.e., FNP or PMHNP), are delivered and studied across settings of care delivery. Didactic and clinical instruction are concurrent throughout all programs.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Domains for Nursing Practice

All CGN's curricula are grounded in domains that are broad distinguishable areas of competence that, when considered in aggregate, constitute a descriptive framework for the practice of nursing (AACN, 2021 p. 10).

<p>Domain 1: Knowledge for Nursing Practice Descriptor: Integration, translation, and application of established and evolving disciplinary nursing knowledge and ways of knowing, as well as knowledge from other disciplines, including a foundation in liberal arts and natural and social sciences. This</p>
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distinguishes the practice of professional nursing and forms the basis for clinical judgment and innovation in nursing practice.
Domain 2: Person-Centered Care Descriptor: Person-centered care focuses on the individual within multiple complicated contexts, including family and/or important others. Person-centered care is holistic, individualized, just, respectful, compassionate, coordinated, evidence-based, and developmentally appropriate. Person-centered care builds on a scientific body of knowledge that guides nursing practice regardless of specialty or functional area.
Domain 3: Population Health Descriptor: Population health spans the healthcare delivery continuum from public health prevention to disease management of populations and describes collaborative activities with both traditional and non-traditional partnerships from affected communities, public health, industry, academia, health care, local government entities, and others for the improvement of equitable population health outcomes.
Domain 4: Scholarship for Nursing Discipline Descriptor: The generation, synthesis, translation, application, and dissemination of nursing knowledge to improve health and transform health care.
Domain 5: Quality and Safety Descriptor: Employment of established and emerging principles of safety and improvement science. Quality and safety, as core values of nursing practice, enhance quality and minimize risk of harm to patients and providers through both system effectiveness and individual performance.
Domain 6: Interprofessional Partnerships Descriptor: Intentional collaboration across professions and with care team members, patients, families, communities, and other stakeholders to optimize care, enhance the healthcare experience, and strengthen outcomes.
Domain 7: Systems-Based Practice Descriptor: Responding to and leading within complex systems of health care. Nurses effectively and proactively coordinate resources to provide safe, quality, and equitable care to diverse populations.
Domain 8: Informatics and Healthcare Technologies Descriptor: Information and communication technologies and informatics processes are used to provide care, gather data, form information to drive decision making, and support professionals as they expand knowledge and wisdom for practice. Informatics processes and technologies are used to manage and improve the delivery of safe, high-quality, and efficient healthcare services in accordance with best practice and professional and regulatory standards.
Domain 9: Professionalism Descriptor: Formation and cultivation of a sustainable professional nursing identity, accountability, perspective, collaborative disposition, and comportment that reflects nursing’s characteristics and values.
Domain 10: Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development Descriptor: Participation in activities and self-reflection that foster personal health, resilience, and well-being, lifelong learning, and support the acquisition of nursing expertise and assertion of leadership.

Program Outcomes

Upon program completion, graduates of the Western University of Health Science’s College of Graduate Nursing MSN and DNP Programs will be able to:

	CGN MSN Program Outcomes	CGN DNP Program Outcomes
1	Incorporate specialized knowledge, theories, and models of care from nursing and related disciplines across all domains of scholarship.	Develop effective strategies and specialized knowledge using models of care from nursing theories, nursing research and related disciplines across all domains of scholarship.

	CGN MSN Program Outcomes	CGN DNP Program Outcomes
2	Demonstrate leadership skills through decision-making in high quality health care delivery using complex principles in the design, delivery, and evaluation of health care at the microsystem level.	Apply and implement leadership skills through decision-making in high quality health care delivery using complex principles in the design, delivery, and evaluation of health care at the macrosystem level.
3	Lead quality initiatives that integrate and analyze best available evidence to improve and sustain optimal health care quality and safety at the individual and system level.	Design, develop, and evaluate quality initiatives that integrate the best available evidence that improves and sustains optimal health care quality and safety at the population level.
4	Critically assess and integrate evidence for evaluating practice outcomes across care delivery systems.	Design, implement, and evaluate processes across care delivery systems to direct changes in practice outcomes and trends in population health.
5	Participate in the application of nursing knowledge through the integration of theory and research.	Translate relevant theories and research to improve practice and practice environments.
6	Analyze current and emergent technologies to support safe practice environments, optimize patient safety, maximize cost effectiveness, and improve health outcomes.	Develop and execute strategies to extract data from information systems including databases that optimize healthcare models and improve health outcomes.
7	Discuss the multi-level political, social, and ethical factors of nursing practice and health care delivery systems.	Apply and engage in multi-level political, social, and ethical factors associated with nursing practice and health care delivery systems to demonstrate advocacy for vulnerable populations.
8	Participate in interprofessional collaborative teams throughout multilevel healthcare delivery systems.	Lead interprofessional collaborative teams throughout multi-level healthcare delivery systems.
9	Apply population-based care concepts throughout all levels of healthcare delivery.	Engage as a change agent to lead population-based care throughout all levels of healthcare delivery.
10	Engage in guided and spontaneous reflection of one's practice.	Demonstrate cognitive flexibility in managing change within complex environments.

Additionally, eight concepts associated with professional nursing practice are integrated within the curriculum, in accordance with AACN's Essentials (2021): Clinical Judgment; Communication; Compassionate Care; Diversity, equity, and inclusion; Ethics; Evidence-based Practice; Health Policy; Social Determinants of Health (pp. 12-14).

Graduate level nurses actively participate in the four spheres of care: disease prevention/promotion of health and well-being; chronic disease care; regenerative or restorative care; and hospice/palliative/support care (AACN Essentials, 2021,p.19).

Certifications and Licensures

National Council on Licensure Exam (NCLEX)

The California Board of Registered Nurses (CA BRN) allows the candidates for RN licensure to complete the necessary paperwork for the NCLEX examination two weeks prior to the completion of the necessary MSN-E curriculum as defined by the CA-BRN. Students are directed to the [California BRN](#) for current information regarding the NCLEX application. The college will submit required verification of courses following the BRN guidelines. If the student is not successful in passing the exam the first time, they will be required to wait forty-five days before retaking the exam.

National Certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner

Graduates are strongly encouraged to take one of the national certification examinations as a Family Nurse Practitioner within six months of graduation. Most states require students to pass a national certification exam for state recognition, and most employers require certification. Therefore, students are encouraged to contact their Board of Registered Nursing prior to enrollment to clarify state requirements. Currently there are two bodies that provide certification for family nurse practitioners: the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) of the ANA, and the AANP-CB. Students should check with their state's board of nursing to determine if a specific exam is required. Preparation for national certification examination occurs throughout the FNP courses and during a mandatory certification review course within the curriculum.

National Certification as an Emergency Nurse Practitioner

Emergency Nurse Practitioner certificate graduates are eligible to take the national certification examination as an ENP following completion of the program with the AANP-CB. Preparation for this national certification examination is done throughout the ENP courses and procedural skills intensive, and national certification review software is utilized for certification preparation. Emergency Nurse Practitioner certification review courses are provided by several professional educational associations, and students are highly encouraged to enroll to prepare for achieving national certification as an ENP.

National Certification as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Graduates are strongly encouraged to take the national certification examinations as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner within six months of graduation. Most states require students to pass a national certification exam for state recognition, and most employers require certification. Therefore, students are encouraged to contact their BRN prior to enrollment to clarify state requirements. Currently, the ANCC and AANP-CB offer the PMHNP national certification examination. Students should check with their state board of nursing to determine if a specific exam is required. Preparation for national certification examination occurs throughout the PMHNP courses, and during a mandatory review course within the curriculum.

Personal Competencies for Admission and Matriculation

A candidate for admission to the CGN programs must possess, or be able to achieve through reasonable accommodation, certain intellectual, emotional, and physical abilities, to perform the activities required in the following sections. Upon matriculation to the program, the student must continue to possess, or be able to achieve through reasonable accommodation, the personal competencies outlined below throughout their progression in the College of Graduate Nursing program. Graduate Nursing requires the performance of specific essential functions, which include but are not limited to the broad skills categories defined below.

For candidates or students who require a reasonable accommodation to meet the competencies outlined below, please contact the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy (^{HF}CDHP) by email, disabilityaccommodations@westernu.edu, by phone, (909) 469-5441, or visit the [HFCDHP web site](#). Accommodations must be approved by ^{HF}CDHP and are not provided retroactively (if approved after the start of the program/semester). Reasonable accommodation is determined on an individualized basis and may not result in an undue administrative or financial burden. A fundamental alteration of a course or program is not considered a reasonable accommodation.

Under all circumstances, a candidate or student must have the capacity to manage their lives and anticipate their own needs and should be able to perform the following in a reasonably independent manner, with or without a reasonable accommodation.

Computer Literacy

Students are expected to have basic computer literacy skills prior to enrollment. Students should demonstrate skills in basic word processing, Microsoft applications (Word, PowerPoint, and Excel), use of the Internet, e-mail, and on-line literature searches. Students will be expected to meet Basic Computer Competencies, Information Literacy, and Clinical Information Management competencies as outlined in the TIGER (Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform) initiative.

Intellectual Skills

In addition to essential academic content and performance skills, each course requires learning activities that foster intellectual skill development for critical thinking, decision making, and reflection as well as oral and written communication.

Technical Guidelines for Nursing Practice (MSN-E)

Nursing education requires not only the accumulation of scientific knowledge, but also the simultaneous acquisition of technical competencies and professional attitudes and behavior. Nursing school faculties have a responsibility to society to matriculate and graduate highly competent nurses who practice safely using critical thinking skills. Admission to nursing school has been offered to those most qualified for the practice of nursing. Technical standards presented in this document are prerequisites for admission and graduation from the CGN at WesternU. Graduates of the CGN must have the knowledge and skills to function safely and with competence in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care services. All courses in the MSN-E curriculum are required to develop the essential knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to become a competent nurse.

There are essential functions or abilities necessary for admission and progression in the CGN at WesternU. The candidate must be able to perform all essential functions (with or without accommodation). These essential functions include, but are not limited to, the following:

Observation (sensory)

Candidates must be able to observe patients and demonstrations, in close proximity and at a distance, to learn skills and to gather patient data (e.g., observe a patient's color, respiratory rate, gait, appearance, posture, etc.). Candidates also must possess functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. Observation is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

Communication

Candidates must have the ability to communicate orally and in writing with patients, families, groups, and other members of the healthcare team, as well as faculty and peers. Candidates must also be able to interpret communication with others. Candidates also must be able to read and comprehend written materials at a graduate level.

Psychomotor Skills

Candidates must have sufficient motor function to perform nursing tasks and to obtain data from patients using tactile, auditory, and visual maneuvers. Candidates must be able to execute motor movements to provide required general nursing care as well as emergency treatments.

Mobility and Stamina

A student must possess sufficient gross and fine motor skills and endurance to provide safe and effective nursing care in all health care settings. Students must have the ability to perform basic life support (including CPR); function in an emergency situation; safely assist a patient in moving (e.g., from wheelchair to commode, from chair to bed, lift and transfer from gurney to bed); calibrate and use equipment; perform treatments and procedures; apply pressure to stop bleeding; manipulate diagnostic instruments to adequately perform a physical assessment; and sit, stand and move about in patient environments for 12-hour periods.

Tactile

A student must have sufficient tactile ability to perform a physical assessment or examination of a patient and to conduct procedures necessary for nursing care. Students must be able to perform palpation and other functions necessary for a physical examination; assess texture, shape, size and vibration; note temperature changes in skin and equipment; perform therapeutic functions (e.g., inserting a urinary catheter or IV, change dressings, give medications).

Intellectual and Cognitive Abilities

Candidates must be able to measure, calculate reason, analyze, reflect, synthesize, integrate, and apply information in making clinical judgments. Problem solving, a clinical skill required of nurses, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates must be able to comprehend 3-D relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

Candidates must possess the emotional well-being required to use their intellectual abilities fully. This may be demonstrated by exercising good judgment and emotional intelligence; promptly completing all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients and aggregates; and developing mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, families and other health care workers as well as faculty and peers. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function when confronted with uncertainties and ambiguities.

Ethical Standards

A candidate must demonstrate the ability to reason morally and practice nursing in a professional, civil, and ethical manner with patients, families, and other health care workers as well as with faculty, staff, colleagues, and peers. The CGN faculty, staff, and students adhere and expect student adherence to the *American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses (2025)*.

Admissions Policies and Procedures

Department of Education Regulations for Out of State Applicants

State and federal laws require that colleges and universities obtain authorization to offer online degree or certificate programs in any state where their students reside. All applicants from outside the state of California, or those in-state applicants who are contemplating moving to another state at some time during the completion of the program should review the current list of acceptable states located on our website before submitting their application. ([Link: List of Acceptable States](#)).

Notice of Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

In accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) is committed to ensuring a campus community free from unlawful discrimination. WesternU strictly prohibits unlawful discrimination in all its programs, activities, admissions, and employment. WesternU prohibits discrimination based on the following characteristics:

- Race (including traits associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles)
- Ethnicity, Color, and National Origin
- Immigration Status and Ancestry
- Sex, Gender, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression
- Sexual Orientation
- Physical or Mental Disability
- Age
- Religion (including religious dress and grooming practices)
- Medical Condition and Genetic Information
- Marital Status
- Pregnancy (including childbirth, breastfeeding, or related medical conditions)
- Military or Veteran Status
- Perceived Characteristics - Discrimination is prohibited if an individual is perceived to have any of the above characteristics.
- Association with Protected Groups – Discrimination based on association with a person or group with one or more protected characteristics is also prohibited.
- Other Legally Protected Classes – WesternU complies with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances regarding discrimination.

WesternU has designated the Associate Vice President for the Office of Title IX and Equal Opportunity Compliance Initiatives (OTIXEO) to coordinate WesternU's compliance with federal and state civil rights laws regarding protected characteristics. Inquiries about WesternU's prohibitions against discrimination, harassment, and retaliation can be directed to Associate Vice President (AVP) for the Office of Title IX and Equal Opportunity Compliance Initiatives (OTIXEO) or to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

Reasonable Accommodations during the Admissions Process

Candidates seeking accommodations during the admissions process, including Interview Day, must contact the Office of Admissions with sufficient advance notice for ^{HF}CDHP to evaluate the request and arrange any approved accommodations. Certain accommodations, however, require scheduling through external vendors and cannot be arranged on short notice or the day of the event. Requests submitted

without sufficient advance notice may limit WesternU's ability to provide some accommodations for that activity; although HFCDHP and Admissions will continue to explore reasonable alternatives whenever possible. The Office of Admissions coordinates accommodation requests with HFCDHP. Admissions does not evaluate disability status or review medical documentation; its role is limited to referring applicants to HFCDHP and implementing HFCDHP approved accommodations for specific admissions activities. All requests for accommodations will be handled in a manner that is consistent with the university's policies and in full compliance with the ADA, ADAAG, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and applicable state laws. For additional information regarding HFCDHP's student accommodation process please refer to <https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/registration-process/>, or review the *Student Disability Accommodation Process* section.

Application Requirements

The application requirements shown in this catalog apply to applicants who are seeking entry for the 2026/2027 academic year. Current admission and application requirements for the programs offered in the College of Graduate Nursing, including prerequisite coursework requirements, can be located on the [Prospective Student website](#).

MSN-E

- Completed application, which includes responses to essay questions regarding motivation for graduate study to become a nurse, personal career goals, and how an applicant's background strengthens their aptitude to become a Master's prepared nurse
- Two reference forms to be completed by supervisor or faculty (non-relative) who can address the applicants' academic performance and/or work ethic
- Curriculum Vitae/Résumé
- Application fee
- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
- TOEFL scores for ESL international applicants
- On-campus or virtual interview (if applicant is selected for an interview)

Post-Master's FNP, Post-Master's PMHNP, MSN/FNP

- Completed Application, which includes responses to essay questions including the following:
 - MSN/FNP programs: Applicants address their understanding of advanced practice nursing, their personal career goals and how their background strengthens their aptitude regarding becoming a Master's prepared nurse and/or an advanced practice nurse.
 - Post-Master's FNP and Post-Master's PMHNP programs: Applicants address how their obtainment of a post-graduate certificate will contribute to their professional development through advancing practice.
- Two Reference Forms for MSN/FNP; One reference form for Post-Master's FNP and Post-Master's PMHNP. Reference forms are to be completed by a supervisor or faculty (non-relative) who can address the applicants' academic performance and/or work ethic (reference forms are waived for CGN alumni)
- Curriculum Vitae/Résumé
- Application Fee (waived for CGN alumni)
- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
- License number, state, and expiration date for all applicable, active and unencumbered licenses
- TOEFL scores for ESL international applicants

- Phone interview (for selected applicants)

MSN to DNP /Leadership, BSN to DNP/FNP, and BSN to DNP/PMHNP

- Completed application, which includes responses to essay questions regarding career trajectory and readiness for doctoral education
- Two reference forms to be completed by a supervisor or faculty (non-relative) who can address the applicants' academic performance and/or work ethic (reference forms are waived for CGN alumni)
- Curriculum Vitae/Résumé
- Sample of scholarly writing (scholarly academic paper, journal publication, position statement, policy brief, Master's thesis, or written case study)
- Application Fee (waived for CGN alumni)
- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
- License number, state, and expiration date for all applicable, active, and unencumbered licenses and certifications
- Documentation of previous practice hours from MSN program (if applicable)
- TOEFL scores for ESL international applicants
- Phone interview (for selected applicants)

Post-Graduate Emergency Nurse Practitioner Certificate (ENP)

- Completed Application
- One Reference Form (faculty or employers within the past two years; reference forms are waived for CGN alumni)
- Curriculum Vitae/Resume
- Scholarly Essay
 - The scholarly essay should reflect how obtaining the ENP certificate would contribute to the applicant's professional development through advancing practice.
- Application Fee (waived for CGN alumni)
- Official transcript reflecting graduate degree in nursing (all official transcripts from other schools attended are due upon acceptance)
- License number, state, and expiration date for all applicable, active, and unencumbered licenses and National Certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner by the ANCC or AANP
- Phone Interview (for selected applicants)

Admissions decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Prerequisite Requirements

Nursing Curriculum 30 Unit option – Licensed Vocational Nurse to RN (LVN-RN)

- LVN unencumbered licensure
- GPA of 3.0
- Completion of the following prerequisite courses with a grade of C or better in each:
 - Human Physiology (4 semester units) with lab
 - Microbiology (4 semester units) with lab

Master of Science in Nursing – Entry Concentration (MSN-E)

- Bachelor's degree (BA or BS) from a regionally accredited U.S. institution

- GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 semester units or 90 quarter units
- Completion of the following prerequisite courses with a grade of C or better in each:
 - Communications/English Composition (6 semester units; two courses minimum of 3 semester units each/8 quarter units; two courses minimum of 4 quarter units each)
 - Statistics (3 semester units/4 quarter units)
 - Social Sciences (3 semester units/4 quarter units)
 - Psychology (3 semester units/4 quarter units)
 - Nutrition (3 semester units/4 quarter units)
 - Human Anatomy (4 semester units/6 quarter units) with lab (minimum of 5 semester units/7 quarter if combined with Physiology)
 - Human Physiology (4 semester units/6 quarter units) with lab (minimum of 5 semester units/7 quarter if combined with Anatomy)
 - Microbiology (4 semester units/6 quarter units) with lab

Master of Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN/FNP)

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing from a nationally accredited program (Bachelor’s in a non-nursing related field will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis)
- GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 semester units or 90 quarter units
- Registered Nurse (RN) active and unencumbered licensure in the state where precepted clinical hours will be completed
- Statistics (2 semester units/3 quarter units) with a grade of C or better from a regionally accredited U.S. institution.
- 1 year (1,800 hours) of experience as a Registered Nurse (RN)

Doctor of Nursing Practice with Leadership Concentration (DNP)/Leadership

- A Master of Science in Nursing degree from a nationally accredited program. Graduate degrees in related fields will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 for overall and last 60 semester or 90 quarter units.
- An active and unencumbered Registered Nurse (RN) license in the state where you will obtain your practice hours.
- Completion of a statistics course (2 semester units or 3 quarter units) with a grade of “C” or higher.

Doctor of Nursing Practice with Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration (DNP)/FNP

- A Bachelor of Science or Master of Science in Nursing degree from a nationally accredited program. (Bachelor’s or Master’s degrees in related fields will be considered on a case-by-case basis).
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 for overall and last 60 semester or 90 quarter units.
- An active and unencumbered Registered Nurse (RN) license in the state where you will obtain your practice hours.
- One year (at least 1800 hours) of experience as a Registered Nurse (RN). Applicants without one year (at least 1800 hours) of experience as an RN still qualify for this program. You will be placed in the appropriate modified curriculum and will be required to complete 1800 hours of RN

employment by the end of the first year in the program. Students that do not fulfill the RN work requirement will not be allowed to move on to the second year of the program.

- Completion of a statistics course (2 semester units or 3 quarter units) with a grade of “C” or higher.

Doctor of Nursing Practice with Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration (DNP)/PMHNP

- A Bachelor of Science or Master of Science in Nursing degree from a nationally accredited program. (Bachelor’s or Master’s degrees in related fields will be considered on a case-by-case basis).
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 for overall and last 60 semester or 90 quarter units.
- An active and unencumbered Registered Nurse (RN) license in the state where you will obtain your practice hours.
- One year (at least 1800 hours) of experience as a Registered Nurse (RN). Applicants without one year (at least 1800 hours) of experience as an RN still qualify for this program. You will be placed in the appropriate modified curriculum and will be required to complete the 1800 hours of RN employment by the end of the first year in the program. Students that do not fulfill the RN work requirement will not be allowed to move on to the second year of the program.
- Completion of a statistics course (2 semester units or 3 quarter units) with a grade of “C” or higher.

Post-Master’s Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate (FNP)

- Master of Science in Nursing from a nationally accredited program. Non-Nursing Master's or doctoral degrees will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
- GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 semester units or 90 quarter units
- Statistics (2 semester units/3 quarter units) with a grade of C or better from a regionally accredited U.S. institution
- Registered Nurse (RN) active and unencumbered licensure in the state where precepted clinical hours will be completed
- 1 year (1,800 hours) of experience as a Registered Nurse (RN)

Post-Master’s Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate (PMHNP)

- Master of Science in Nursing from a nationally accredited program. Non-Nursing Master's or doctoral degrees will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
- GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 semester units or 90 quarter units
- Statistics (2 semester units/ 3 quarter units) with a grade of C or better from a regionally accredited U.S. institution
- Registered Nurse (RN) active and unencumbered licensure in the state where precepted clinical hours will be completed
- 1 year (1800 hours) or more of experience as a Registered Nurse (RN)

Post-Graduate Emergency Nurse Practitioner Certificate (ENP)

- Graduate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited nursing program
- Registered Nurse (RN) active and unencumbered licensure in the state where precepted clinical hours will be completed
- Verification of family nurse practitioner national certification by the ANCC or AANP.

International Applicants

International applicants who are not U.S. citizens and who are living in the U.S. should be prepared to provide proof of legal U.S. residency at the time of interview. Proof of legal U.S. residency is required prior to any offer of acceptance. For detailed information, please visit our web page for [International Students](#).

Transfers from Other Schools/Course Waivers/Prior Military Education and Experience

The College of Graduate Nursing does not accept undergraduate course work for graduate level credit, (except for the MSNE BRN core courses required for licensure). Graduate level courses taken at accredited institutions and prior military education and experience can be used for credit transfer if the coursework meets the corresponding requirements of the CGN course.

A student may request transfer of credit in the following situation: If they can demonstrate that a similar graduate level course was taken at another accredited academic institution, within the past five years, with a minimum grade of C+ (pre-licensure) or B- (post-licensure) earned in that course and with equivalent semester units. A similar course is defined as a course that covers a significant portion of the WesternU course content (to be determined by the WesternU course instructor and Program Director).

No transfer credit will be given for the following courses:

- GN 5410 – Advanced Emergency Care Concepts for the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Clinician I
- GN 5420 – Advanced Emergency Care Concepts for the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Clinician II
- GN 5900 – Collaborative Project
- GN 5990 – APN Master’s Project
- GN 5999 – Master’s Project
- GN 8075 – DNP Systems Thinking I: Developing the Scholarly Project
- GN 8076 – DNP Systems Thinking II: Implementing the Scholarly Project
- GN 8077 – DNP Systems Thinking III: Evaluation and Dissemination of the Scholarly Project
- GN 8090 – Practice Immersion Project
- GN 8691 – Clinical Comprehensive I
- GN 8692 – Clinical Comprehensive II
- GN 8693 – Clinical Comprehensive III
- GN 8999 – Continuous Enrollment/Dissertation

Procedure for Transfer Credit

Any student who wishes to receive transfer credit must submit in writing to the Student Affairs professional for the College of Graduate Nursing at least thirty (30) days prior to matriculation in the program:

1. Their intent to transfer course credit, and;
2. Documentation, including course description, course outlines, course syllabus, completed work, transcripts, military transcripts, etc., to demonstrate course equivalency. Military transcripts in accordance with American Council Education (ACE) guidelines shall contain the following information:
 - Personal service member data
 - Military course completions —with full descriptions and credit recommendations
 - Military occupations — full descriptions, skill levels, and credit recommendations
 - College-level test scores

It is the responsibility of the student to provide sufficient documentation to show equivalency to WesternU coursework and all course syllabi from previous work must reflect the semester and year in which the course was taken (matching the semester and year listed on transcripts). Upon receipt of the student's intent to use transfer credit and the written documentation of course equivalency, CGN Student Affairs will submit the written documentation to the program Director, and faculty member teaching the WesternU course that is being challenged for review and consideration of credit transfer approval. The faculty member will review the documentation and issue a recommendation to allow or deny the transfer to the Program Director at least 10 days prior to the date of registration. No tuition fees are paid for transfer credits, and the courses do not count in the computation of the GPA.

Partial Course Waiver (Challenge) Policy

Course challenge is defined as a student's request for exemption from a specific CGN course requirement (assignment, clinical hours, or partial course requirement) due to prior similar coursework including prior military education and experience. The College of Graduate Nursing recognizes that our nursing students come into the college with previous academic experience, military education and experience or nursing degrees and that not all courses meet the full transfer requirements. Therefore, a student may choose to challenge a portion of the course or request to have a portion of the clinical hours waived.

Requests for waivers must meet the same standards and follow the same required procedure as listed in the Course Transfer policy. See the Clinical Policy section of this catalog for more information regarding FNP or PMHNP clinical hour waiver.

Appealing Course Transfer or Waiver Decisions

Students have a right to appeal the faculty member's recommendation to deny a course transfer or waiver. Such appeals will be forwarded to the Dean of the CGN, or Dean's designee, who has final authority in the waiver determination. The Registrar will be informed of the final determination of the course transfer request. Decisions related to Course Transfer or Waiver Decisions are not appealable to the Provost (See [University Catalog](#), Student Appeal Process).

Residency Requirement

A minimum of 17 units must be taken in residence at Western University of Health Sciences to receive a Nurse Practitioner Certificate or Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University, 12 units for the ENP certificate, 18 units for the Post-Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, and 35 units for the combined DNP/NP degree.

Transferability of Courses Taken at WesternU

Whether WesternU course credits transfer to another institution is at the complete discretion of the institution to which the student may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the degree or certificate earned at WesternU is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which the student may seek to transfer. Further information regarding the transferability of courses taken at WesternU can be found in the [University section of the Catalog](#).

Additional Matriculation Requirements

Computer Requirements for all Programs

Due to the nature of the College of Graduate Nursing programs, laptop computers with webcam and Internet access are required. Students must meet the [WesternU Student Laptop Requirements](#) outlined by [WesternU Technical Support](#).

CPR Certification

Current American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers certification is required throughout all programs of study. All students are required to complete an American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers course prior to beginning courses. It is the responsibility of the student, not the College of Graduate Nursing to assure that requirements are met and maintained. A copy of a current card verifying completion of a course must be on file in the College prior to beginning the program. If not completed, students will be blocked from registration or removed from classes. Students can contact the American Heart Association at www.americanheart.org for dates, times, and location of CPR certification classes.

ENP Post-Graduate Certificate Program will require an addition to Basic Life Support / Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life (PALS) certification course via an American Heart Association approved program.

Additionally, applicants selected for admission will be subject to the following:

Criminal Background Check during the Admissions Process

Your admission into the College of Graduate Nursing will be contingent upon a satisfactory criminal background check, which is to be completed and submitted prior to matriculation. The background check is required to verify that your history is consistent with the University's Standards of Student Conduct, and to ensure that you will be qualified to participate in the required clinical education experiences. The College of Graduate Nursing reserves the right to rescind an offer of admission based on the results of a criminal background check or if it is not completed in a timely manner prior to matriculation.

If a criminal conviction or other relevant sanction is shown on a background check, hospital facilities and clinical sites have broad discretion to restrict an individual from being assigned to the facility/site for the rotation/clinical experience. Therefore, please be aware that certain convictions may prevent students from entering hospital facilities or clinical sites, which may directly hinder a student's ability to complete their academic program successfully. Furthermore, certain convictions may also prevent students from obtaining employment and/or licensure in the State of California or other states.

Applicants are advised to check with the appropriate State(s) licensing boards to determine whether their backgrounds may be a barrier to future licensing. Supplemental or additional background checks may be required during the course of their program to meet the requirements of clinical education sites. Procedures for obtaining a background investigation will be provided to the student by the appropriate academic program staff. Students have an affirmative obligation to report all arrests and convictions to College of Graduate Nursing administration to proactively identify solutions (if possible) and/or determine the impact on future licensure. For further information related to criminal background checks including those required during enrollment, please see the Criminal Background Investigations or Live Scan Fingerprinting section of this Catalog and the University Catalog

Drug Screening during the Admissions Process

Applicants for admissions will be required to complete a drug screening within 90 days of matriculation as a condition for admissions. The College of Graduate Nursing reserves the right to rescind an offer of admission based on the results of the screening or if it is not completed in a timely manner prior to matriculation. For further information related to Drug Screening requirements applicable to enrolled students, please

review the Drug Screening section in this Catalog and the [Drug and Alcohol on Campus Policy](#) in the University Catalog.

Student Release of Information

All entering students will need to sign a release of information form authorizing the College of Graduate Nursing to release the student's social security number, health and immunization status, background check results, BLS verification, and health insurance coverage to any requesting agency that enters into a clinical partnership with the College. Additionally, some facilities may require fingerprinting. This is required for government and military health facilities who serve clients 18 years of age or younger.

Pre-Program Orientation

During Welcome Week/Orientation, students in all programs are required to attend mandatory synchronous sessions, whether on campus or online. All students entering the College of Graduate Nursing will be required to complete the asynchronous/online orientation course via Canvas LMS (Learning Management System). Students must accept their seat offer and pay the admission deposit before taking the course. Students will have 4 to 8 weeks to complete this course during the Summer term prior to Fall term matriculation, or 4 to 8 weeks prior to Spring Entry. Completion of this course is required to register for the first semester of the first year. Students will work through self-paced, asynchronous modules which will provide orientation to the resources and skills needed to successfully navigate through the students' academic program. There is no tuition cost charged for this course, and no letter or pass/no pass grade is given for this course. Successful completion of this course requires the completion of all modules and associated knowledge checks, which can be taken as many times as needed to pass. Students will be provided with information on how to access and the orientation course via email from college administration.

New Student Orientation/Welcome Week

All students enrolled in the College of Graduate Nursing will be required to attend the University campus orientation in August or December (for DNP/Leadership and ENP students who select a Spring entry) prior to beginning classes in their first year. College orientation will be conducted virtually via video conferencing (e.g. Zoom) for all post-licensure programs and elements of both virtual and in person for the MSN-Entry students. During orientation, students will participate in both college and university sessions. Students will be provided with information regarding the orientation program. Following college guidelines, students are welcome to invite some of their family members to attend the annual White Coat ceremony, which may occur at the end of orientation week. The White Coat ceremony is mandatory for MSN-E students. Students will have the opportunity to purchase nursing equipment, textbooks, and uniforms (if applicable) during the on-campus portions of Orientation/Welcome Week.

Registration

All WesternU students are required to register by the registration deadlines specified by the University Registrar. Registration dates are posted on the [Registrar's Office](#) website. Failure to register by the deadline may be grounds for administrative withdrawal. All students registering after the posted deadline will be assessed a \$30.00 per business day late fee.

Full tuition and fees and all prior debts must be paid in full on or by posted deadlines each academic year. Matriculation is subject to the satisfactory completion of all academic requirements and payment of all outstanding debts to the University. The receipt of the final transcript(s) from all colleges/universities attended and a physical examination with documentation of required immunizations (if applicable) prior to registration are additional requirements for incoming students.

Registration Late Fee Appeals

If you are assessed late fees for a registration period, you may submit an appeal to the Registrar. For additional information on the appeal process, please see the [Registration Late Fees](#) page on the Registrar's Office website.

Student Health Insurance Requirement

Full-time students at Western University of Health Sciences are required to have active health insurance while enrolled. Students are automatically assessed half of the entire year's insurance premium and will be enrolled in the student health insurance plan until they submit proof of coverage that meets the University's requirements, except for DNP/Leadership students, who are waived from this requirement. For additional information on student health insurance requirements and/or waiving out of the student health insurance plan, please see the [Student Health Insurance](#) page on the Registrar's Office website.

Student Initiated Changes in Enrollment Status

Course Drop/Withdrawal

Students may voluntarily drop a class by working with the CGN Student Affairs professional and completing the necessary paperwork. For students enrolling in Pre-licensure courses, students may voluntarily drop a class by working with the CGN Student Affairs professional and completing the necessary paperwork. Course drops are processed as follows:

0-20% of Course Completed (Based on Course Start/End Dates)	Course is removed from student's registration and will not appear on student's academic transcript.
20-99% of Course Completed (Based on Course Start/End Dates)	Course is assigned a grade of 'W' to indicate the student withdrew from the course. 'W' grades will appear on the student's academic transcript but will not be included in the student's GPA calculation.
100% of Course Completed (Based on Course Start/End Dates)	The course is assigned the grade earned.

Voluntary Leave of Absence

A student may request a Voluntary Leave of Absence (LOA) with the occurrence of a medical emergency or illness, personal issues, financial hardship, military service, or pursuit of academic research opportunity.

For additional information on requesting a Voluntary Leave of Absence, please see 'Student Initiated Changes in Enrollment Status' in the University Catalog, General Academic Policies and Procedures section.

Voluntary Withdrawal

A student may request to fully separate from WesternU at any time by submitting a Voluntary Withdrawal form. Students interested in initiating the Voluntary Withdrawal process must begin by contacting their College Dean, or designee. The College will submit the signed Voluntary Withdrawal form to the Registrar's Office for processing and distribution. Please note that once processed, WesternU email address, MyPortal access, and all other online services are inactivated immediately following withdrawal from the University. For additional information on the Voluntary Withdrawal process, please see 'Student Initiated Changes in Enrollment Status' in the University Catalog, General Academic Policies and Procedures section.

Time Limits

Standard admission and matriculation to the CGN programs are intended for full-time enrollment. Depending upon the program, some students may select a half-time/extended curriculum. Each of the programs offered is built around a sequence of courses that builds knowledge and skills attained in prior courses. Consequently, academic progression is based on successful completion of each course in a program, in sequence. Students are expected to enroll in and successfully complete each course in a sequential progression. Most CGN programs offer an extended curriculum that meets full time semester status to meet financial aid requirements.

Half-time or extended enrollment is possible for all programs except for the MSN-entry program. Students requiring half-time enrollment are encouraged to meet with the program director prior to matriculation. Students who decide that they need to change from full-time enrollment to half-time enrollment are required to meet with the program director before sending the request to the CGN Student Affairs professional.

The maximum time allowed for completion of all academic requirements is shown below. Students who are unable to complete degree requirements prior to the maximum time for completion may be referred to the Student Performance Committee (SPC), which may result in the Administrative Withdrawal of the student.

Full-Time Enrollment	Normal Time to Completion	Maximum Time to Completion
MSN/FNP	2 years	3 years
MSN-E	2 years	3 years
FNP	2 years	3 years
ENP	2 semesters	3 semesters
PMHNP	4 semesters	6 semesters
Full-Time Enrollment	Normal Time to Completion	Maximum Time to Completion
DNP/Leadership	3 years	4 years, 6 months
DNP/FNP	4 years	6 years
DNP/PMHNP	4 years	6 years

Extended Enrollment	Normal Time to Completion	Maximum Time to Completion
MSN/FNP	3 years	4 years, 6 months
FNP	3 years	4 years, 6 months

Full-Time/Half-Time Status

- Graduate nursing students enrolled in 5.00 or more units are considered full-time students.
- Graduate nursing students enrolled in 3.75 to 4.99 units are considered three-quarters-time students.
- Graduate nursing students enrolled in 2.50 to 3.74 units are considered half-time students.

Administrative Withdrawal

Please see 'Administrative Withdrawal from University/Program' section in the University Catalog.

Tuition and Fees

By action of the Board of Trustees, CGN tuition and fees for the 2026/2027 academic year (subject to change) are as follows:

Institutional Fees

\$1,138.00	Per-credit hour tuition, DNP, DNP/FNP, & DNP/PMHNP
\$1,475.00	Per-credit hour tuition, MSN-E
\$1,192.00	Per-credit hour tuition, MSN/FNP & MSN/PMHNP
\$1,192.00	Per-credit tuition, Post-Master's FNP & PMHNP
\$1,192.00	Per-credit hour tuition, Post-Graduate ENP
\$1,061.00	Clinical Fee per semester for clinical enrollment
\$835.00	Continuous Enrollment Fee
\$40.00	Annual Student Body Fee*
\$978.00	Student Service Fee
\$475.00	Graduation Fee for degree seeking students
\$180.00	Completion Fee for non-degree students (Post-Master's FNP & PMHNP, Post-Graduate ENP)

Non-institutional Fees

\$400.00	Online Curriculum Support Fee, MSNE Year One
\$700.00	Online Curriculum Support Fee, MSNE Year Two
\$15.00	Name Tag (One-time cost)
\$30.00	Registration Late Fee (per business day)
\$50.00	Late Payment Fee (per month)
\$235.00	Annual Parking Permit (Auto) (optional)
\$118.00	Annual Parking Permit (Motorcycle) (optional)
\$40.00	Locker Key Replacement Charge (if applicable)
\$10.00	Student ID Replacement Fee

Additional Fees and Expenses (Pre-Licensure Programs)

\$2,200.00	Required texts (approximate)
\$200.00	Uniforms (approximate)
\$60.00	Background Check (approximate)
\$60.00	Drug Screening (approximate)
\$110.00	1-2-day Nursing Conference (required)
\$2,000.00	Computer (approximate)
\$600.00	Required Clinical Supplies
\$100.00	Required one-time fee for Typhon clinical log system access

Additional Fees and Expenses (Post-Licensure Programs)

\$2,000.00	Required texts and statistical software (approximate)
\$500.00	Medical Equipment (approximate)
\$2,000.00	Computer (approximate)
\$1,200.00	Lodging/Meals/Travel (varies based on distance/mode of travel)
\$500.00	FNP Review Course Fee for GN 8700 course (approximate, for each time taken)

\$500.00
\$100.00

Required Clinical Supplies (FNP students only)
Required one-time fee for Typhon clinical log system access

Administrative and Clinical Fees for Additional Terms

Students who are extending their program to complete their clinical requirements must pay the clinical fee each semester.

MSN students who are in progress with their final program completion (non-clinically related) will register for the GN 7999 continuous enrollment course and will be assessed the \$835.00 administrative fee for each semester until completion is reached.

DNP students in progress with the DNP Scholarly Project will register for the GN 8999 continuous enrollment course and will be assessed the \$835.00 administrative fee for each semester until DNP Scholarly Project status is reached.

Required Texts

Students are responsible for obtaining all required textbooks prior to the beginning of each semester. Students are encouraged to purchase textbooks through the Campus Store. Students may explore other purchasing options as well (other medical bookstores, on-line booksellers, etc.); however, the expectation is that students will be in possession of all required textbooks by the first day of the semester, regardless of the purchase source.

WesternU Campus Store Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Phone: (909) 469-5416

Order online any time by visiting <https://westernustore.com/>

Required Clinical Supplies

All Students

Personal Patient Protection in practice setting and laboratory sessions during our post-pandemic phase (N95, gowns, gloves, hospital masks) may be required during surges or upticks of infectious viruses. Adherence to Universal Precautions is always required

MSN-E

Students must have the following items:

- Two (2) Official CGN Uniforms
- Watch with a second hand
- WesternU Student White Coat (provided by the college)
- WesternU CGN Student Name Badge (to be worn at all times in clinical setting and on campus)
- Stethoscope with bell and diaphragm
- Penlight
- Kelly clamp
- Bandage Scissors
- Calipers
- Calculator

DNP/FNP, MSN/FNP, Post-Master's FNP

Students must have the following items:

- WesternU Student White Coat (provided by the College, to be worn at all times in clinical setting)
- WesternU CGN Student Name Badge (to be worn at all times in clinical setting and on campus)
- Ophthalmoscope/Otoscope (encouraged, but optional)
- Reflex Hammer (optional)
- Stethoscope with bell and diaphragm capabilities

DNP/PMHNP, Post-Master's PMHNP

Students must have the following items:

- WesternU Student White Coat (provided by the college)
- WesternU CGN Student Name Badge (to be worn at all times in clinical setting and on campus)
- Stethoscope with bell and diaphragm

Post-Graduate ENP

Students must have the following items:

- WesternU Student White Coat (provided by the college, to be worn at all times in clinical setting)
- WesternU CGN Student Name Badge (to be worn at all times in clinical setting and on campus)
- Ophthalmoscope/Otoscope/Reflex Hammer (optional)
- Stethoscope with bell and diaphragm capabilities (required)
- Personal Patient Protection in practice setting (N95, gowns, gloves, hospital masks) and adherence to Universal Precautions.

All equipment may be purchased from any medical supply company or the Campus Store.

General Academic Policies and Procedures

Academic Year

The College of Graduate Nursing has a twelve-month academic calendar, which begins in August and includes three semesters with intersessions between each semester. Approximate times for semesters are:

Fall Semester	August – December
Spring Semester	January – April
Summer Semester	April – August

The first year MSN-E students will have one introduction week in their first semester of study at the start of term and may have an additional week at the end of the semester for NCLEX preparation or clinical completion.

Academic/Clinical Advisement

All students are assigned to a faculty advisor upon matriculation into the program. Entering students are encouraged to contact their faculty advisor no later than the first month of enrollment in the program. Such contact may take place in person, on-line, or on the telephone. Although advisors are assigned, the student may, with the agreement of the Program Director, request a different advisor. Reasonable efforts will be made to assign a student to the advisor of choice.

Continuing students may contact designated faculty advisors and/or individual instructors on-line, by appointment in person or telephone, or at any seminar weekend. Regular and ongoing contact with the academic advisor is encouraged as one method to enhance success in the program.

Assignment Due Dates

Assignments for all classes will be submitted to the instructor on the date listed in the syllabus. Each instructor will clarify these dates at the beginning of each semester. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if any due date is unclear. If an assignment is submitted online, the student is responsible for ensuring that the assignment was received or posted in a timely manner. It is each individual instructor's discretion whether to accept late work. The instructor has the right to refuse to accept an assignment turned in after the due date. Late assignments may, at a minimum, receive point deductions. The instructor will notify the student at the beginning of each semester of the process for late assignments, if any. Postings after the closing of an on-line discussion board could result in a grade of zero.

Attendance Policies

Decisions related to attendance are final and not subject to appeal. Failure to meet attendance requirements in courses where attendance is graded or required as a threshold criterion may constitute a failure to meet Standards of Academic Progress and may result in referral to the Student Performance Committee under the Evaluation of Student Performance (Academic Hearing Process). Non-compliance with attendance requirements which reflect a pattern of unexcused absences may result in the student being referred to the Student Performance Committee for appropriate action which may include disciplinary action including failure of a course, repeating a course, or dismissal from the program. Decisions related to whether an absence is excused or unexcused are final and not subject to appeal.

If a medical condition or disability requires accommodations, such as more than the allowed absences per academic year, the student should complete the HFCDHP registration process as soon as possible. HFCDHP is the authorized entity at WesternU to approve reasonable accommodations under the ADA and Section 504. Registration includes the interactive process, which may include implementation of appropriate accommodations. Any absences deemed excused by the College does not constitute an authorization of reasonable accommodations and cannot serve as a substitute for the HFCDHP registration process.

Clinical Clearance

Clinical Clearance is the formal academic approval process required before a student may begin any clinical hours. For each preceptor and site, the student must submit a completed and signed Preceptor and Clinical Site Information Form, after which the college reviews for compliance with requirements (e.g., affiliation agreements, onboarding documents, background checks, immunizations, and any site- or state-specific requirements). Students may not start clinical hours until official clearance is issued via email by the college. Non-compliance with any Clinical Clearance requirement may result in a student being referred to the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in accordance with the SPC Procedures contained in this Catalog.

On-campus Programs

MSN-E Attendance for Campus-based Courses

Students may not miss any more than two class sessions per course. The student must notify the professor prior to the scheduled beginning of the class period of their absence. If a student misses more than two class sessions of a course, the student will be required to meet with the faculty member to determine if remediation is required to meet course objectives. The student may also be required to meet with the Program Director.

MSN-E Clinical Attendance

Clinical rotations are required for students to complete this program. Students are required to report to all clinical rotations dressed according to the MSNE Clinical guidelines, and to be on time, and ready to care for patients. If the student expects to be late or absent, the student must notify the clinical instructor and the rotation unit prior to the scheduled rotation start time. Clinical time is mandated by the Board of Registered Nursing; students who miss clinical hours will still be held responsible for mastering the clinical objectives within instructor-approved settings. To meet the objectives for clinical courses and Board of Nursing mandates, students may not miss more than 15% of the required clinical hours for the course. If a student misses more than 15% of the required clinical hours for a course, the student will fail the course. The student may appeal this decision through a written petition to the Director of the program. The Director, in consultation with the clinical faculty, will determine whether the student will be allowed to continue in the clinical rotation or seek a referral to the Student Performance Committee for further consideration. Students will not be allowed to attend practice experiences without timely submission of the appropriate paperwork, site-specific requirements, and/or up-to-date required health records (i.e. Clinical Clearance). Students are not permitted onsite without receiving the official clearance email from the MSN-Entry Clinical Coordinator or Assistant Director of MSN Entry Operations. Students who violate the Clinical Clearance process will be sent to the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in accordance with the SPC procedures contained in this Catalog.

Online/Hybrid Programs

Students are required to: review their courses in Canvas LMS (Learning Management System) the very first week of each semester, become familiar with the syllabus for each course, and remain active in all courses each week. Students are required to attend and participate in all scheduled synchronous sessions.

Face-to-face learning is a valued part of the curriculum. Attendance at entire class sessions is required for all scheduled instructional periods, be they on-line or during on-campus sessions. Absence or tardiness from instructional periods for any reason does not relieve the student from the responsibility for the material covered during instructional periods. Tardiness or absence patterns will be viewed as violations of Standards of Academic Progress and referred to the Student Performance Committee for review. Further, students who submit discussion board postings or other assigned coursework during class sessions will not receive credit for that work, unless submission is directed by the instructor during the session, as students are required to be engaged in learning activities.

Unscheduled Emergent Issues

If extenuating or emergent circumstances preclude in-person or virtual synchronous attendance (i.e. military obligations, serious illness, extreme weather), the student is required to notify the Director of their program as soon as possible. The Director, in consultation with program faculty, will determine if remediation for missed courses can be accommodated through alternative assignments, technology, or make-up examinations. The exact details of the remediation will be determined by the Director in consultation with the faculty of record. The student must understand that missed classes could result in academic suspension or the need for the student to take a leave of absence. Additionally, students who extend their program beyond the normal expected date of completion may be required to attend missed sessions (curriculum) and are subject to administrative fees (continuation fees).

Non-Emergent Issues

Absences from synchronous sessions, whether virtual or in-person, due to non-urgent issues may result in an automatic failed grade for the course(s), and students may be referred to the Student Performance Committee.

BSN to DNP and PM DNP Clinical/Practice Experience Attendance

1,000 hours of practice experience (direct or indirect) are required to meet the DNP standards in accordance with AACN. A minimum of 500 of the required hours must be obtained at the DNP level in the PM DNP program. DNP practice hours will be recorded and monitored throughout each semester, and a faculty member will serve as a coordinator for the practice experience. In addition, each student will have a practice mentor at each agency in which they complete practice hours. In the BSN to DNP program, both FNP and PMHNP students must complete a total of 675 clinical hours (in role concentration area) and the residual 325 hours must be completed within the DNP practice hours. As a practice-based program, it is expected that students complete all practice hour requirements and cumulative DNP Scholarly Practice projects. Students are responsible for notifying the clinical agency and/or clinical coordinator before the scheduled time if they are unable to attend a planned practice experience.

Students will not be allowed to attend clinical experience without submission of the appropriate paperwork and written approval from the CGN as outlined in the Clinical Clearance process. Students who demonstrate non-compliance with the Clinical Clearance process will be sent to the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in accordance with the SPC Procedures.

Note: Once accepted into the DNP/Leadership program, students are required to show verification of supervised clinical hours from their MSN or other Master's health related program to receive past hours.

FNP Clinical Attendance

As a clinically based program, it is expected that students will follow the guidelines as presented in the syllabus for the GN 8570 (Clinical Experience) course and in the Clinical Preceptor Guide. Unexcused

absences from planned clinical experiences are not acceptable. The Clinical Preceptor will inform the Clinical Administrator of all unexcused absences within 72 hours of the absence. As stated in the syllabus for GN 8570 (Clinical Experience) course, students are responsible for notifying the Clinical Preceptor before the scheduled clinical time if they are unable to attend. It is understood that all clinical experiences are concurrent with the didactic content of the program. To this end, most students begin their clinical rotations in the second semester of the program, after they have completed competency assessments of their Physical Assessment skills, Advanced Pharmacology, and Advanced Pathophysiology. DNP/FNP students will average 8-12 clinical hours per week. MSN/FNP and Post-Master's FNP students will average 12-16 clinical hours per week. Students will not be allowed to attend clinical experience without submission of the appropriate paperwork and written approval from the CGN as outlined in the Clinical Clearance process. Students who demonstrate non-compliance with the Clinical Clearance process will be referred to the appropriate Program Director and the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in accordance with the SPC procedures contained in this Catalog.

ENP Clinical Attendance

As a clinically based program, it is expected that students will follow the guidelines as presented in the syllabus for the GN 5410/5420 (Clinical Experience) course and in the Clinical Preceptor Guide. Unexcused absences from planned clinical experiences are not acceptable. The Clinical Preceptor will inform the Clinical Administrator of all unexcused absences within 72 hours of the absence. As stated in the syllabus for GN 5410/5420 (Clinical Experience) course, students are responsible for notifying the Clinical Preceptor before the scheduled clinical time if they are unable to attend. It is understood that all clinical experiences are concurrent with the didactic content of the program. To this end, students begin their clinical rotations in the first semester of the program. Students will not be allowed to attend clinical experience without submission of the appropriate paperwork and written approval from the CGN as outlined in the Clinical Clearance process. Students who demonstrate non-compliance with the Clinical Clearance process will be sent to the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in accordance with the SPC procedures contained in this Catalog.

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Clinical Attendance

As a clinically based program, it is expected that students will follow the guidelines as presented in the syllabus for the GN 8580 (Clinical Experience) course and in the Clinical Handbook. Unexcused absences from planned clinical experiences are not acceptable. As stated in the syllabus for GN 8580 (Clinical Experience) course, students are responsible for notifying the Clinical Preceptor before the scheduled clinical time if they are unable to attend. It is understood that all clinical experiences are concurrent with the didactic content of the program. Students will not be allowed to attend clinical experience without submission of the appropriate paperwork and written approval from the CGN as outlined in the Clinical Clearance process. Students who demonstrate non-compliance with the Clinical Clearance process will be referred to the Program Director and the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in accordance with the SPC procedures contained in this Catalog.

Requesting Religious Accommodation

In keeping with the University's commitment to humanism, WesternU recognizes and supports the provision of academic reasonable accommodation based on a person's sincerely held religious belief. A reasonable accommodation is one that can be implemented without materially interfering with the University's legitimate educational or operational objectives. The most common request for academic religious accommodation concerns class attendance during the observance of major religious holy days and celebrations.

Students wishing to be excused from class attendance for religious observances must submit a written request to the official WesternU email address of the instructor prior to their absence and receive a written response from the instructor acknowledging receipt prior to any absence as stated in the policy above. Alternative request methods, including but not limited to verbal communication, text messages, hard copy letters, notes, phone calls, and voicemail, will not be accepted. Students are responsible for satisfying all academic requirements for a course as defined by the instructor.

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor(s) about requests for excused absences within the first two weeks of the class each semester after reviewing course syllabi for potential scheduling conflicts. If such conflicts occur during the first two weeks of classes in the semester, the student must notify the instructor(s), in writing at least three calendar days (72 hours) before the date that they will be absent.

The faculty of WesternU shall accommodate students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from any curricular activities. It is the responsibility of the instructor(s) to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed due to the absence.

Religious accommodation requests are not limited to holiday observances and may arise from a wide range of faith-based practices and commitments, including but not limited to scheduled prayer, dietary restrictions, fasting periods, religiously mandated dress or grooming, ritual purification practices, and deeply held theological or philosophical beliefs. Because the nature and scope of such requests vary considerably, each will be evaluated individually based on its particular circumstances. In such instances, students should contact the Dean's Office to discuss such religious accommodation requests. The Office of Humanism is available as a resource throughout this process and may be engaged as circumstances warrant.

Retaliation is Prohibited. The University prohibits retaliation against students who request a religious accommodation or who participate in an approved accommodation. An employee who violates this anti-retaliation provision may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

Grievance Procedure: In the event that agreement cannot be reached regarding an academic religious accommodation, the student should bring the issue to the relevant college dean and to the Office of Student Success and Student Life via email studentlife@westernu.edu for review and resolution as applicable. If advice in resolving the issue is needed, the Office of Humanism will be consulted, as appropriate.

CGN Online Testing Policy

The College of Graduate Nursing (CGN) at Western University of Health Sciences is committed to integrity in all its programs. To ensure the security and integrity of the examination process, CGN may require periodic proctored examinations.. CGN defines a proctored exam as monitoring a student while the student takes the examination.

The CGN curriculum includes courses that may require proctored competency examinations. The CGN faculty may include proctoring other tests or quizzes at any time during the course as well.

CGN faculty may also choose to utilize online, remote proctoring services during quizzes or examinations. The remote proctoring services are cloud-based systems that normally integrate with the Canvas LMS. Online proctoring systems may use a combination of AI and remote, live proctors.

The online proctoring service authenticates the identity of the test taker and captures the entire examination session, including sound and video. CGN faculty may be alerted immediately or may review recordings if suspicious behavior is detected or reported.

To ensure successful proctoring, there are environmental and technical requirements. Students are responsible to carefully adhere to the directions to meet the requirements.

Environmental Requirements:

- A quiet, secure, fully lighted room for the examination
- No other people in the room, where applicable or spaced, assigned seating in campus classrooms
- Sit at a clean desk or clean table as directed (not in a bed or sofa if allowed to take from home)
- No talking out loud or communicating with others by any means (except for contact with the faculty member in an emergency)
- No leaving the room. If leaving the room is necessary, a signal must be done by raising a hand prior to leaving the room
- Nothing except computer and external cameras on the desktop or tabletop - removal of all books, papers, notebooks, or other materials, unless specifically permitted in written guidelines for a particular examination
- External cameras, when possible, should be placed on the lid of the laptop or where it will have a constant, uninterrupted view of the test taker
- No writing visible on desk or on walls, water flasks, etc.
- No music playing
- No other computers or other digital devices running in the exam room, including mobile phones
- No navigating away from the exam/test/quiz
- No headphones or ear buds allowed
- Webcam must be focused on the individual test taker
- Lighting must be good quality. Overhead is preferred

Technical Requirements:

Students will need:

- A computer with a webcam AND a microphone (internal or USB)
- Note: The system IS NOT compatible with smart phones, tablets (e.g., Kindle Fire or iPad)
- The Google Chrome browser with the remote proctoring service extension installed
- A reliable Internet connection (see Internet Speed section in [WesternU Student Laptop Requirements](#))

Technical Help:

Students who encounter technical problems with proctoring should:

- 1) Ensure that **Google Chrome** is the current browser
- 2) Ensure that remote proctoring service extension is installed

Technical support for students is available via **live chat or e-mail** if the user continues to experience technical issues.

Information on Privacy and Security: WesternU and CGN adheres to protecting the privacy of students. additional information regarding privacy and security, please refer to the proctoring service's website.

Electronic Mail Correspondence Policy

Faculty, staff, and students of the CGN are expected to respond to electronic communication within 72 hours (3 business days) of receipt. All CGN e-mail users must adhere to the following guidelines, in addition to the University's Acceptable Use of University Computing Resources policy.

1. Every student, faculty, and staff member of the CGN must have a current version of Antivirus software installed on any computer used to send and receive files or correspondence with other members of WesternU.
2. Faculty, staff, and students may only forward appropriate e-mail content and must carefully review all parts of an e-mail, including wording written by another person prior to forwarding an e-mail.
3. E-mail is not a completely secure communication medium. Faculty, staff, and students must take responsibility for e-mail content and be sensitive to confidential information.
4. The CGN bans the mass forwarding of social media and non-academic messages.
5. Faculty, staff, and students need to be aware that hoaxes, urban legends, and unsubstantiated virus warnings perpetuate fear and waste time. Prior to forwarding such messages, the sender must first substantiate it to the best of their ability and then only forward it to CGN for distribution to students and faculty.
6. Students, faculty, and staff must use their WesternU email for all WesternU related correspondence.

Student Disability Accommodation Process

The Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy (^{HF}CDHP) values the uniqueness of each student as an integral member of our diverse WesternU community and is the designated office responsible for determining and approving reasonable academic modifications or accommodations. WesternU does not discriminate on the basis of disability and complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and applicable state laws.

^{HF}CDHP's role in the accommodation process is to engage in an interactive process and to provide students with disabilities with the legally mandated and necessary support to afford equal access to the University's programs and activities. Only accommodations approved through ^{HF}CDHP constitute official reasonable accommodations under the ADA and Section 504. Instructional personnel may, at their discretion, provide temporary or informal academic flexibility; however, such measures do not replace or supersede the formal accommodation review and approval process administered by ^{HF}CDHP.

A student's disclosure of a disability or health-related condition alerts the University to a potential need for accommodation; however, students must complete the ^{HF}CDHP registration process for accommodations to be formally reviewed, approved, and implemented. Disclosure of a disability or the submission of documentation in response to a process or procedure established by their respective college or program, does not, by itself, constitute a formal request for accommodations.

Students must be able to perform all the essential functions of the program with or without reasonable accommodation. Essential functions are defined in the program's published personal competencies and are assessed on an individualized basis through the interactive process.

The University will provide reasonable accommodations but is not required to make modifications that would fundamentally alter the nature of essential requirements of a program, result in an undue burden, or pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

A fundamental alteration of a course or program is not considered reasonable accommodations.

Students must adhere to the enrollment and documentation procedures set forth by ^{HF}CDHP to formally request accommodation. In the event a student discloses a disability to instructional personnel or administrators outside of ^{HF}CDHP, the student will be referred to ^{HF}CDHP for guidance on the accommodation request process. Requests for academic consideration related to circumstances other than the student's own disability (e.g., family bereavement or common illness) are not considered requests for reasonable accommodation under the ^{HF}CDHP Provision of Academic Accommodation(s) Policy and Procedure, the ADA, or Section 504 and are governed by separate institutional or program policies.

Accommodation determinations for clinical, laboratory, and experiential education are made on an individualized basis and may involve coordination with clinical training sites. Approved accommodations must be consistent with program requirements, personal competencies, and patient safety obligations. The availability and implementation of accommodations in clinical settings may vary by site and setting. Requests are reviewed on an individual basis in accordance with applicable law. Accommodations are implemented prospectively following approval by ^{HF}CDHP.

Students may file a grievance with ^{HF}CDHP regarding the denial or implementation of disability accommodations or concerns about access or discrimination. Grievances should be submitted promptly, no later than 30 calendar days from the decision or activity being appealed. Filing a grievance will not result in retaliation. Information, including the right to file with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, is available at <https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/grievance-procedures/>.

To request accommodations and initiate the interactive process at WesternU, students are encouraged to visit <https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/> to learn more about the registration process, requirements for disability documentation, and to complete the Student Intake Form. ^{HF}CDHP will promptly engage with students in the interactive process to review and implement accommodation requests. All inquiries are handled confidentially, and students may obtain general information without registering.

To schedule an appointment with ^{HF}CDHP, please email disabilityaccommodations@westernu.edu. For the Pomona campus, students may call (909) 469-5441, or visit in person at 309 E. Second Street, Building 390, Pomona CA, 91766. Center hours are Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm. For more information, please visit <https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/>.

Videotaping, Audiotaping, Still Photography and Digitized Note Taking in Laboratories and Lecture Halls, or Associated Academic Activities

Videotaping, audiotaping, still photography and digital note taking are not permitted in the University laboratories, lecture halls, or clinical sites without the expressed permission of the involved instructor or

through approved accommodations from the ^{HF}CDHP office. For further details, please refer to this policy in the University Catalog.

CGN Social Networking Guidelines and Use of Electronic Devices

There are many potential benefits to social networking web sites; however, it is important to also recognize and consider the inherent risks that may come with their use. In an effort to inform and protect our faculty, staff, and students, the CGN has established the following guidelines.

1. Respect copyright laws, and reference or cite sources appropriately. Plagiarism rules apply to online usage as well.
2. Be aware that University/College or Hospital partner logos and trademarks may not be used without written consent.
3. Understand that students' online presence will also reflect upon their professional image. Weigh the risks and benefits of self-disclosure.
4. Always respect the relationship between patient and healthcare provider, student and faculty, employer and employee. There should be no photography, videography, or other electronic information capture while inside an assigned clinical facility.
5. Information that students post should comply with existing policies and laws governing privacy and dissemination of data.
6. Views that students state should be expressed as their own and do not represent the views of others.
7. Remember that electronic sites are never completely secure, and that what is posted, when seen by one, will eventually be shared with others.

Violations of these guidelines may be considered a violation of the Standards of Student Conduct and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct & Professionalism.

American Psychological Association Format

Scholarly writing is the cornerstone and capstone of critical thinking and evidence-based knowledge in graduate education. Students are expected to conduct professional nursing and interprofessional health literature reviews and analyze findings in scholarly formal papers and designated discussion boards throughout their course of study. Students are required to follow the current guidelines of the American Psychological Association (APA) for all scholarly submissions.

The College of Graduate Nursing requires the most current edition of the APA formatting style for all formal papers. *The latest edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* may be purchased at the Campus Store.

The DNP Scholarly Project

The DNP Scholarly Project is an independent individual student demonstration of program outcome competencies facilitated by a faculty Project Team Leader, and a DNP Practice Mentor. Detailed discussion of the project format, development, and implementation process is outlined in the DNP Scholarly Practice Project Handbook. Final approval of all project team members will be made by the College of Graduate Nursing DNP Director in collaboration with the program directors of the respective programs.

DNP Continuous Enrollment Policy

If a DNP student does not finish their DNP Project within the two/three years of coursework, they must enroll in CGN 8999 – Continuous Enrollment each semester, up to the four-and-a-half-year time limit for the completion of the degree. Students who do not enroll in CGN 8999 will be administratively withdrawn from the program. An \$835 extension fee is charged for each term of enrollment. CGN 8999 is a three-unit repeatable course that is not required for the DNP degree and is therefore not covered by financial aid. Students enrolled in CGN 8999 are considered half-time and eligible for loan deferment.

Student Concerns, Continuous Quality Improvement & Formal Complaint Policy

The College of Graduate Nursing welcomes constructive comments from students and values comments as a resource for positive change. Most complaints or issues of concern will be resolved through informal avenues such as:

- direct communication between parties,
- guidance from faculty advisor or other resources,
- completion of course evaluations at the end of each semester
- sharing information with the class representatives.

Formal Complaints

The college encourages informal resolution in all cases but recognizes the need for a formal complaints process for issues that cannot be resolved informally or that are more serious. Complaints may be regarding a 'student to student' matter, 'student to faculty', 'student to staff' or a general college-based issue. Formal complaints must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the initial incident and must be signed by the student to be considered a formal complaint. Due to the nature of our distance programs, an email coming directly from the student's WesternU email account will be considered as a signature by the student. Formal student complaints can be submitted to the CGN Administrative offices in person or via mail, fax, or email and should be addressed to the following people, in subsequent order, starting with #1, until the student feels their issue has been resolved:

1. Faculty member,
2. Advisor and/or Student Success Coach,
3. Program Director,
4. CGN Student Affairs professional,
5. Dean, or Dean's designee
6. University Vice President of Student Affairs or Provost,
7. President.

Emailed correspondence is sent to the person in the chain above. Mailed correspondence for 1-4 above can be sent to:

Western University of Health Sciences

College of Graduate Nursing, Attn. Student Affairs
309 East Second Street
Pomona, CA 91766-1854

Each recipient of the formal complaint will acknowledge receipt and will process the formal complaint within 10 business days by either:

- Resolving the issue from a neutral perspective.
- Referring to the Student Performance Committee (if academic related) or the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism (if student conduct related).
- Forwarding the case to the provost when it is an issue that cannot be resolved within the college.
- Determining that no action is warranted.

The complainant will then be notified of the results and any next steps to be taken.

Any complaint being reported more than 30 days after the initial incident shall be considered already resolved unless there are extenuating circumstances. Students shall not be retaliated against for filing a formal complaint but correspondingly should not use the formal complaint process irresponsibly. All formal complaints shall be tracked along with their outcomes to identify quality improvements in the college programs, and all pertaining files kept in the CGN Office of Student Affairs.

Protocol for Input on Matters of Student Concern

When an issue or dispute arises between students, the issue/dispute resolution process starts with communication among the involved students. If a satisfactory resolution is not arrived at that level, the matter should then be addressed with the faculty advisor. If the problem is not resolved at the faculty advisor, the Program Director will be involved. If the issue remains unresolved, the matter should be brought to the appropriate college Student Affairs personnel, then the College Dean, or Dean's designee. If the matter has not been resolved at those levels, the final arbiter is the Provost.

When an incident arises involving a faculty member, the first step in the issue/dispute resolution process is discussion with the faculty member. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved at that level, then the matter should be referred to the Program Director, then Dean or Dean's designee, in that order. The final arbiter is the Provost. Please note that grade appeals cannot be handled under this protocol.

When an incident arises involving a staff member, the dispute resolution process begins with the Supervisor/Program Director followed by the Dean, or Dean's designee. The Office of Human Resources is the final arbiter.

Failure to follow this sequence of steps will only serve to delay the appropriate resolution of the issue or dispute as the matter will only be referred to the correct level in this chain of responsibility.

This protocol does not apply to concerns involving discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. For information related to complaints involving discrimination, harassment and retaliation, including community resources, emergency and on-going assistance; mental health services; reporting options and other available support are as follows and can be located on the University's Title IX resource website.

Criminal Background Investigations or Live Scan Fingerprinting

To meet state and industry specific requirements, hospital facilities, school districts, and clinical sites, may require MSN-E, PMHNP, and FNP students to complete criminal background checks, including Live Scan fingerprinting, prior to beginning rotations/clinical experiences and/or during their enrollment at WesternU. Students admitted to the MSN-E program will be required to complete additional Live Scan fingerprinting at the end of their first and third semester, in preparation for Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and Community Health Nursing, and in their sixth semester in preparation for taking the nursing

boards. Students admitted to the FNP and PMHNP programs may be asked to complete Live Scan fingerprinting before entering county facilities or when listed as a requirement with the affiliated site. Consequently, to assure patient safety, students admitted to programs with clinical training requirements will be required to complete a criminal background check prior to matriculation and/or as a component of the scheduling of the rotation/clinical experiences.

If a criminal conviction or other relevant sanction is shown on a background check, hospital facilities and clinical sites have broad discretion to restrict an individual from being assigned to the facility/site for the rotation/clinical experience. Therefore, please be aware that certain convictions may prevent students from entering hospital facilities or clinical sites, which may directly hinder a student's ability to complete their academic program successfully. Furthermore, certain convictions may also prevent students from obtaining licensure in the State of California or other states.

Students are advised to check with the appropriate State(s) licensing boards to determine whether their backgrounds may be a barrier to future licensing. Supplemental or additional background checks may be required during the course of enrollment to meet the requirements of clinical education sites. Procedures for obtaining a background investigation will be provided to the student by the appropriate academic program staff. Students have an affirmative obligation to report all arrests and convictions to their College administration to proactively identify solutions (if possible) and/or determine the impact on future licensure. For further information related to criminal convictions, please see the Standards of Student Conduct section in the University Catalog.

Drug Screenings

WesternU students who are required to complete clinical rotations as part of their program of study may be subject to drug testing as a condition of placement at clinical rotation sites. In accordance with the [Drug and Alcohol on Campus Policy](#), students who receive a positive drug test result will be required to take affirmative steps to validate that result by submitting appropriate documentation within the timeframe and manner specified by the Student and Employee Health Office (SEHO). The illegal or unauthorized use or abuse of drugs that impair a student's ability to perform academically or disrupts others in the performance of their work or academic endeavors is strictly prohibited. Any failure to comply with a validation directive from SEHO may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism. Further, any failure to appropriately validate a positive drug test may be considered a violation of the [Drug and Alcohol on Campus Policy](#) and will be referred for to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from their program of study.

Drugs and Alcohol on Campus Policy

The Drugs and Alcohol on Campus Policy can be found in the University Catalog. Students will be required to complete a drug screening along with a background check on an annual basis to be permitted to begin any clinical practice experiences. This is in addition to what is outlined in the University or College Catalog. Students are expected to be aware of, and abide by, both University and applicable College policies. For further information related to Drug Screening, please review the [Drugs and Alcohol Policy](#) and the Student Health and Safety section in the University Catalog.

Service Animals on Campus

In accordance with university policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals with disabilities are permitted to bring service animals, as defined under the ADA. Emotional support animals

and pets are generally prohibited on campus and at clinical rotation sites. Students seeking further information should consult the Animals on University Property Policy, available at <https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/service-emotional-support-animals/>, or contact the ^HFCDHP for additional guidance at disabilityaccommodations@westernu.edu.

Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism, and Student Conduct (“Standards of Student Conduct”)

The Standards of Student Conduct encompass three components: the Standards of Academic Integrity, the Standards of Professionalism, and the Standards of Student Conduct. Collectively, these three components are referred to as the Standards of Student Conduct and are located in the [University Catalog](#). Students are expected to make themselves aware of and abide by the expectations contained in the Standards of Student Conduct and related policy statements. Ignorance is not a justification for violating the Standards of Student Conduct.

Because of the professional nature of a graduate health degree program, WesternU expects a higher standard of student conduct. The Standards of Student Conduct articulates violations that are most common and/or readily identifiable. Conduct violating the Standards of Student Conduct that are not specifically mentioned may still be subject to disciplinary action. Any questions regarding interpretation of the Standards of Student Conduct defined in the University Catalog should be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism.

The College level Standards of Student are outlined below are in addition to those outlined in the University Catalog. Students are expected to be aware of, and abide by, both University and applicable College policies.

College Code of Ethics

Honesty and ethical standards are dimensions of integrity. The CGN faculty and administration believe that professional integrity begins with the student nurse and the nurse as student. Academic integrity is essential to obtain scientific knowledge and competent skill acquisition required for successful completion of all CGN programs and the provision of safe patient care. Integrity is supported by the provisions of the American Nurses Association *Code of Ethics for Nurses* (2025). These are: <https://codeofethics.ana.org/provisions>

The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

- A nurse’s primary commitment is the recipient(s) of nursing care, whether an individual, family, group, community or population.
- The nurse establishes a trusting relationship and advocates for the right, health, and safety of recipient(s) of nursing care.
- Nurses have authority over nursing practice and are responsible and accountable for their practice consistent with their obligations to promote health, prevent illness, and provide optimal care.
- The nurse has moral duties to self as a person of inherent dignity and worth including an expectation of a safe place to work that fosters flourishing, authenticity of self at work, and self-respect through integrity and professional competence.
- Nurses, through individual and collective effort, establish, maintain, and improve the ethical environment of the work setting that affects nursing care and the well-being of nurses.
- Nurses advance the profession through multiple approaches to knowledge development, professional standards, and the generation of policies for nursing, health, and social concerns.

- Nurses build collaborative relationships and networks with nurses, other healthcare and non-healthcare disciplines, and the public to achieve greater ends.
- Nurses and their professional organizations work to enact and resource practices, policies, and legislation to promote social justice, eliminate health inequities, and facilitate home flourishing.
- Nursing, through organizations and associations, participates in the global nursing and health community to promote human and environmental health, well-being, and flourishing.

American Nurses Association. (2025). Code of ethics for nurses. American Nurses Publishing. ISBN 9781963052244.

Violations of this policy will be considered a violation of Standards of Student Conduct and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism.

College Standards of Academic Integrity

Students are responsible to adhere to the university's and CGN's expectations in the Standards of Student Conduct and related policy statements. Ignorance is not a justification for violating the Standards of Student Conduct. Students are advised to become familiar with these standards by reading those standards as defined in the University and College Catalog. As such, the CGN has no leniency for students who engage in behavior that may be considered cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication. Students who may be in violation of the expectations herein or those outlined in the Standards of Student Conduct and/or other relevant policies will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism. The following definitions of cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication are presented as examples and are not inclusive.

Academic integrity is the decision not to cheat. Cheating refers to intentional ethical and moral violations of community standards. The choice should always be to spend more time and effort to create ethical, original, scholarly work and adequately prepare for all didactic and clinical assignments.

To avoid all forms of academic misconduct:

- Prepare well for all classes, clinicals, and learning activities.
- Use only authorized notes, texts, or other resources during examinations. Carefully follow all directives by the course faculty, support staff, or HFCDHP proctors.
- Avoid submitting other students' assignments as your own work, unless it is a group project where contributions by each student are accurately identified.
- Avoid conferring or communicating with others during testing situations.
- Students should only submit original work that is uniquely their own work with properly attributed resources
- Direct classmates to their instructor if assistance is needed, rather than sharing work for their use.
- Report any suspected academic dishonesty to the appropriate authorities.

Violations of this policy will be considered a violation of Standards of Student Conduct and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism.

College Plagiarism Policy

The university is respectful of copyrights of content creators and requires permissible use of copyrighted materials in accordance with the United States copyright law. Hence, the University does not tolerate plagiarism in any form. In scientific writing, direct quotations are rarely used. Instead, information is summarized and paraphrased. In all cases, the source must be cited. Failing to indicate the source of information in scholarly scientific work is called plagiarism and is a form of academic misconduct (Hofman, 2023). Plagiarism is grounds for dismissal from the College. To ensure that students understand CGN's policy on academic honesty, students are required to sign a policy during orientation.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Using material without acknowledging the source. (This lack of acknowledgement is the most obvious kind of plagiarism.). This includes work completed in previous coursework later built on in subsequent courses.
- Borrowing someone else's ideas, concepts, results, and conclusions, and these ideas have been reworded.
- Summarizing and paraphrasing another's work without acknowledging the source.
- Presenting another's words as your own.
- Unauthorized use of someone else's computer, or transferring data from another person's device
- Improper use of generative AI, including failing to follow required AI disclosure and ethical guidelines

These rules apply to textual, visual, and electronic sources of information; always cite the source. If information is copyright protected, obtain permission from the owner before using the graphics or text for dissemination or replication.

Source and for additional information, please see:

Hoffman, A. H. (2023). *Scientific writing and communication, 5th ed.* Oxford University Press. ISBN:9780197613795

Strive to Avoid Unintentional Plagiarism:

- Learn how to paraphrase.
- Review Turn-It-In reports for papers
- Adhere to the current APA Writing Style guidelines for citing and referencing sources.
- Use the primary source of information, or the original, rather than secondary or tertiary sources.
- Seek the services of the Department of Learning Enhancement & Academic Development (LEAD) at WesternU.

Violations of this policy will be considered a violation of Standards of Student Conduct and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism.

College Fabrication Policy

Fabrication is a serious form of intentional misconduct; it is a form of cheating. Fabrication involves reporting nonexistent research.

- Falsification of data for a research paper.

- Altering the results of an experiment or survey.
- Listing a citation for a source not used.
- Stating an opinion as a scientifically proven fact.
- Falsely recording attendance at clinical and/or completion of required clinical hours.
- Falsification of clinical logs.

In addition to cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism, students should also avoid the following forms of academic dishonesty to maintain good standing within the College of Graduate Nursing:

Deception: Providing false information to an instructor concerning a formal academic exercise (e.g., giving a false excuse for missing a deadline, or falsely claiming to have submitted work).

Facilitation: Helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Ghostwriting: Submitting work written by a third party.

Impersonation: Assuming another student's identity with the intent to provide the student an advantage.

Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same work (with exact or similar content) in more than one class without permission from the instructor to do so.

Source: Bos, J. (2020). Fabrication and cheating. In: *Research ethics for students in the social sciences*. Springer. doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-48415-6_5

Violations of this policy will be considered a violation of Standards of Student Conduct and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism.

College Artificial Intelligence Disclosure – College of Graduate Nursing Policy

The College of Graduate Nursing utilizes software which incorporates AI technology detection tools to assist course faculty in monitoring instances of academic misconduct such as plagiarism, cheating, and misuse of generative AI. The results of these tools are preliminary, and any faculty's grading decisions may require further investigation.

Guidelines for Ethical Use of Generative AI

Acceptable, with Artificial Intelligence Disclosure:

- Brainstorming
- Outlining
- Citation
- Grammar/spelling/punctuation/mechanics

Unacceptable:

- Words copied directly to or from any generative AI software
- Use of quotes generated by AI without citation to the original source
- Submission of student work without Artificial Intelligence Disclosure (available in LMS)

The faculty reserves the right to supersede the guidelines above for any course elements. Please refer to the course faculty for further clarification.

Violations of this policy will be considered a violation of Standards of Student Conduct and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism.

Professionalism Concerns and Non-Disciplinary Interventions

The College of Graduate Nursing recognizes that professional behavior is a core competency of graduate health professions education. Accordingly, the College may evaluate reports that raises professionalism concerns, including but not limited to *professional demeanor, accountability, respect, effective interpersonal skills, and ethical behavior*. Upon identifying such concerns, the College retains discretion to determine the appropriate response and course of action, provided that resulting action constitutes a non-disciplinary measures, which may include but is not limited to mentoring, coaching, a written advisement, a Professional Behavior Improvement Plan, or other non-disciplinary approaches. These measures are educational in nature and are intended to serve as constructive interventions and/or advisements designed to support the student's professional development. Non-disciplinary measures do not constitute, and shall not be construed as, formal sanctions as defined under the Standards of Student Conduct set forth in the University Catalog.

Students are expected to engage in good faith with any non-disciplinary measures implemented by the College. A student's failure or refusal to comply with such measures may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism for further review pursuant to the applicable University student conduct process.

Reporting Violations to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism

Western University of Health Sciences has centralized the student conduct process under the **Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism**. Previously, student conduct matters were managed at the college level; all such matters are now handled centrally by the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism to ensure a consistent, fair, and transparent process across all colleges and programs.

All student conduct reports , including concerns related to alleged violations of the Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism or Student Conduct, contained in this College Catalog and the University Catalog should be submitted directly to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism using the [WesternU Student Conduct and Professionalism Incident Report Form](#). The Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism will review each report and determine the appropriate course of action in accordance with University policies and procedures.

Students, faculty, staff, and administrators are encouraged to direct any questions about the conduct process to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism. Additional information regarding the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism and the Student Conduct Process is available in the University Catalog.

Standards of Academic Progress

For successful progression through the programs, the College of Graduate Nursing has a standard for academic performance, which is higher than that for undergraduate education. A minimum overall grade point average of 3.00 is required for progression in all programs and for graduation. Each student's progress is based on successful attainment of the Outcome Competencies (as outlined in the curriculum) and through demonstration of critical thinking skills and competency in written and oral communication. The faculty determines if the student has demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to be eligible to progress to the next semester.

Student Performance Committee

The Student Performance Committee (SPC) is composed of the Chair, a minimum of four faculty members representing various concentrations within CGN's programs, and the CGN Student Affairs professional as an ex-officio member for record keeping and student support. The Chair and two faculty members shall have at least three years of full-time graduate teaching experience, and the other faculty members shall have at least one full-time year graduate teaching experience. Additional faculty members are selected to serve as alternates. SPC members are selected by the CGN faculty and approved by the Dean, or Dean's designee. The responsibilities of the Committee include, but are not limited to:

1. Student performance and progression review for determination of student academic probationary status.
2. Adjudicate Student academic issues. Consultation for the development of academic performance and professional conduct policies.
3. Review of grade appeals.
4. Review of course remediation due to failure or the inability to complete course requirements.
5. Inability to successfully meet requirements of Student Progress Report (SPR) for the MSN-E program students).
6. Review of application for readmission to the College.
7. Review of student progress for graduation recommendations.
8. Review of other academic disputes or grievances.
9. Receive reports from the Office of Student Conduct & Professionalism of students whose conduct is deemed unsatisfactory as determined through the student conduct process outlined in the University Catalog. Appropriate student conduct is defined by the University's and College's Standards of Student Conduct standards and handled in alignment with the Student Conduct Procedures in the University Catalog .

All cases are referred to the Student Performance Committee by the program directors. Students are treated fairly, and all potential opportunities for a positive outcome are considered. SPC recommendations are the result of a majority vote. Any Committee member who is the advisor or instructor of record for a student whose progress is being evaluated by the Committee shall recuse themselves from voting, and a member from the SPC alternate pool will take their place. The Chair communicates committee recommendations to the Dean, or Dean's designee. The Dean, or Dean's designee, makes a final decision and notifies the student directly. Recommendations of the committee and/or action of the Dean, or Dean's designee, may include, but are not limited to:

1. Clearance from alleged violation
2. Remediation

3. Educational assessment and intervention with documentation that student can meet all CGN program requirements
4. Physical examination and/or diagnostic evaluation by a physician or nurse practitioner (appropriate to the situation) with documentation that student can meet all CGN program requirements
5. Academic probation
6. Academic suspension
7. Dismissal

The SPC is not authorized to evaluate medical conditions or disabilities through its review process. Evaluating medical information and disability-related claims is designated exclusively to the ^{HF}CDHP office, not the SPC. If you have a medical condition or disability that you believe is relevant to your academic situation, you should complete the [^{HF}CDHP Student Intake Form](#) as soon as possible. Requests are reviewed on an individual basis in accordance with applicable law. Accommodations are implemented prospectively following approval by ^{HF}CDHP. The ^{HF}CDHP accommodation process is separate from and independent of the SPC review process.

Evaluation of Student Academic Performance (Academic Hearing Process) - SPC Procedures

When a matter is referred to the Student Performance Committee, and the program director has notified the student, , the Student Affairs Professional will notify the student that the review process has begun. Typically, a review will be completed within 10 business days (excluding University holiday or inter-sessions occurring during the evaluation period). The procedure for Committee review is as follows:

1. To initiate a review, the faculty, staff or student who is bringing a complaint forward will gather all pertinent information and present it to the Director of the appropriate program. The Director, after evaluating the information, will then forward the request for SPC review to the SPC Chair and the CGN Student Affairs professional, including a detailed description of the course failure or academic incident to be reviewed.
2. Once the request has been forwarded to the Committee, the student will be notified by the CGN Student Affairs professional and requested to submit a response (petition). If the outcome could be academic suspension or dismissal, the student should attend the Student Performance Committee meeting in person. If the student does not live locally, every effort will be made to accommodate attendance through electronic means. SPC meetings with the student present are recorded.
3. The Committee may perform additional fact-finding including requests for additional documentation from faculty of record, student, or other persons with knowledge of the issue. The CGN Student Affairs professional will counsel the student on the process and act as a guide to assist the student as needed.
4. The student may request permission for a mentor to appear at the meeting. It is the student's responsibility to make the request in writing and identify the proposed mentor. The Chair will determine whether to grant the student's request. The mentor's role will only be one of emotional support, and they are not to participate in the meeting unless the Committee feels that the mentor has information related to the case, at which time they will become a witness and no longer act as a mentor.
5. All recommendations of the Student Performance Committee shall be made in writing to the Dean of the College of Graduate Nursing, or Dean's designee, who will then make a final decision and inform the student in writing, typically within five business days. If dismissal is the recommendation, the Dean, or Dean's designee, may schedule a meeting with the student

before making a final decision. A recorder will be present in all meetings with the Dean or Dean's designee.

6. All records and recordings of the SPC meeting will be stored on a secure University drive.

Student Appeal Process

Students may request an appeal of the Dean's, or Dean's designee's, decision to the Provost by following the process defined in the 'Student Appeal Process' section of the University Catalog. Decisions related to the imposition of academic probation and any associated terms/conditions of such probation, or administrative withdrawal are considered final and not appealable to the Provost (See University Catalog, Student Appeal Process).

Program Completion/Graduation

Unless the Dean of the College of Graduate Nursing, or Dean's designee, has granted special permission, all students in a degree seeking program must attend and participate in the Commencement program. If the Dean, or Dean's designee, grants special permission to be excused from the Commencement ceremony, the graduate may be required to present himself or herself to the Chief Academic Officer or appropriate Dean, or Dean's designee, at another time to receive their diploma. Due to the CGN academic calendar, the Commencement ceremony takes place before the end of the academic year. To be placed on the list to participate in Commencement, the student must be on schedule for completing at least 75% of their coursework by May of their final academic year, and on schedule to complete 100% by December of the following academic year. Clinical hours are included in this policy; however, Program Directors will have discretion to set any determining criteria along the way. Students in certificate programs will not participate in Commencement but must satisfy the qualifying criteria set forth in the certificate program.

MSN-E:

Students who have met the following requirements will be considered candidates for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing:

- Completion of all course requirements with a minimum overall GPA of 3.00.
- Completion of all Interprofessional Education (IPE) activities required for graduation. MSNE 2027 must complete 2 credits of IPE 5000 and 5100. MSNE 2028 students must successfully participate in designated IPE co-curricular activities throughout their first year to fulfill this graduation requirement.
- Completion of all required clinical hours and clinical objectives with verification by the preceptor(s).
- Compliance with all the legal and financial requirements of the University as stated in the University Catalog.
- Demonstrated no serious deficiencies in ethical, professional, or personal conduct as outlined in the university's Standards of Student Conduct.

MSN/FNP, Post-Master's FNP

Students who have met the following requirements will be considered candidates for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing and/or Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate:

- Completion of all course requirements with a minimum overall GPA of 3.00.
- Completion of a minimum of 675 FNP clinical practice hours for students pursuing the FNP Certificate. Students must satisfactorily demonstrate all clinical competencies.
- Compliance with all the legal and financial requirements of the University as stated in the [University Catalog](#).

- Demonstrated no serious deficiencies in ethical, professional, or personal conduct as outlined in the university's Standards of Student Conduct.

MSN/PMHNP, Post-Master's PMHNP

Students who have met the following requirements will be considered candidates for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing and/or Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate:

- Completion of all course requirements with a minimum overall GPA of 3.00.
- Completion of a minimum of 675 PMHNP clinical practice hours for students pursuing the PMHNP Certificate. Students must satisfactorily demonstrate all clinical competencies.
- Compliance with all the legal and financial requirements of the University as stated in the [University Catalog](#).
- Demonstrated no serious deficiencies in ethical, professional, or personal conduct as outlined in the university's Standards of Student Conduct.

Post-Master's DNP/Leadership

Students who have met the following requirements will be considered candidates for the degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice:

- Completion of all course requirements with a minimum overall GPA of 3.00.
- Completion of a minimum of 1,000 direct or indirect supervised graduate level clinical/practice hours consistent with program of study. Students will be held responsible for gathering verification of clinical/practice hours to be used from their Master's program. Students must satisfactorily demonstrate all program competencies.
- Satisfactory completion and dissemination presentation of the DNP Scholarly Practice Project.
- Compliance with all the legal and financial requirements of the University as stated in the [University Catalog](#).
- Demonstrated no serious deficiencies in ethical, professional, or personal conduct as outlined in the university's Standards of Student Conduct.

Doctor of Nursing Practice/Family Nurse Practitioner DNP/FNP

Students who have met the following requirements will be considered candidates for the degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice / Family Nurse Practitioner:

- Completion of all course requirements with a minimum overall GPA of 3.00.
- Completion of a minimum of 1,000 FNP direct or indirect supervised graduate level clinical/practice hours. (675 of the 1,000 clinical hours should be direct patient care as described in the FNP Clinical Handbook)
- Students must satisfactorily demonstrate all clinical and program competencies.
- Satisfactory completion and dissemination presentation of the DNP Scholarly Practice Project.
- Compliance with all the legal and financial requirements of the University as stated in the [University Catalog](#).
- Satisfactory completion and dissemination presentation of the DNP Scholarly Practice Project.
- Demonstrated no serious deficiencies in ethical, professional, or personal conduct as outlined in the university's Standards of Student Conduct.

Doctor of Nursing Practice/Psychiatric Mental Health DNP/PMHNP

Students who have met the following requirements will be considered candidates for the degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner:

- Completion of all course requirements with a minimum overall GPA of 3.00.

- Completion of a minimum of 1,000 PMHNP direct or indirect supervised graduate level clinical/practice hours. (675 of the 1,000 clinical hours should be direct patient care in psychiatry as described in the PMHNP Clinical Handbook)
- Students must satisfactorily demonstrate all clinical and program competencies.
- Satisfactory completion and dissemination presentation of the DNP Scholarly Practice Project.
- Compliance with all the legal and financial requirements of the University as stated in the [University Catalog](#).
- Satisfactory completion and dissemination presentation of the DNP Scholarly Practice Project.
- Demonstrated no serious deficiencies in ethical, professional, or personal conduct as outlined in the university's Standards of Student Conduct.

Post-Graduate ENP

Students who have met the following requirements will be considered candidates for the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Certificate:

- Completion of all course requirements with a minimum overall GPA of 3.00.
- Completion of a minimum of 500 ENP clinical practice hours for students pursuing the ENP Certificate. Students must satisfactorily demonstrate all clinical ENP competencies.
- Compliance with all the legal and financial requirements of the University as stated in the [University Catalog](#).
- Demonstrated no serious deficiencies in ethical, professional, or personal conduct as outlined in the university's Standards of Student Conduct.

Adverse Actions

Academic Probation

Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 each semester. If a student's GPA is below 3.00 for a semester or receives two or more "Incomplete" grades in one semester, the student will be placed on academic probation. Students may be placed on academic probation for failure to adhere to attendance requirements and/or policies. Students may only be on academic probation for a maximum of two semesters. Students who are subject to academic probation for a third semester will be reviewed by the Student Performance Committee and may be at risk of dismissal. (See SPC section of this catalog section for process). Decisions related to the imposition of academic probation and any associated terms/conditions of such probation are considered final and not appealable to the Provost (See [University Catalog](#), "Student Appeal Process").

Conduct Probation

Conduct Probation is defined as a period, specified by the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism, during which the student's conduct will be closely monitored due to a violation of the Standards of Student Conduct.

The terms of conduct probation will be specified at the time the student is placed on conduct probation. When a student is placed on conduct probation, they will be notified in writing and the notification will be sent electronically to the student's WesternU email address. Copies of the letter will be placed in the student's educational record and distributed to the Chair of the Student Performance Committee, the College Dean, and the student's Faculty Advisor. The Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism will consider when the terms of the conduct probation have been satisfied and recommend rescission of the

conduct probation. A student on conduct probation may not serve as an officer of any official University or College club or organization and should not engage in time-consuming extracurricular activities.

Failed Course Policy

If a student fails a course, they may not take an equivalent course at another institution and transfer the course to Western University of Health Sciences. Students who fail a CGN course must retake and pass the course through the College of Graduate Nursing. Students failing a course may be reviewed by the Student Performance Committee and placed on academic suspension or potential dismissal. (See SPC section of this handbook for process)

Financial Aid Warning Policy (Title IV and Title VII)

Academic Probation Policy. If a student is not making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) they will be placed on “Financial Aid Warning” status for the next payment period and continue to receive financial aid for that period. Financial Aid is any financial assistance offered to the student for paying for their education, such as loans, scholarships, Federal Work-Study, Grants and stipends (based on the criteria of the stipend). Students who fail to make SAP by the end of that payment period lose financial aid eligibility.

It is the policy of the Financial Aid Office (FAO) that once a student has been placed on academic probation for not meeting SAP standards as defined by the College, the Financial Aid Office will automatically place the student in a Financial Aid Warning status. During the next academic term if the student does not meet SAP standards and the College places the student on academic suspension, the student will no longer be eligible for financial aid. If the student appeals the academic suspension and the appeal is approved, financial aid will be reinstated. If the student is directed to audit courses, those courses will not be charged tuition for the audited courses. Students that are required to repeat coursework are encouraged to meet with a financial aid counselor with respect to their financial aid eligibility.

Repeat Coursework and Federal Financial Aid Eligibility. Federal regulations governing repeat coursework apply to all students undergraduate, graduate, and professional under the definition of a full-time student in 34 CFR 668.2(b). For term-based programs (not subscription-based), a student’s full-time workload may include repeating previously passed coursework, but only one repetition of a previously passed course may be counted toward enrollment status and paid with Title IV aid.

For financial aid purposes, a course is considered “passed” if the student earns a grade of D or better, regardless of the institution’s academic standards. For example, while many graduate programs require a B or better to meet academic requirements, the Department of Education (ED) considers a D passing for Title IV eligibility. In addition to letter grades, the non-letter grades Credit (CR) and Pass (P) are also considered passing by ED for Title IV purposes.

Non-letter grades such as Unsatisfactory (U), Incomplete (I), No Pass (NP), No Credit (NCR), In Progress (IP), and Withdrawal (W) are not considered passing by ED and therefore do not count as successful completion for Title IV eligibility.

Once a course is considered passed, it may be repeated only once with federal aid. This policy does not require institutions to change their academic grading standards, but it does limit how many times a previously passed course may be included in enrollment status for financial aid purposes.

Students who are considering repeating a course should consult with the Financial Aid Office to understand how this may affect their aid eligibility and ensure compliance with federal guidelines.

Tutorial Assistance Program

A Tutorial Assistance Program (TAP) has been established to assist students with teaching assistants within clinical courses. The tutors will be chosen on the recommendation of the faculty in each discipline. TAP support is contingent upon availability of tutors and the support of the college program. For assistance, contact the Department of [Learning Enhancement and Academic Development \(LEAD\)](#).

Remediation

Remediation of a Specific Learning Assignment. Remediation of learning activities within a course is at the discretion of the faculty. The course syllabus will outline whether each element of a course needs to be passed with a minimum passing grade. Remediation within a course is a privilege and not a right. Faculty will describe the remediation policy for the course in the syllabi. If remediation is available, the student must arrange for remediation within ten (10) business days of receiving a grade for that assignment. The instructor will outline required remediation and work with the student to establish a mutually agreed upon period to complete. The minimum passing grade of 77% pre-licensure, or 80% post-licensure is the highest possible grade that can be achieved through remediation.

Remediation of a Course. A student who does not achieve a grade of C+ (pre-licensure) or B- (post-licensure) or higher in didactic or clinical courses will receive a grade of “U”. The College will provide each student with the opportunity to demonstrate competency; however, remediation is a privilege, not a right. Students must have demonstrated the likelihood of success in the remediation process by active participation in the educational program including course attendance and participation, active involvement in clinical experiences, individual initiative, and use of resources. Students who demonstrate the potential for remediation will be placed on academic probation or suspension by the Student Performance Committee (SPC) with a formal remediation contract. The remediation contract will outline the activities required for remediation, the outcomes expected for successful completion, and a date for completion. Copies of the remediation contract, signed by the faculty member and the student, will be filed with the CGN. The student may not enroll in any other CGN courses until a remediation contract has been approved by the SPC. To ensure a timely process, the Committee will strive to decide within ten business days of receipt of all relevant materials.

Students who receive a grade of U or NCR in a course will be sent to SPC and must submit a formal petition to the SPC requesting to repeat the course and continue in the program. This petition should include a discussion of the reasons for course failure as well as the strategies the student has identified to increase the likelihood of successful completion of the course in the future. Upon receipt of the student’s petition to continue in the program, the SPC will review the student’s petition and either recommend dismissal, a complete repeat of the course or a remediation contract will be created in consultation with the instructor of record for the failed course. Two copies of the contract will be generated and will include all conditions necessary for course remediation and program continuation, with a statement that the student understands the terms of the contract. The student will sign one copy and return it to the College within one week of receipt. See SPC procedures as outlined in this catalog.

Students can remediate or repeat only two courses in the program. Options for remediation may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Repeat the entire course.
- Taking a comprehensive examination on the course content,
- Completing special projects or studies in the area(s) of deficiency; and/or,
- Repeating a specific learning objective.

The Grading of Remediated Curriculum. Upon completion of the remediation contract, the instructor will submit a recommendation to the Student Performance Committee and the Dean, or Dean’s designee. A grade of C+ is the highest possible grade that can be achieved through remediation of pre-licensure courses and a B- in all other courses. Upon successful remediation by completing one or more of the activities described above, the transcript is notated with the grade earned alongside the original grade. For example, a student who originally received a “U” grade and, who, by remediation, earned a “B-” grade will have a grade of “U/B-” entered on their transcript.

The Grading of Repeated Curriculum. If a student is directed to repeat a course, the grade for the repeated course will be recorded on the official transcript separately and within the semester the repeated course was completed. The original course grade will remain recorded in the semester it was originally taken. Students will be charged full tuition for repeated coursework.

Only the repeated grade(s) for the course(s) will be included in the student’s GPA calculation.

Temporary Suspension of Student Clinical Privileges

The University recognizes that student participation in clinical education occurs within environments where patient safety, clinical integrity, and professional standards are paramount. Accordingly, a College Dean or designee is authorized to immediately suspend a student's clinical privileges where there exists a reasonable basis to believe that the student's continued presence in a clinical setting poses a risk to patient safety.

A suspension of clinical privileges is an interim administrative action and does not constitute a final disciplinary determination or academic sanction. The suspension shall take effect immediately upon the decision of the Dean or designee and is not subject to appeal. This action shall remain in place pending referral to and resolution by the appropriate body (i.e., the College SPC for academic matters or the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism for conduct matters), whose determination shall supersede and replace the temporary suspension. In the event a student appeals the outcome reached by the appropriate body, the temporary suspension may remain in effect pending the resolution of that appeal.

The College shall provide the student with written notice of the suspension as soon as practicable, which shall include a brief statement of the basis for the suspension and the anticipated next steps (i.e. referral to the College Student Performance Committee for academic matters or referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Professionalism). A suspension of clinical privileges may affect a student's ability to satisfy program requirements, complete required clinical hours, or progress within their program. The College shall make reasonable efforts to advise the student of the potential academic impact of the suspension and any available options for remediation or make-up, subject to program requirements and accreditation standards. The University makes no guarantee that suspended clinical hours or experiences can be recovered within a student's originally anticipated program timeline. A temporary suspension of clinical privileges will remain in place until the conclusion of the academic or conduct process and any related appeals.

Academic Suspension

Students who have dropped below a 3.00 or who have failed a course will be placed on academic suspension by the Dean, or Dean's designee, or Student Performance Committee as an alternative to withdrawal from the program. Students pursuing clinical concentrations who are placed on academic suspension may be subject to clinical skills evaluation before returning to the clinical setting (see SPC section of this catalog for process). Please also refer to the **Academic Suspension** policy in the "Satisfactory Academic Progress" section of the [University Catalog](#) for more information.

Conduct Suspension

A conduct suspension is a period of time when a student is barred from enrollment in an academic program because of a violation of applicable University or College conduct policies. The duration of the conduct suspension will be communicated to the student at the time the suspension is imposed, either as a specified period of time or until the student has satisfactorily completed all the terms and conditions imposed to remedy the violation. A student may not receive financial aid during any time of suspension.

Summary Suspension

Actions that threaten or endanger, in any way, the personal safety, and/or well-being of self or others, or that disrupt or interfere with the orderly operation of the College or University are cause for immediate disciplinary action. Either the University President, Provost, or Dean, or Dean's designee, has the authority to summarily suspend a student when the student admits to guilt or when, in the opinion of these entities, such action is appropriate to protect the health or safety of any individual, or to preserve the orderly operation of the University. Further details regarding the summary suspension action can be found in the [University Catalog](#).

Dismissal

1. A student is subject to dismissal from the program for the following non-exhaustive reasons:
Failure to meet the required minimum grade for a course(s) within the program.
2. A pattern of "Incompletes" in courses resulting in failure to complete the program in a timely manner.
3. Failure to meet the professional expectations of the University as outlined in the University Policies and Procedures section of the University Catalog policies or procedures.
4. Failure to complete all aspects of remediation as specified in the remediation contract for a specific course(s).
5. Violation of University and/or College student conduct standards, policies, or procedures, in alignment with the University's Student Conduct Procedures (See University Catalog)
6. Breach of professional behavior in the clinical setting, which could jeopardize patient care or relationships at clinical agencies used for training.
7. The discovery of misrepresentation, material omission, or falsification of materials required for admittance into the program.

Any student dismissed from the program must contact the Financial Aid Office and the Bursar's Office to discuss any tuition and fee issues.

Students may request an appeal of the Dean's, or Dean's designee's, decision to the Provost by following the process defined in the 'Student Appeal Process' section of the University Catalog. Decisions related to the imposition of academic probation and any associated terms/conditions of such probation, or administrative withdrawal are considered final and not appealable to the Provost (See University Catalog, Student Appeal Process).

Clinical Education

Clinical Handbook

In addition to the information contained in this catalog, each student enrolled in a clinical program in the College of Graduate Nursing will receive a clinical handbook specific to their program. Students will follow all clinical/practice policies in the clinical handbook for their program of study.

Health and Immunization Requirements

All students are required to submit health and immunization documentation to the Student Health office yearly. If a student falls out of compliance, they will be suspended from clinical activities, a hold placed on their registration until all health and immunization records are up to date. The university Student Catalog contains an overview for detailed health and immunization requirements.

Professional Appearance and Dress Code

All students and faculty of the College of Graduate Nursing are expected to maintain a professional appearance. Professional appearance relates to clothing, hair, nails, shoes, carriage, and communication. Students' appearance should not risk offending or disturbing clients, faculty, or preceptors.

While on-campus, students and faculty must follow the WesternU Dress Code. In clinical agencies, students are active learners and are, in essence, guests in these agencies. Recognition of this status means that students must adhere to all agency policies and guidelines including acceptable attire and behavior.

For MSN-E students, unless otherwise instructed, the uniform requirements are as follows:

- A laboratory coat is required and must be worn, with the Western University of Health Sciences name tag, as directed by instructor or clinical facility. Appropriate and professional attire is always required. Casual attire such as shorts, jeans, open-toed shoes, pajamas, short tops showing midriff, etc., is never permissible in the clinical setting. This is in accordance with contractual agreements with clinical agencies for individuals when in the agency in a professional role.
- The student will wear a uniform of burgundy pants and a burgundy tunic style top. An identifying patch will be sewn on the left sleeve. Name badges must be worn at all times. Undergarments should not be visible through the uniform. If needed, black, white, or grey long-sleeved undershirts may be worn under uniforms for warmth. Name badges can be purchased at the Campus Store.
- The professional looking students' uniform is clean, pressed, and reflects frequent laundering.
- Clean, solid black, rubber-soled, enclosed heel and toe shoes with clean, black shoelaces if applicable. They should be designated for clinical use only. Strapless/backless shoes are unacceptable.
- Black or white socks must be worn to blend in with the black shoes.
- Hair should be worn away from the face, collar, and neck. It should be confined appropriately if long or full in style. Hairstyles should reflect professional comportment, i.e., no extreme styling, no excessive hair ornaments. Hair coloring should remain in the realm of what can be genetically transmitted.
- No fragrances should be worn in clinical settings. Because of the close and physical nature of direct care nursing, students are expected to be clean and odor free. If an offensive odor is noticed by faculty, staff, clients, or peers, the student will be asked to take corrective action, up to and including dismissal from the clinical day.

- Jewelry is limited to a watch, one plain ring, and one pair of plain earrings that do not protrude below the lower level of earlobe, if ears are pierced. There should be no other visible jewelry. Any piercing other than earrings (i.e. nose, eyebrow, lip, tongue, etc.) should be removed when in the clinical setting.
- Tattoos should be covered with clothing, if possible.
- Nails should be appropriately groomed (less than ¼ inch), and no nail polish. False fingernails, tips, nail polish, gel, and acrylic nail covers harbor a wide variety bacteria and fungi and are not permitted in hospital settings.
- Some specialty areas may require uniform adaptations. Unless specifically instructed to do otherwise, the complete uniform, i.e., shirts, pants, shoes, and name badges will be worn in all clinical areas.
- It is advisable that all students own at least one pair of slacks that are appropriate for wearing in a variety of settings.
- Gum chewing is not appropriate in clinical situations.
- The College of Graduate Nursing faculty and students must comply with the policies of various hospitals, clinics, and other agencies where clinical practice is scheduled. Students should be aware that additional dress restrictions and infection control policies might be required in specific departments of agencies or hospitals. Any other concerns will be addressed through the clinical instructor who has the final decision on dress code implementation. If unprofessional attire is reported in clinical agencies, clinical grades may be lowered, or preclinical access to patient records may be restricted; additionally, the student may be placed on probation for unprofessional behavior.

Special Note: Any student who may require a religious accommodation of the Attire and Appearance Guidelines may do so by contacting the Director of the MSN-E Program, mmarinello@westernu.edu, to discuss such religious accommodation requests. The Office of Humanism is available as a resource throughout this process and may be engaged as circumstances warrant. In the event that agreement cannot be reached regarding an academic religious accommodation, the student should bring the issue to the relevant College dean and to the Office of Student Success and Student Life via email studentlife@westernu.edu for review and resolution as applicable. If advice in resolving the issue is needed, the Office of Humanism will be consulted, as appropriate.

Clinical Rotations Policy, MSN-E

Students achieve many of the course requirements through practical experience in many different health care agencies. Clinical rotations may occur on any day of the week; however, weekend rotations are kept to a minimum. Student access to facilities is regulated by contracts between the University and the agency. Students who do not meet an agency's requirements will be denied access to that facility. Students must comply with all university health, safety, and immunization requirements before they can be allowed to participate in clinical. The student is not considered an employee of the agencies involved and has no claim for any employee benefits such as sick leave, vacation pay, social security, retirement benefits, worker's compensation, or unemployment benefits. **Students cannot make their own clinical agency arrangements as university and agency legal contracts are required.**

Practice-Based Training for DNP Students

Practice-based assignments may begin in the second semester of the program and after the student has complied with all University health, safety, and immunization documentation requirements. 1,000 hours post-baccalaureate are required to meet the DNP outcome competencies per AACN. Practice hours may

be awarded from a student's MSN/or other Master's program of study; however, a minimum of 500 hours must be completed within the Post-Master's DNP program. BSN to DNP students enrolled in a FNP or PMHNP role concentration must complete 675 hours of clinical practice within the program and an additional 325 hours of DNP practice hours to complete the 1,000 DNP hours.

The student is not considered an employee of the agencies involved and has no claim for any employee benefits such as sick leave, vacation pay, social security, retirement benefits, worker's compensation, or unemployment benefits while completing clinical training.

Mentors

Clinical and Practice hours provide the opportunity for the DNP student to meet the *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education* (2021) and National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), and sections of the *Nurse Practitioner Role Core Competencies* (2022). Practice hours require a clinical/practice mentor. CGN requires that all mentors must be approved by the DNP leadership. To assist mentors, CGN provides clinical-practice experts with a guidebook to clarify program and course objectives. A Clinical Coordinator is assigned to serve as the coordinator for approval of clinical placement and practice partner affiliation agreements. The assessment, evaluation, and monitoring of the clinical and practice hours are guided by faculty oversight. Each student will have a clinical preceptor and/or mentor at each agency in which they complete clinical and/or practice hours/assignments. During the DNP project's completion, the student's Faculty Team Leader/Academic Advisor and the Practice Mentor will serve as consultants for the student.

The College encourages multiple sites for specific experiences if needed to optimize student learning. A student's practice mentor, preceptor, and/or clinical resource person may suggest or assist with identifying and coordinating these experiences. Due to the distance delivery of the program, students are encouraged to identify qualified clinical resource persons in their community before starting it. However, no practice hours may be initiated or completed until matriculated into the CGN and all Clinical Clearance Process has been met. No student will be allowed to participate in any clinical/practice experience without first having complied with all the University health, safety and immunization documentation requirements and obtaining written clearance from the college (for each site and each preceptor/mentor). Students who demonstrate non-compliance with the Clinical Clearance process will be sent to the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in accordance with the SPC Procedures contained in this Catalog.

If students have difficulty identifying practice mentors/clinical preceptors, the program faculty will assist students with securing qualified mentors/preceptors or resource persons.

As expected with professional practice, all data gathered about an agency or individual patient and their health/illness, including all items within the medical record, are privileged information. Agency and client confidentiality must be maintained.

Students are encouraged to wear student identification and lab coats when appropriate while in the clinical/practice setting. Western University of Health Sciences maintains malpractice and accident insurance coverage for enrolled students. Professional nursing malpractice insurance (in the student role) is recommended but not required.

Notification of Practice Hours

The College requires students to notify the clinical/practice site and mentor or resource person when the student will be at the practice site. Students will not be allowed to attend clinical/practice experience

without submission of the appropriate paperwork and written approval from the CGN as outlined in the Clinical Clearance process. Students who demonstrate non-compliance with the CGN Clinical Clearance process will be sent to the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in accordance with the SPC Procedures contained in this Catalog.

Practice Hours

The DNP program considers previous clinical experiences; therefore, clinical/practice hours will be adjusted accordingly depending on your entry program of study. To meet the needs of the AACN requirement of 1,000 practice hours, the required minimum of 500 hours is to be obtained at the Post-Master's DNP level. Students entering the BSN to DNP within role concentrations for FNP or PMHNP must complete 675 clinical practice hours in their concentration and 325 DNP practice hours.

Record Keeping and Practice Hour Logs

Students will document the hours and the assignments they have completed during their clinical/practice experiences for their course faculty and in their clinical logs using de-identified data to ensure HIPAA compliance. Students will receive an orientation on how to record practice hours prior to practice hours beginning. Electronic documentation of the practice hours will be submitted in a timely fashion according to the program clinical handbook. In addition, students may be required to submit other documentation pertaining to their practice experiences both during and at the end of the semester. Failure to do so may result in an incomplete grade and/or failure to progress in the curriculum.

Clinical Training for FNP Students

Clinical training begins after the student has: (1) successfully completed the Advanced Physical Assessment competency based physical assessment testing, (2) complied with all the University health, safety, and immunization documentation requirements and (3) received the appropriate Clinical Clearance to attend clinical from the CGN (for each site and preceptor used). Students who demonstrate non-compliance with the CGN Clinical Clearance process will be sent to the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in accordance with the SPC Procedures contained in this Catalog.

The student is not considered an employee of the agencies involved and has no claim for any employee benefits such as sick leave, vacation pay, social security, retirement benefits, worker's compensation, or unemployment benefits while completing clinical training.

Preceptors

A student's preceptor may be a physician trained in family practice or internal medicine, preferably board certified, or a Master's degree prepared NP following the Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, sixth edition (2022) and BRN guidelines. Additionally, Certified Nurse Midwives are acceptable preceptors for prenatal and gynecology rotations. The College encourages multiple rotations for specific experience if needed to optimize student learning. A student's preceptor and/or clinical instructor may suggest or assist with identifying and scheduling these rotations. If the preceptor is a physician, the student should also work with a nurse practitioner to promote role development. Due to the distance delivery of the program, students are encouraged to identify qualified preceptors in their community prior to starting the program. However, no clinical hours may be initiated or completed until matriculated into the CGN. If students do not have a preceptor, the Clinical Coordinator will assist students with securing a qualified preceptor. All preceptors must have an active and clear license and a minimum of one year experience. If the preceptor has disciplinary actions listed on their license clearance for the student to work with that preceptor may be denied.

Preceptors working within specific guidelines established by the program will be responsible for assuring appropriate and adequate learning experiences, as well as supervising students for safe practice. A student's preceptor may not be related to, or be in a relationship with the student, as it compromises the integrity of the assessment process. Preceptors and clinical sites must be approved by the faculty and Western University of Health Sciences. A Preceptor Guide will be provided to all preceptors.

As expected with professional practice, all data gathered about a patient and their health/illness, including all items within the medical record, are privileged information. Client confidentiality must be maintained. Students must consult with their preceptors on all patients seen by the student. The supervising practitioner must review and countersign all student notes written in the medical record. Students are not allowed to prescribe medications or sign any prescription order.

Students are always required to wear student identification and lab coats while in the clinical setting. WesternU maintains malpractice and accident insurance coverage for enrolled students. Professional nursing malpractice insurance (in the student role) is recommended but not required.

Scheduling

Students can complete clinical experiences in a local community with an approved preceptor and clinical site. Students should be prepared to travel to a clinical site. Students must also be prepared to work around the availability of the clinical site and preceptor. Particular and/or limited days and times for clinical cannot always be guaranteed. When working out a clinical schedule, the College encourages students to schedule the same clinical day(s) each week to provide consistency for the agency and patient follow-up. Additional days should be scheduled to accommodate for illness, employment, or family responsibilities.

Clinical Hours

At least eight to twelve hours per week of clinical training are required of full-time students throughout the course of study to complete 675 hours. Following successful completion of the Physical Assessment course competency testing, full-time students are expected to complete 1-6 units of clinical training each semester. Forty-five hours must be completed for each unit, for a total of 15 units. Clinical fees will be charged for the additional semester(s) to complete the 15 units. Students who fail to meet the minimum per semester for two consecutive semesters will be placed on academic probation and/or referred to the SPC in alignment with the SPC procedures and may be eligible for suspension or dismissal.

Clinical Progression

Student productivity is expected to increase with each semester's experience. Initially, students may see approximately 4-6 patients per day. The student is expected to gather complete subjective and objective data on each patient, even though early in the program the student may not be able to fully assess the problem or develop a complete treatment plan. Later in the program, students will be expected to see approximately 4-8 patients per day and provide comprehensive care including assessment and plan of treatment. Students will be guided to transition from novice to advanced clinician as they progress in the clinical practicum.

It is required that FNP students see approximately 800 patients during their program. The goal for patient mix is Pediatrics 15%, Adults 40%, Geriatrics 20%, GYN 15%, and OB 10%. Students are encouraged to obtain other rotations to complete clinical objectives if they are not in a family practice setting. In addition, students may seek approval with the Program Director for additional experiences in specialty areas such as Urgent Care and Emergency Room for short rotations for skills and procedures experience. The clinical

faculty of record will review students' clinical logs weekly during each semester. In addition, Preceptor Evaluations of the student are documented each semester.

Record Keeping and Clinical Hours

The College of Graduate Nursing uses an electronic system to record clinical hours. Students will record each patient's visit into the clinical log using de-identified data to ensure HIPAA compliance. Students will receive an orientation to the use of the electronic system. Clinical hours will be evaluated biweekly, and at other times, if requested by the faculty. In addition, students are required to submit other documentation (i.e., Preceptor Evaluation, Student Evaluation of the Preceptor and Clinical Site, Student Objectives) at the end of the semester. Failure to do so may result in an incomplete grade and/or failure to progress in the curriculum.

Clinical Site Visits

Faculty and contracted FNP site visitor evaluations of a clinical site will be conducted each semester. These Clinical Site visits are completed in one of three ways: 1) in-person site visits; 2) virtual site visit via videoconferencing; or 3) or via teleconference. If an in-person site visit is conducted, student clinical competency will be evaluated at this time by direct observation of the student's performance and interaction with patients, preceptors, and staff. In addition, the clinical faculty provides guidance and support as well as assistance with clinical decision making during all forms of site visits. Students who receive an unsatisfactory site visit evaluation must complete a remediation process with the possibility of additional clinical hours added. Out-of-state site guidelines are followed according to the BRN requirements for that state.

Waiver of Clinical Hours - FNP

The faculty believes in granting credit for previous, appropriate professional experience. Students who are licensed NPs in a specialty area other than Family may submit a written request for a waiver of the appropriate required clinical hours.

Students who petition to receive credit for previous clinical education for their nurse practitioner specialty must provide an official transcript that documents clinical hours. If hours are not listed on the transcript, a letter from the Dean, or Dean's designee, or Director of the NP program is required to verify clinical hours completed in the program. Certified or licensed Nurse Practitioners who did not complete a formal nurse practitioner education program from an accredited institution of higher education must submit a written request, as well as a portfolio, which verifies clinical competence in their specialty to the Program Director. The portfolio could include national certification; letters from collaborating or supervising physicians, advanced practice nurses, or faculty; CEU; clinical evaluations completed by Western University of Health Sciences faculty; and/or clinical coursework. The student's request and documentation will be forwarded to the Student Performance Committee for consideration. Students will be notified in writing of the Committee's decision. Students will not be exempt from tuition fees if hours are granted.

Clinical Training for PMHNP Students

Clinical training begins after the student has: (1) successfully completed the Advanced Physical Assessment competency based physical assessment testing (for those students without APRN status) and all required psychiatric competency assignments as outlined in GN 8580 syllabus, (2) complied with all the University health, safety, and immunization documentation requirements and (3) received the appropriate written Clinical Clearance to attend clinical from the CGN (for each site and preceptor used).

Students who demonstrate non-compliance with the CGN Clinical Clearance process will be sent to the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in accordance with the SPC Procedures contained in this Catalog. The student is not considered an employee of the agencies involved and has no claim for any employee benefits such as sick leave, vacation pay, social security, retirement benefits, worker's compensation, or unemployment benefits while completing clinical training.

Preceptors

A student's preceptor should be a psychiatrist, a licensed and nationally certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, or a licensed counselor (doctorally prepared psychologist, LCSW that provides therapy, or a LMFT). The College encourages multiple rotations for specific experiences if needed to optimize student learning. A student's preceptor and/or clinical instructor may suggest or assist with identifying and scheduling these rotations. If the preceptor is a physician, the student should also work with a nurse practitioner to promote role development. Due to the distance delivery of the program, students are encouraged to identify qualified preceptors in their community before starting. However, no clinical hours may be initiated or completed until matriculated into the CGN and written clinical clearance has been received. If students do not have a preceptor, the Clinical Coordinator will assist students with securing a qualified preceptor. All preceptors must have an active, clear license and one year experience. If the preceptor has disciplinary actions listed on their license clearance for the student to work with that preceptor may be denied.

Preceptors working within specific guidelines established by the program will be responsible for assuring appropriate and adequate learning experiences, as well as supervising students for safe practice. A student's preceptor may not be related to, or be in a relationship with the student, as it compromises the integrity of the assessment process. Students may not attend clinicals where they, as the student, own the Practice or have any fiduciary relationship with the clinic. Preceptors and clinical sites must be approved by the faculty and WesternU. A Preceptor Guide will be provided to all preceptors.

As expected with professional practice, all data gathered about a patient and their health/illness, including all items within the medical record, are privileged information. Client confidentiality must be maintained. Students must consult with their preceptors on all patients seen by the student. The supervising practitioner must review and countersign all student notes written in the medical record. Students are not allowed to prescribe medications or sign any prescription order.

Students are always required to wear student identification while in the clinical setting. Students should always look professional in business attire while completing clinical hours and during seminar weekends on campus with simulation assessments.

WesternU maintains malpractice and accident insurance coverage for enrolled students. Professional nursing malpractice insurance (in the student role) is recommended but not required.

Scheduling

Students can complete clinical experiences in a local community with an approved preceptor and clinical site. Students should be prepared to travel to a clinical site. Students must also be prepared to work around the availability of the clinical site and preceptor. Particular and/or limited days and times for clinical cannot always be guaranteed. When working out a clinical schedule, the College encourages students to schedule the same clinical day(s) each week to provide consistency for the agency and patient follow-up. Additional days should be scheduled to accommodate for illness, employment, or family responsibilities.

Clinical Hours

8-12 hours per week of clinical training are required. A clinical unit is comprised of 45 hours and the PMHNP requires a total of 15 units or 675 clinical hours. Students should target 90-250 clinical hours in each of the semesters where clinical courses are offered.

Clinical Progression

Student productivity is expected to increase with each semester's experience. Initially, students may see approximately 4-8 patients per day. The student is expected to gather complete subjective and objective data on each patient, even though early in the program the student may not be able to fully assess the problem or develop a complete treatment plan. Later in the program, students will be expected to see approximately 8-12 patients per day and provide comprehensive care including assessment and plan of treatment. Students will be guided to transition from novice to advanced clinician as they progress in the clinical practicum.

PMHNP students are expected to see a diverse group of patients in a manner that is consistent with the lifespan approach to mental health. Students must obtain clinical experiences in child and adolescent mental health, adult mental health, and geriatric mental health. It is required that PMHNP students see a minimum of 500 patients during their program. The minimum patient population lifespan is Pediatrics (0-17yrs) 125 patients, Adults (18-59yrs) 250 patients, and Geriatrics (60+yrs) 125 patients.

Counseling hours include individuals, families, couples, and groups and incorporate a variety of therapeutic modalities. The clinical faculty of record will review students' clinical logs every two weeks in each semester. In addition, Preceptor Evaluations of the student are documented each semester. Please refer to specific program clinical handbook for more information.

Record Keeping and Clinical Hours

The College of Graduate Nursing uses an electronic system to record clinical hours. Students will record each patient's visit into the clinical log using de-identified data to ensure HIPAA compliance. Students will receive an orientation to the use of the electronic system. Clinical hours will be evaluated biweekly, and at other times, if requested by the faculty. Recording of clinical hours in the electronic system must be completed within 14 days of the patient encounter or it will not be accepted, and the hours will be lost. In addition, students are required to submit other documentation at the middle and end of the semesters (i.e., Preceptor Evaluation of student, Student Evaluation of the Preceptor and clinical site, Student Objectives) at the end of the semester. Failure to do so may result in an incomplete grade and/or failure to progress in the curriculum. Please refer to specific program clinical handbook for more information.

Clinical Site Visits

Student clinical progress is evaluated each semester via clinical evaluations completed by PMHNP Clinical Faculty. These Clinical Site visits are completed in one of three ways: 1) in-person site visits; 2) virtual site visit via videoconferencing; or 3) or via teleconference. If an in-person site visit is conducted, student clinical competency will be evaluated at this time by direct observation of the student's performance and interaction with patients, preceptors and staff. In addition, the clinical faculty provides guidance and support as well as assistance with clinical decision making during all forms of site visits. Students who receive an unsatisfactory site visit evaluation must complete a remediation process with the possibility of additional clinical hours added. If the preceptor is unavailable for the required clinical site visit, they are subject to termination. As well as loss of clinical hours and clinical site for the students. Out-of-state site guidelines are followed according to the BRN requirements for that state.

Clinical Training for ENP Students

Clinical training begins within the first semester of the ENP curriculum after the student has: (1) complied with all the University health, safety, and immunization documentation requirements and (2) received the appropriate Clinical Clearance to attend clinical from the CGN (for each site and preceptor used). Students who demonstrate non-compliance with the CGN Clinical Clearance process will be sent to the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in accordance with the SPC Procedures contained in this Catalog. The student is not considered an employee of the agencies involved and has no claim for any employee benefits such as sick leave, vacation pay, social security, retirement benefits, worker's compensation, or unemployment benefits while completing clinical training.

Preceptors

A student's preceptor may be a physician trained in emergency practice, preferably board certified, or a Master's degree prepared, nationally certified FNP or physician assistant working in the subspecialty settings of Urgent Care or Emergency Department practice. The College encourages rotations for specific experience if needed to optimize student learning. A student's preceptor and/or clinical instructor may suggest or assist with identifying and scheduling these rotations. If the preceptor is a physician, the student should also work with a Family Nurse Practitioner (as applicable) to promote ENP role development. Due to the distance delivery of the program, students are encouraged to identify qualified preceptors in their community at the earliest possible time. However, no clinical hours may be initiated or completed until the student is matriculated into the CGN, and the site and preceptor are approved by CGN. If students do not have a preceptor, the Clinical Practice Coordinator and/or Administrator will assist students with securing a qualified Urgent Care and Emergency Department preceptor.

Preceptors working within specific guidelines established by the ENP program will be responsible for working with the faculty to assure appropriate and adequate learning experiences and supervising students for safe practice. A student's preceptor may not be related to, or be in a personal relationship with the student, as it compromises the integrity of the assessment process. Preceptors and clinical sites must be approved by the faculty and Western University of Health Sciences. A Preceptor Guide will be provided to all preceptors.

As expected with professional practice, all data gathered about a patient and their health/illness, including all items within the medical record, are privileged information. Client confidentiality must be maintained. Students must consult with their preceptors on all patients seen by the student. The supervising practitioner/provider must review and countersign all student notes written in the medical record and/or electronic health care record as permitted by agency. Students are not allowed to prescribe medications or sign any prescription order despite the fact that they may have the authority to do so within their existing practice as a licensed and authorized prescriber. Students are not allowed to prescribe medications or sign any prescription order.

Students are always required to wear student identification and lab coats while in the clinical setting. WesternU maintains malpractice and accident insurance coverage for enrolled students. Professional nursing malpractice insurance (in the student role) is recommended and advised.

Scheduling

Students can complete clinical experiences in a local community with an approved preceptor and clinical site. Students should be prepared to travel to a clinical site. Students must also be prepared to work around the availability of the clinical site and preceptor. Particular and/or limited days and times for clinical cannot always be guaranteed. When working out a clinical schedule, the College encourages

students to schedule the same clinical day(s) each week to provide consistency for the agency and patient follow-up. Additional days should be scheduled to accommodate for illness, employment, or family responsibilities.

Clinical Hours

Approximately 24 hours per week of clinical training are required of full-time students during the first semester, which should begin by week 3. The 2-semester course of study is to complete a total of 500 hours. The first semester will include 250 hours of concentrated Urgent Care clinical experience and 250 hours of Emergency Department clinical immersion in the second semester. For the second semester, students will need a minimum of 24 hours per week to satisfy completion of their practice immersion experiences. The ENP certificate consists of two, 6-credit hour courses (didactic) with clinical experience/practice immersion hours. Following successful completion of the course competency testing and procedural skills immersions, full-time students are expected to complete their practice and clinical training each semester. Administrative and clinical fees will be charged for additional semester(s) to complete the ENP certificate if warranted. Students who fail to meet the required credit hours per semester will be placed on academic probation and/or referred to the SPC for review in alignment with the SPC procedures and may be eligible for suspension and are at risk of dismissal.

Clinical Progression

Student productivity is expected to increase with each semester's experience. During the first semester, students may see approximately 10-15 patients per day in the urgent care setting. The student is expected to gather complete subjective and objective data on each patient, assess the problem, and develop a treatment plan for presentations encountered. In the second semester, students will be expected to see a complex variety of patients and provide a more comprehensive plan of care in the assessment, intervention, treatment, and management of emergency conditions. Students will be guided to transition from novice ENP to advanced ENP clinician as they progress in their clinical practicum.

The Clinical faculty of record will review students' clinical logs every two weeks in each semester. In addition, Preceptor and Faculty Evaluations of the student and the clinical site are documented each semester.

Record Keeping and Clinical Hours

The College of Graduate Nursing uses an electronic system to record ENP clinical practice hours. Students will record each patient visit into the clinical log using de-identified data to ensure HIPAA compliance. Students will receive an orientation to the use of the electronic system. Clinical hours will be evaluated mid and end of each semester, and at other times, if requested by the faculty. In addition, students must submit other documentation (i.e. Preceptor Evaluation, Student Evaluation of the Preceptor, Clinical site evaluation, Student Objectives) at the end of the semester. Failure to do so may result in an incomplete grade and/or failure to progress in the curriculum.

Clinical Site Visits

Faculty and contracted ENP site visitor evaluations of a clinical site will be conducted each semester. These Clinical Site visits are completed in one of three ways: 1) in-person site visits; 2) virtual site visit via video-conferencing; or 3) or via teleconference. If an in-person site visit is conducted, student clinical competency will be evaluated by direct observation of the student's performance and interaction with patients, preceptors, and staff. In addition, the clinical faculty provides guidance and support as well as assistance with clinical decision making during all forms of site visits. Students who receive an

unsatisfactory site visit evaluation must complete a remediation process with the possibility of additional clinical hours added.

Student Injuries and Illnesses in the Clinical Setting for all Students

In the event of a student injury or illness (e.g., needle stick, puncture wound, slip/fall, etc.) during a clinical experience the following should be followed:

- Students are to immediately notify their preceptor and their College's Clinical Rotations Office. As soon as possible, students are to submit an Incident Report (https://webapp.westernu.edu/incident_report).
- Obtain medical treatment (e.g., blood draw).

It is the student's choice where they obtain medical treatment. They can do so, if possible, at the clinical site, Urgent Care, local hospital or from their primary care provider. Follow-up care should be continued at the contracted clinical facility as needed and ordered by the evaluating health care professional. Expenses incurred are to be submitted to the student's personal insurance as the primary coverage and to the university as the secondary insurance, for the reported incident only.

The [Incident Report Form](#) can be found on the university website and must be completed by the student and/or faculty and submitted electronically. There may also be a requirement to fill out a more detailed report within the student's program of study (please refer to specific program clinical handbook).

Evaluation and Grading

Inquiry-based and competency-based assessments are the underlying principles for the instructional design of the CGN program and the evaluation of student achievement. To this end, each course has specific learning objectives, evaluative criteria, and expected outcomes. Assessment methods are stated in each course syllabus.

MSN-E Grading Policy

A grade of C+ or higher is required in each course in the pre-licensure portion. Pre-licensure courses are courses numbered in the 6000s (GN 6000 – GN 6999). Minimum competency, as outlined in the course syllabi for each course, is required to achieve a passing grade of C+ or higher. Attainment of a grade below a C+ denotes unacceptable performance and is grounds for dismissal from the program.

Students are required by the College to maintain a 3.00 GPA or higher each semester of the MSN-E program to remain in good standing. If a student does not maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher for each semester, the student will be referred to the Student Performance Committee for review and be placed on Academic Probation.

MSN-E Student Progress Report

The student progress report (SPR) is utilized for documenting and communicating between a learner and faculty after an unsuccessful attempt(s) at either exams, skills, assignments, or clinical objectives/procedures. If the item in question meets guidelines for remediation, then the SPR policy and procedure will be followed. Please refer to the MSN-E Clinical Handbook for details.

Pre-Licensure Grading Scale

Final course grades for the pre-licensure RN portion of the MSN-E program are given based upon the traditional 4-point letter system, as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>	<u>GPA Points</u>
A	94-100	4.00
A-	90-93	3.70
B+	87-89	3.30
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.70
C+	77-79	2.30
U	Below 77	0.00
CR	Credit	N/A
NCR	No Credit	N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE GRADES

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>	<u>GPA Points</u>
AU	Audit	N/A
I	Incomplete	N/A
W	Withdrawal	N/A
M	Missing	N/A

Post-Licensure Grading Policy

The cumulative grade of 80% (B-) or better is required to demonstrate an acceptable level of performance and enable the student to progress in the curriculum. Graded assignments for each course are included in the course syllabus. *Each course syllabus describes the elements of each course that must be passed at 80% in addition to passing the course overall by 80%.* Thus, students must pass all papers, exams, and other assigned elements of a course at 80% to be given a passing grade in the course. Students may be given the opportunity to remediate one learning component within a course to meet the cumulative letter grade requirement.

Post-Licensure Grading Scale

Final course grades for post-licensure classes are given based upon the traditional 4-point letter system, as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>	<u>GPA Points</u>
A	94-100	4.00
A-	90-93	3.70
B+	87-89	3.30
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.70
U	Below 80	0.00
CR	Credit	N/A
NCR	No Credit	N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE GRADES

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>	<u>GPA Points</u>
AU	Audit	N/A
I	Incomplete	N/A
IP	In Progress	N/A
W	Withdrawal	N/A
M	Missing	N/A

Audit

An “AU” (Audit) is assigned to a student who pays tuition for the is enrolled in a course, and attends class activities but does not complete examinations and does not receive course credit. However, under certain circumstances, at the discretion of the College Dean, or Dean’s Designee, a student who is repeating or undergoing remediation may be required to complete course examinations and/or other required work products while auditing the course for no grade. In some cases, students may be charged to audit a course. For more information, please refer to the University Catalog.

Missing (‘M’) Grades

A grade of “M” (Missing) will be assigned by the Registrar’s Office if a student’s grade is not available by the deadline for grade submission. An “M” grade is not included in the GPA calculation and will be replaced by the grade earned in the course once submitted by the course director/instructor. If the grade earned is not reported within six calendar months of the course end date, the grade of “M” will be converted to an unsatisfactory/no credit grade, contingent upon the course’s grading scale. “M” grades should not be used by the program in place of an Incomplete (“I”) grade.

Incomplete (I) Grades

Achievement of an “I” denotes an Incomplete, which signifies that a portion of the required coursework has not been completed and evaluated. Students must submit a plan for completion that meets approval by the faculty of record. Students who receive two incomplete grades in one semester will be placed on academic probation. Students who are enrolled in sequential theory courses will not be able to progress in the curriculum unless the course is completed successfully prior to the next semester or instructor approval is given. The grade of Incomplete will be recorded on the official transcript and a final grade will be assigned upon completion of course work. If the student does not satisfactorily complete the contractual agreement within the period agreed to by the faculty of record, a grade of U will be given with recommendation for dismissal from the College of Graduate Nursing.

Unsatisfactory (U) Grades

A grade of “U” denotes unacceptable performance. Students who do not meet the remediation standards for an Incomplete will be given the grade of “U.” Students who receive a “U” for any course will be placed on probation and will be unable to progress in the curriculum without a formal review by the Student Performance Committee, who will then give their recommendation to the Dean, or Dean’s designee.

Clinical Grading Policy

GN 7570/8570/8580 (Clinical Experience), GN 7999 (MSN Continuous Enrollment), and GN 8999 (DNP Continuous Enrollment) are graded as credit/no-credit and are not included in the numerical values for computing grade point averages.

Credit (CR) Grades

Achievement of the grade “Credit” signifies that a student meets the acceptable level of performance in a graduate level course. Students cannot achieve credit for clinical hours if they fail the clinical site visit (whether virtual or on-site).

No Credit (NCR) Grades

Achievement of the grade “No Credit” indicates an unacceptable level of performance in a graduate level course. A grade of “No Credit” is the equivalent of a “U” grade. Students who receive an “NCR” grade for a clinical rotation may be dismissed from the program or may be required to repeat all hours obtained during that experience. If a student does not comply with the remediation contract, the student will be dismissed from the College.

In Progress (IP) Grades

A grade of “IP” denotes a grade that is in progress, which signifies acceptable continuation of coursework.

Incomplete (I) Grades for Clinical

Achievement of the grade “Incomplete” signifies that not all required clinical hours for the enrolled number of units have been completed. The grade of “I” will be recorded on the official transcript and a final grade assigned upon the satisfactory completion of all clinical hours.

Credit Hour Calculation

Western University of Health Sciences defines one credit hour as 15 contact hours plus an average of 30 hours of out of class student work. Given that the pace of learning and studying is not identical for everyone, it is understood that actual time on task will vary from student to student.

This formula will be applied to instructional terms of any duration. An equivalent amount of time on task (i.e., contact time + out of class student work) per credit hour is required for non-classroom based academic activities such as laboratory or small group practica, asynchronous online or distance instruction, and other non-classroom modalities and delivery methods. To meet the requirements as set by the Board of Nursing, clinical credits will be equal to 45 hours for each unit of credit for the College of Graduate Nursing. Calculation of credit hours will be rounded to the nearest 0.5 credit hours per course.

Grade Appeals Process

A student who believes that a grade for a course does not accurately reflect their performance in that course should first submit a written request for a grade appeal to the faculty of record. All grade appeals must be submitted in writing to the faculty member of record within ten (10) business days of when the grade was posted. The written request should include supporting documentation. The faculty member of record either will revise the grade or will retain it as originally assigned. If the grade remains unchanged, the student may appeal to the Student Performance Committee (SPC). The SPC will review the course syllabus and student work and either retain the grade as originally assigned or send the matter forward to the Dean, or Dean's designee (See SPC section of this handbook for process). The Dean's, or Dean's designee's, decision is the final decision. Dean's, or Dean's designee's, decisions related to grades are not appealable to the Provost (See [University Catalog](#), "Student Appeal Process").

Student Participation in Student Governance

The College of Graduate Nursing (CGN) promotes student governance and values student input to advance the mission and vision of CGN. Student governance provides more informed decision-making involving student views and perspectives, to enhance the curriculum quality and promote high-level student learning outcomes. Student representatives from college programs will be recruited annually to serve on seven CGN committees.

The CGN committees for student membership include Admission and Recruitment, Program Evaluation and Assessment, Educational Technology, Curriculum, Humanism Committee, the Simulation Center Committee, and the CGN Advisory Board. Roles and responsibilities are outlined for student members below. Committees are structured so that all members can participate. Attendance and participation are noted within committee minutes, which are available to all faculty and students. When feasible, committee meetings are conducted through other means, including virtual meetings, electronic balloting, and so forth.

Members of all committees can submit agenda items. If members are not able to attend meetings, agenda items can be forwarded to the committee chair and minutes of meetings will be made available. Committee Chairs report monthly to all faculty at the CGN Collaborative. Students are encouraged to attend the CGN Collaborative and participate in CGN discussion and decisions. The CGN Collaborative meets nine times a year.

Student Committee Members

Student members that participate in student governance activities are graduate students in good standing with CGN and represent the various programs and concentrations. At a minimum, the eligible members include representatives from the MSN-E program (first- and second-year students), an MSN member, a Post-Master's FNP Certificate student, a Post-Master's PMHNP certificate student, and a DNP student. Student cohorts can use various models to select committee members. These could be via consensus, election, or volunteer as desired by the student group.

The college recognizes that the committees are standing committees and contribute to ongoing work; therefore, students may be required to augment their knowledge that relates to the committee's work. Student members are recognized as full committee members and so have voice and vote in the decision-making process.

Student Governance Policy

Students are introduced to the role of student governance during CGN's Welcome Week. Prior to the end of the first fall semester, students are identified for the committees. The student governance term runs through the end of the fall semester in the next academic year, allowing the student to serve about 12 months. Students in two or three-year programs may serve two years.

Training for student participation in committees will be handled by the Chair of each committee. Training for MSNE students within SGA roles will be handled by the CGN Student Affairs professional. A survey or other form of information gathering from student participants will be conducted annually. This meeting/survey is to debrief and share key experiences from each of the five committees. Recommendations for enhancing student participation and program improvements will be obtained and summarized for incoming student governance/committee members.

The CGN Student Affairs professional will clarify processes for student governance and be a resource for student questions or concerns

Standing Committees

Recruitment and Marketing Advisory Committee

The charge of the Recruitment and Marketing Advisory Committee is to provide recommendations to the Office of Admissions and the University Marketing Division to advance and optimize recruitment and marketing initiatives. Responsibilities of the committee include, but are not limited to, providing feedback regarding resources, processes, and strategies in the marketing of all CGN programs and recruitment of prospective students. The committee uses social media as a recruitment tool and to embrace ongoing relationships with the WesternU community. The committee also provides recommendations for enhancements to the WesternU website.

The committee is led by two co-chairs. One co-chair is the Senior Director of Student Services, and the other co-chair is a faculty member. The faculty co-chair will serve for a term of two years. The committee is comprised of faculty, staff, students, and university partners to ensure representation across all CGN programs. The committee meets monthly or bi-monthly. A simple majority present is needed to vote on an issue. Students are valuable stakeholders to assist CGN to meet recruitment and marketing goals.

Curriculum Committee

The curriculum committee is composed of seven faculty members representing each program. Three-year terms will commence with staggered start dates to ensure the presence of expertise and progressive development of novice members. In the event of a committee member's absence, an alternative may be assigned.

Student representatives, as voting members, will serve 1-2 years as determined by their program. Students are expected to attend all meetings, particularly when their program is undergoing review. Specialty consultants (e.g., librarians, humanism representatives, operations) provide important contributions to curricula development and are welcome to continually serve on this committee. To prepare highly competent graduates, the responsibilities of the College of Graduate Nursing's Curriculum Committee include:

- Evaluation of CGN's curricula in a three-year cycle
- Comprehensive review of new courses and courses with major revisions
- Assessment of quality, progression, and currency of the curricula
- Determination of content levels across programs
- Alignment of curricula to stakeholder and community needs, as well as regulatory standards
- Submission of curricula review results and recommendations to the Dean, or Dean's designee, and faculty

Program Evaluation and Assessment Committee

The Program Evaluation and Assessment Committee (PEAC) shall monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum (student outcomes), programs, and faculty performance. The committee will also monitor the effectiveness of the learning environment (administrative support, seminar weekends, Learning Management System platform) to assure the delivery of curriculum is meeting the needs of students. The Assessment Calendar is designed to ensure all evaluation data is captured and analyzed to inform CQI. The committee members will maintain currency in educational requirements/standards

(WASC, AACN, NONPF, BRN) to assure assessments and outcomes reflect appropriate learning outcomes. The Evaluation Committee will include a minimum of five faculty members of the MSN program as well as the DNP program. Student members will represent all programs. The Chair of the committee is the Director of Assessment for the College who will report findings at full faculty meetings three times a year to coincide with the academic calendar of three semesters. The committee shall determine the length of service terms for committee members such that there is gradual replacement of the committee over time.

Educational Technology Committee (ETC)

The committee's charge is to identify and recommend new technologies and educational resources to enhance and improve student learning for all programs and develop technological solutions throughout the college. ETC will include representation from the following groups: on-line education, assessment, instructional design, faculty (two minimum), staff, and students. The ETC committee will meet monthly as needed.

Simulation Center Committee

This committee will be charged with staying current on the latest and high quality technologies, simulators and systems available to supplement the education of nursing students for all programs at CGN. The committee meets as needed.

Humanism Committee

The committee is in charge of promoting humanism within the college community. This includes integrating healthcare education to enhance and extend the quality of life in all communities. The College of Graduate Nursing recognizes our responsibility to foster an open, welcoming environment where students, administration, faculty, and staff of all backgrounds can collaboratively learn, work, and serve. The Committee supports learning environments that allow the development of self-awareness, knowledge, and skills combined with attention to others who may have experiences, worldviews, and values that are different from one's own. The committee will continually strive to collaborate with administration, faculty, staff, and students to address the challenges of education and healthcare in a way that promotes a culture of Humanism. The committee meets as needed.

Global and Community Health Committee

The mission of the Global and Community Health Committee is to prepare nurses in the areas of education, research, leadership, and practice, placing priority on improving health for all people locally, nationally, and internationally. The committee meets as needed.

The CGN Advisory Board

The CGN advisory board meets three times a year. The committee serves as an advisory body to the Dean, or Dean's designee. Members serve a minimum of two years and represent employers, community partners, university representatives, students, alumni, and donors. Student members will represent all programs. Meetings are held three times a year. This valuable advisory body provides feedback regarding program effectiveness, changes in the context of healthcare, and educational relevancy for CGN programs to be leaders for the profession of nursing.

Schedule for Committee Onboarding Within the Academic Year

August - Welcome Week information shared with incoming students. Job duties, committees, and an application are stored in the CGN student center. Graduate students who are available for Welcome Week will meet with incoming students to encourage student governance and share their experience.

December – Welcome Week information shared with incoming DNP and ENP students who selected a Spring entry start date.

Members who are continuing to serve on committees (two-year term) can assist with mentoring of new student committee members and continue as committee members in the Fall semester.

Student Roles and Responsibilities Within Committees

Purpose

To be actively engaged in shared governance to provide CGN faculty and staff with insight to the student experience, provide a voice to student decision making, and enhance program evaluation. CGN values student input to assure teaching and learning is student centered and designed to meet program outcomes.

Responsibilities

Students attend committee meetings, come prepared for meetings, and serve as the representative to each student cohort. Cohort representatives will communicate with their cohort to generate ideas, agenda items, or other constructive feedback to share with faculty and staff at committee meetings. Time commitments will vary due to the charge of the committee. In most cases, this will require a two-hour meeting a month. Attendance can be in-person, written document, phone conferencing, video conferencing, or other electronic means.

Other Venues of Student Communication to CGN

Program Directors and Faculty Advisors provide a venue for face-to-face, email, phone call, or pre-scheduled virtual communication with students that may be formal or informal. The Dean, or Dean's designee, provides an open-door policy to meet with students. The CGN Student Affairs professional also has an open-door policy and can be reached via email, phone, or pre-scheduled virtual sessions.

Student satisfaction surveys are circulated to students at the end of each semester, at the end of year one, and at the end of the program. Each year, all distance students provide an evaluation of seminar weekends/intensives/clinical skills days. Ongoing data is collected and analyzed on a regular basis. Plans for improvement are guided by program review to further continuous improvement.

Curriculum Organization

Extended Curriculums

Extended versions of the programs offered by the College of Graduate Nursing may be available. For additional information, please contact the Student Affairs professional in the College of Graduate Nursing directly at 909-469-5255.

Nursing Curriculum for 30 Unit Option

(LVN Applicants Only)

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 6510	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	3.00
GN 6511	Clinical Practicum: Medical-Surgical Nursing I	3.00
GN 6610	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	2.00
GN 6611	Clinical Practicum: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	2.00
Semester Total:		10.00
First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 6560	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	3.00
GN 6561	Clinical Practicum: Medical-Surgical Nursing II	2.00
Semester Total:		5.00
Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 6801	Leadership and Management in the Clinical Setting	2.00
GN 6802	Clinical Practicum: Leadership and Management in the Clinical Setting	1.00
Semester Total:		3.00
Total Units:		18.00

MSN-E (Entering Fall 2024)

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
IPE 5000	An Interprofessional Approach I*	1.00
GN 6120	Pathophysiology	4.00
GN 6141	Pharmacology	3.00
GN 6210	Physical Assessment & Health Promotion	2.00
GN 6211	Clinical Practicum: Physical Assessment & Health Promotion	1.00
GN 6410	Nursing Fundamentals	3.00
GN 6411	Clinical Practicum: Nursing Fundamentals	2.00
Semester Total:		16.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
IPE 5100	An Interprofessional Approach II*	1.00
GN 6165	Evidence Based Practice and Theory	3.00
GN 6510	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	3.00
GN 6511	Clinical Practicum: Medical-Surgical Nursing I	3.00
GN 6610	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	2.00
GN 6611	Clinical Practicum: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	2.00
GN 6730	Gerontological Nursing	2.00
GN 6731	Clinical Practicum: Gerontological Nursing	1.00
GN 6750	Nursing Professional Roles	1.00
Semester Total:		18.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 6170	Utilization of Evidence in Health Care	2.00
GN 6560	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	3.00
GN 6561	Clinical Practicum: Medical-Surgical Nursing II	2.00
GN 6710	Obstetric Nursing	2.00
GN 6711	Clinical Practicum: Obstetric Nursing	2.00
GN 6720	Pediatric Nursing	2.00
GN 6721	Clinical Practicum: Pediatric Nursing	2.00
Semester Total:		15.00

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
IPE 6000	Interprofessional Team Training in Health Care I*	1.00
GN 6760	Master's Project I	1.00
GN 6765	Clinical Practicum: Capstone	3.00
GN 6801	Leadership and Management in the Clinical Setting	2.00
GN 6802	Clinical Practicum: Leadership and Management in the Clinical Setting	1.00
GN 6905	Public Health and Population Based Nursing Practice	3.00
GN 6906	Clinical Practicum: Public Health and Population Based Nursing Practice	2.00
GN 6915	Improvement Science for Quality and Safety	3.00
Semester Total:		16.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
IPE 6100	IPE: Team Training in Healthcare II *	1.00
GN 6770	Master's Project II	1.00
GN 6771	Clinical Practicum: Master's Project II	1.00
GN 6920	Health System Leadership	3.00
GN 6921	Clinical Practicum: Health System Leadership	1.00
GN 6935	Informatics and Applied Statistics	4.00
GN 6970	Applied Pathophysiology	4.00
Semester Total:		15.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 6780	Master's Project III	1.00
GN 6781	Clinical Practicum: Master's Project III	1.00
GN 6960	Care Coordination/Chronic Disease Management	3.00
GN 6980	Applied Pharmacology	4.00
GN 6990	Applied Physical Assessment	4.00
GN 6991	Clinical Practicum: Applied Physical Assessment	1.00
Semester Total:		14.00
Total Program Units:		94.00

*Course(s) not charged tuition.

MSN-E (Entering Fall 2025 and Beyond)

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 6001	Social Structures & Disparities in Healthcare I	1.00
GN 6120	Pathophysiology	4.00
GN 6141	Pharmacology	3.00
GN 6210	Physical Assessment & Health Promotion	2.00
GN 6211	Clinical Practicum: Physical Assessment & Health Promotion	1.00
GN 6410	Nursing Fundamentals	3.00
GN 6411	Clinical Practicum: Nursing Fundamentals	2.00
Semester Total:		16.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 6002	Social Structures & Disparities in Healthcare II	1.00
GN 6165	Evidence Based Practice and Theory	3.00
GN 6510	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	3.00
GN 6511	Clinical Practicum: Medical-Surgical Nursing I	3.00
GN 6610	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	2.00
GN 6611	Clinical Practicum: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	2.00
GN 6730	Gerontological Nursing	2.00
GN 6731	Clinical Practicum: Gerontological Nursing	1.00
Semester Total:		17.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 6170	Utilization of Evidence in Health Care	2.00
GN 6560	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	3.00
GN 6561	Clinical Practicum: Medical-Surgical Nursing II	2.00
GN 6710	Obstetric Nursing	2.00
GN 6711	Clinical Practicum: Obstetric Nursing	2.00
GN 6720	Pediatric Nursing	2.00
GN 6721	Clinical Practicum: Pediatric Nursing	2.00
Semester Total:		15.00

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 6760	Master's Project I	1.00
GN 6761	Clinical Practicum: Capstone	3.00
GN 6801	Leadership and Management in the Clinical Setting	2.00
GN 6802	Clinical Practicum: Leadership and Management in the Clinical Setting	1.00
GN 6905	Public Health and Population Based Nursing Practice	3.00
GN 6906	Clinical Practicum: Public Health and Population Based Nursing Practice	2.00
GN 6915	Improvement Science for Quality and Safety	2.00
Semester Total:		14.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 6750	Nursing Professional Roles	1.00
GN 6770	Master's Project II	1.00
GN 6771	Clinical Practicum: Master's Project II	1.00
GN 6920	Health System Leadership	3.00
GN 6921	Clinical Practicum: Health System Leadership	1.00
GN 6935	Informatics and Applied Statistics	4.00
GN 6970	Applied Pathophysiology	3.00
Semester Total:		14.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 6780	Master's Project III	1.00
GN 6781	Clinical Practicum: Master's Project III	1.00
GN 6960	Care Coordination/Chronic Disease Management	2.00
GN 6980	Applied Pharmacology	3.00
GN 6990	Applied Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 6991	Clinical Practicum: Applied Physical Assessment	1.00
Semester Total:		11.00
Total Program Units:		87.00

MSN/Family Nurse Practitioner (Entering Fall 2026 and Beyond)

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8004	Scholarly Writing	1.00
GN 8500	Advanced Pharmacology	3.00
GN 8601	Advanced Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 8630	Advanced Pathophysiology	3.00
Semester Total:		10.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8006	Reflective Practice and Professional Identity Formation in Advanced Practice Nursing	1.00
GN 8401	Primary Care I: Management of Common Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8602	FNP Role: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	2.00
GN 8641	Clinical Applications I	2.00
Semester Total:		9.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8015	Humanism in Healthcare	1.00
GN 8402	Primary Care II: Management of Acute Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8603	Societal and Ethical Issues for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
GN 8642	Clinical Applications II	1.00
GN 8691	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation I	1.00
Semester Total:		9.00

*Course(s) not charged tuition.

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8005	Advance Practice Inquiry	2.00
GN 8035	Applied Biostatistics for Health Professionals	2.00
GN 8403	Primary Care III: Management of Chronic Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
Semester Total:		8.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8404	Primary Care IV: Management of Complex Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	5.00
GN 8606	Complementary Pharmacology and Alternative Therapies	1.00
GN 8700	FNP Outcome Competencies Review	1.00
GN 8820	Professional Practice Issues	1.00
Semester Total:		10.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5990	APN Master's Project	3.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	4.00
GN 8643	Clinical Applications III	1.00
GN 8692	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation II	1.00
GN 8840	Business and Management Practice for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
Semester Total:		11.00
Total Program Units:		57.00

*Course(s) not charged tuition.

Extended 3 Year - MSN/Family Nurse Practitioner (Entering Fall 2026 and Beyond)

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8004	Scholarly Writing	1.00
GN 8500	Advanced Pharmacology	3.00
GN 8601	Advanced Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 8630	Advanced Pathophysiology	3.00
Semester Total:		10.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8401	Primary Care I: Management of Common Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	1.00
GN 8602	FNP Role: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	2.00
GN 8641	Clinical Applications I	2.00
Semester Total:		7.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8402	Primary Care II: Management of Acute Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8603	Societal and Ethical Issues for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
GN 8642	Clinical Applications II	1.00
GN 8691	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation I	1.00
Semester Total:		8.00

**Course(s) not charged tuition.*

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8005	Advance Practice Inquiry	2.00
GN 8403	Primary Care III: Management of Chronic Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
Semester Total:		6.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8404	Primary Care IV: Management of Complex Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8606	Complementary Pharmacology and Alternative Therapies	1.00
Semester Total:		5.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8015	Humanism in Healthcare	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8643	Clinical Applications III	1.00
GN 8692	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation II	1.00
GN 8840	Business and Management Practice for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
Semester Total:		7.00

*Course(s) not charged tuition.

Year 3

Third Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8035	Applied Biostatistics for Health Professionals	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
Semester Total:		4.00

Third Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8006	Reflective Practice and Professional Identity Formation in Advanced Practice Nursing	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8700	FNP Outcome Competencies Review	1.00
GN 8820	Professional Practice Issues	1.00
Semester Total:		5.00

Third Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5990	APN Master's Project	3.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8693	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation III	1.00
Semester Total:		6.00
Total Program Units:		58.00

**Course(s) not charged tuition.*

MSN/Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Entering Fall 2023 and Earlier)

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		No
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5200	Nursing Theory	3.00
GN 5304	Nursing Research I	2.00
GN 5601	Advanced Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 5631	Advanced Pathophysiology I	1.00
Semester Total:		9.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		No
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5305	Nursing Research II	2.00
GN 5501	Advanced Pharmacology I	2.00
GN 5602	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	1.00
GN 5603	Societal and Ethical Issues	1.00
GN 5632	Advanced Pathophysiology II	1.00
Semester Total:		7.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		No
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5502	Advanced Pharmacology II	2.00
GN 5606	Complementary and Alternative Therapies	1.00
GN 5633	Advanced Pathophysiology III	1.00
Semester Total:		4.00

**Course(s) not charged tuition.*

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5180	Counseling Across the Lifespan	3.00
CN 5181	Psychiatric Mental health Care Management Across Settings I	3.00
GN 5605	Human Diversity	1.00
GN 5810	Management Practice Issues	2.00
GN 7570*	Clinical Experience*	5.00
Semester Total:		14.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5103	Advanced Health Systems	3.00
GN 5182	Psychiatric Mental health Care Management Across Settings II	3.00
GN 5820	Professional Practice Issues	2.00
GN 7570 *	Clinical Experience*	5.00
Semester Total:		13.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5183	Psychiatric Mental health Care Management Across Settings III	3.00
GN 5990	APN Master's Project	3.00
GN 7570*	Clinical Experience*	5.00
Semester Total:		11.00
Total Program Units:		58.00

*Course(s) not charged tuition.

Post-Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) / Leadership, Spring Entry (2024 entry and onward)

Year 1

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8004	Scholarly Writing	1.00
GN 8005	Advanced Practice Inquiry	2.00
GN 8035	Applied Biostatistics for Health Professionals	2.00
Semester Total:		5.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8006	Reflective Practice and Professional Identity Formation in Advanced Practice Nursing	1.00
GN 8007	Theoretical Perspectives for Nursing Practice	2.00
GN 8055	Organizational Leadership, Collaboration, and the Science of Improvement	3.00
Semester Total:		6.00

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8025	Health Informatics and Outcome Driven Practice	3.00
GN 8065	Assessment, Measurement, and Evaluation in Outcomes-Based Advanced Nursing Practice	3.00
Semester Total:		6.00

*Triggers clinical practice fee for semester.

**Required for NFLP recipients, elective for non-NFLP recipients.

*** Students are required to register every term after completion of coursework until DNP Project is complete. A continuous registration fee of \$835.00 is assessed per term.

Year 2

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8045	Population Health	3.00
GN 8075	DNP Systems Thinking I: Developing the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8701	Principles of Teaching and Learning for Nurse Educators (elective)**	3.00
Semester Total:		5.00-8.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8076	DNP Systems Thinking II: Implementing the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8085	Social Justice, Health Policy, and Advocacy in Practice	3.00
GN 8702	Facilitation of Teaching-Learning for Nurse Educators (elective)**	3.00
Semester Total:		5.00-8.00

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8015	Humanism in Healthcare	1.00
GN 8077	DNP Systems Thinking III: Evaluation and Dissemination of the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8703	Program Development, Evaluation, & Leadership for Nursing Educators (elective)**	3.00
Semester Total:		3.00-6.00
Total Program Units:		30.00 – 39.00

Continuous Enrollment (ABD Students)		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8999	Continuous Enrollment/DNP Project***	3.00

*Triggers clinical practice fee for semester.

**Required for NFLP recipients, elective for non-NFLP recipients.

*** Students are required to register every term after completion of coursework until DNP Project is complete. A continuous registration fee of \$835.00 is assessed per term.

Post-Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) / Leadership (2024 entry and onward)

Fall Entry

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8004	Scholarly Writing	1.00
GN 8005	Advanced Practice Inquiry	2.00
GN 8035	Applied Biostatistics for Health Professionals	2.00
Semester Total:		5.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8006	Reflective Practice and Professional Identity Formation in Advanced Practice Nursing	1.00
GN 8007	Theoretical Perspectives for Nursing Practice	2.00
GN 8055	Organizational Leadership, Collaboration, and the Science of Improvement	3.00
Semester Total:		6.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8025	Health Informatics and Outcome Driven Practice	3.00
GN 8065	Assessment, Measurement, and Evaluation in Outcomes-Based Advanced Nursing Practice	3.00
Semester Total:		6.00

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8045	Population Health	3.00
GN 8075	DNP Systems Thinking I: Developing the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8701	Principles of Teaching and Learning for Nurse Educators (elective)**	3.00
Semester Total:		5.00-8.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8076	DNP Systems Thinking II: Implementing the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8085	Social Justice, Health Policy, and Advocacy in Practice	3.00
GN 8702	Facilitation of Teaching-Learning for Nurse Educators (elective)**	3.00
Semester Total:		5.00-8.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes *
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8015	Humanism in Healthcare	1.00
GN 8077	DNP Systems Thinking III: Evaluation and Dissemination of the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8703	Program Development, Evaluation, & Leadership for Nursing Educators (elective)**	3.00
Semester Total:		3.00-6.00
Total Program Units:		30.00 – 39.00

Continuous Enrollment (for completion of DNP Project)		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8999	Continuous Enrollment/DNP Project***	3.00

*Course triggers clinical practice fee for semester.

**Required for NFLP recipients, elective for non-NFLP recipients.

*** Students are required to register every term after completion of coursework until DNP Project is complete. A continuous registration fee of \$835.00 is assessed per term.

Doctor of Nursing Practice/Family Nurse Practitioner Program (2024 entry and onward)

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8500	Advanced Pharmacology	3.00
GN 8601	Advanced Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 8630	Advanced Pathophysiology	3.00
GN 8004	Scholarly Writing	1.00
Semester Total:		10.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8401	Primary Care I: Management of Common Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8602	FNP Role: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	2.00
GN 8641	Clinical Applications I	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	1.00
GN 8006	Reflective Practice and Professional Identity Formation in Advanced Practice Nursing	1.00
Semester Total:		8.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8402	Primary Care II: Management of Acute Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8603	Societal and Ethical Issues for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
GN 8642	Clinical Applications II	1.00
GN 8691	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation I	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8015	Humanism in Healthcare	1.00
Semester Total:		9.00

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8403	Primary Care III: Management of Chronic Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8005	Advance Practice Inquiry	2.00
GN 8035	Applied Biostatistics for Health Professionals	2.00
Semester Total:		8.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8404	Primary Care IV: Management of Complex Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8606	Complementary Pharmacology and Alternative Therapies	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	1.00
GN 8007	Theoretical Perspectives for Nursing Practice	2.00
GN 8055	Organizational Leadership, Collaboration, and the Science of Improvement	3.00
Semester Total:		9.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8643	Clinical Applications III	1.00
GN 8692	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation II	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8025	Health Informatics and Outcome Driven Practice	3.00
GN 8065	Assessment, Measurement, and Evaluation in Outcomes-Based Advanced Nursing Practice	3.00
Semester Total:		10.00

Year 3

Third Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8045	Population Health	3.00
GN 8075	DNP Systems Thinking I: Developing the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8085	Social Justice, Health Policy, and Advocacy in Practice	3.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
Semester Total:		10.00

Third Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8700	FNP Outcome Competencies Review	1.00
GN 8820	Professional Practice Issues	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	3.00
GN 8076	DNP Systems Thinking II: Implementing the Scholarly Project	2.00
Semester Total:		7.00

Third Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8693	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation III	1.00
GN 8840	Business and Management Practice for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8077	DNP Systems Thinking III: Evaluation and Dissemination of the Scholarly Project	2.00
Semester Total:		7.00
Total Program Units:		78.00

Continuous Enrollment (ABD Students)		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8999	Continuous Enrollment/DNP Project***	3.00

*Course triggers clinical practice fee for semester but is not charged tuition.

*** Students are required to register every term after completion of coursework until DNP Project is complete. A continuous registration fee of \$835.00 is assessed per term.

Extended 4 Year - Doctor of Nursing Practice/Family Nurse Practitioner Program

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8004	Scholarly Writing	1.00
GN 8500	Advanced Pharmacology	3.00
GN 8601	Advanced Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 8630	Advanced Pathophysiology	3.00
Semester Total:		10.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8401	Primary Care I: Management of Common Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	1.00
GN 8602	FNP Role: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	2.00
GN 8641	Clinical Applications I	2.00
Semester Total:		7.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8065	Assessment, Measurement, and Evaluation in Outcome Based Advanced Nursing	3.00
GN 8402	Primary Care II: Management of Acute Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8642	Clinical Applications II	1.00
Semester Total:		8.00

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8005	Advance Practice Inquiry	2.00
GN 8403	Primary Care III: Management of Chronic Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
Semester Total:		6.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8055	Organizational Leadership, Collaboration, and the Science of Improvement	3.00
GN 8404	Primary Care IV: Management of Complex Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8606	Complementary Pharmacology and Alternative Therapies	1.00
Semester Total:		8.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8025	Health Informatics and Outcome Driven Practice	3.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8603	Societal and Ethical Issues for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
GN 8691	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation I	1.00
Semester Total:		8.00

Year 3

Third Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8035	Applied Biostatistics for Health Professionals	2.00
GN 8045	Population Health	3.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	1.00
GN 8643	Clinical Applications III	1.00
Semester Total:		7.00

Third Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8007	Theoretical Perspectives for Nursing Practice	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	1.00
GN 8700	FNP Outcome Competencies Review	1.00
GN 8820	Professional Practice Issues	1.00
Semester Total:		5.00

Third Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8015	Humanism in Healthcare	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	1.00
GN 8692	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation II	1.00
GN 8840	Business and Management Practice for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
Semester Total:		5.00

Year 4

Fourth Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8075	DNP Systems Thinking I: Developing the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8085	Social Justice, Health Policy, and Advocacy in Practice	3.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	1.00
Semester Total:		6.00

Fourth Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8006	Reflective Practice and Professional Identity Formation in Advanced Practice Nursing	1.00
GN 8076	DNP Systems Thinking II: Implementing the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	1.00
GN 8700	FNP Outcome Competencies Review	1.00
Semester Total:		5.00

Fourth Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8077	DNP Systems Thinking II: Evaluation and Dissemination of the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	1.00
GN 8693	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation III	1.00
Semester Total:		4.00
Total Program Units:		79.00

Continuous Enrollment (ABD Students)		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8999	Continuous Enrollment/DNP Project***	3.00

*Course triggers clinical practice fee for semester but is not charged tuition.

*** Students are required to register every term after completion of coursework until DNP Project is complete. A continuous registration fee of \$835.00 is assessed per term.

Doctor of Nursing Practice/Family Nurse Practitioner Program (2024 entry and onward)
For applicants that do not have one year of RN work experience

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8630	Advanced Pathophysiology	3.00
GN 8004	Scholarly Writing	1.00
GN 8035	Applied Biostatistics for Health Professionals	2.00
Semester Total:		6.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8602	FNP Role: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	2.00
GN 8006	Reflective Practice and Professional Identity Formation in Advanced Practice Nursing	1.00
GN 8055	Organizational Leadership, Collaboration, and the Science of Improvement	3.00
Semester Total:		6.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8603	Societal and Ethical Issues for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
GN 8015	Humanism in Healthcare	1.00
GN 8025	Health Informatics and Outcome Driven Practice	3.00
Semester Total:		6.00

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8500	Advanced Pharmacology	3.00
GN 8601	Advanced Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 8005	Advance Practice Inquiry	2.00
GN 8045	Population Health	3.00
Semester Total:		11.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8401	Primary Care I: Management of Common Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8606	Complementary Pharmacology and Alternative Therapies	1.00
GN 8641	Clinical Applications I	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8007	Theoretical Perspectives for Nursing Practice	2.00
Semester Total:		9.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8402	Primary Care II: Management of Acute Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8642	Clinical Applications II	1.00
GN 8691	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation I	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	3.00
GN 8065	Assessment, Measurement, and Evaluation in Outcomes-Based Advanced Nursing Practice	3.00
Semester Total:		10.00

Year 3

Third Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8403	Primary Care III: Management of Chronic Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8643	Clinical Applications III	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	3.00
GN 8075	DNP Systems Thinking I: Developing the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8085	Social Justice, Health Policy, and Advocacy in Practice	3.00
Semester Total:		11.00

Third Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8404	Primary Care IV: Management of Complex Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8700	FNP Outcome Competencies Review	1.00
GN 8820	Professional Practice Issues	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	4.00
GN 8076	DNP Systems Thinking II: Implementing the Scholarly Project	2.00
Semester Total:		10.00

Third Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8694	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation IV	2.00
GN 8840	Business and Management Practice for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	3.00
GN 8077	DNP Systems Thinking III: Evaluation and Dissemination of the Scholarly Project	2.00
Semester Total:		9.00
Total Program Units:		78.00

Continuous Enrollment (ABD Students)		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8999	Continuous Enrollment/DNP Project***	3.00

*Course triggers clinical practice fee for semester but is not charged tuition.

*** Students are required to register every term after completion of coursework until DNP Project is complete. A continuous registration fee of \$835.00 is assessed per term.

Doctor of Nursing Practice/Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program (2024 entry and onward)

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8500	Advanced Pharmacology	3.00
GN 8601	Advanced Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 8630	Advanced Pathophysiology	3.00
GN 8004	Scholarly Writing	1.00
Semester Total:		10.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8100	Psychopharmacology	2.00
GN 8181	Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings I	3.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	1.00
GN 8006	Reflective Practice and Professional Identity Formation in Advanced Practice Nursing	1.00
Semester Total:		7.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8681	PMHNP Clinical Evaluations I	1.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	3.00
GN 8015	Humanism in Healthcare	1.00
Semester Total:		5.00

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8184	Counseling and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Lifespan	3.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8005	Advance Practice Inquiry	2.00
GN 8035	Applied Biostatistics for Health Professionals	2.00
Semester Total:		9.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8182	Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings II	3.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8007	Theoretical Perspectives for Nursing Practice	2.00
GN 8055	Organizational Leadership, Collaboration, and the Science of Improvement	3.00
Semester Total:		10.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8682	PMHNP Clinical Evaluations II	1.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8025	Health Informatics and Outcome Driven Practice	3.00
GN 8065	Assessment, Measurement, and Evaluation in Outcomes-Based Advanced Nursing Practice	3.00
Semester Total:		9.00

Year 3

Third Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8045	Population Health	3.00
GN 8075	DNP Systems Thinking I: Developing the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8085	Social Justice, Health Policy, and Advocacy in Practice	3.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	1.00
Semester Total:		9.00

Third Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8183	Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings III	3.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8076	DNP Systems Thinking II: Implementing the Scholarly Project	2.00
Semester Total:		7.00

Third Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8683	PMHNP Clinical Evaluations III	1.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8077	DNP Systems Thinking III: Evaluation and Dissemination of the Scholarly Project	2.00
Semester Total:		5.00
Total Program Units:		71.00

Continuous Enrollment (ABD Students)		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8999	Continuous Enrollment/DNP Project***	3.00

*Course triggers clinical practice fee for semester but is not charged tuition.

*** Students are required to register every term after completion of coursework until DNP Project is complete. A continuous registration fee of \$835.00 is assessed per term.

Doctor of Nursing Practice/Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program (2024 entry and onward)

For applicants that do not have one year of RN work experience

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8500	Advanced Pharmacology	3.00
GN 8630	Advanced Pathophysiology	3.00
GN 8004	Scholarly Writing	1.00
GN 8005	Advance Practice Inquiry	2.00
Semester Total:		9.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8100	Psychopharmacology	2.00
GN 8006	Reflective Practice and Professional Identity Formation in Advanced Practice Nursing	1.00
GN 8055	Organizational Leadership, Collaboration, and the Science of Improvement	3.00
Semester Total:		6.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8015	Humanism in Healthcare	1.00
GN 8025	Health Informatics and Outcome Driven Practice	3.00
GN 8065	Assessment, Measurement, and Evaluation in Outcomes-Based Advanced Nursing Practice	3.00
Semester Total:		7.00

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8601	Advanced Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 8035	Applied Biostatistics for Health Professionals	2.00
GN 8045	Population Health	3.00
Semester Total:		8.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8181	Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings I	3.00
GN 8681	PMHNP Clinical Evaluations I	1.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
GN 8007	Theoretical Perspectives for Nursing Practice	2.00
Semester Total:		8.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8182	Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings II	3.00
GN 8682	PMHNP Clinical Evaluations II	1.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	4.00
Semester Total:		8.00

Year 3

Third Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8184	Counseling and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Lifespan	3.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	1.00
GN 8075	DNP Systems Thinking I: Developing the Scholarly Project	2.00
GN 8085	Social Justice, Health Policy, and Advocacy in Practice	3.00
Semester Total:		9.00

Third Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8183	Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings III	3.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	4.00
GN 8076	DNP Systems Thinking II: Implementing the Scholarly Project	2.00
Semester Total:		9.00

Third Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8683	PMHNP Clinical Evaluations III	1.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	4.00
GN 8077	DNP Systems Thinking III: Evaluation and Dissemination of the Scholarly Project	2.00
Semester Total:		7.00
Total Program Units:		71.00

Continuous Enrollment (ABD Students)		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8999	Continuous Enrollment/DNP Project***	3.00

*Course triggers clinical practice fee for semester but is not charged tuition.

*** Students are required to register every term after completion of coursework until DNP Project is complete. A continuous registration fee of \$835.00 is assessed per term.

Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner (2024 entry and onward)

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8500	Advanced Pharmacology	3.00
GN 8601	Advanced Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 8630	Advanced Pathophysiology	3.00
Semester Total:		9.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8401	Primary Care I: Management of Common Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8602	FNP Role: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	2.00
GN 8641	Clinical Applications I	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	1.00
Semester Total:		7.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8402	Primary Care II: Management of Acute Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8603	Societal and Ethical Issues for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
GN 8642	Clinical Applications II	1.00
GN 8691	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation I	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	2.00
Semester Total:		8.00

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8403	Primary Care III: Management of Chronic Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8840	Business and Management Practice for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	4.00
Semester Total:		8.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8404	Primary Care IV: Management of Complex Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8606	Complementary Pharmacology and Alternative Therapies	1.00
GN 8700	FNP Outcome Competencies Review	1.00
GN 8820	Professional Practice Issues	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	3.00
Semester Total:		8.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8643	Clinical Applications III	1.00
GN 8692	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation II	1.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience*	5.00
Semester Total:		7.00
Total Program Units:		47.00

*Course(s) not charged tuition.

Extended 3 Year - Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner

Year 1

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		NO
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8500	Advanced Pharmacology	3.00
GN 8601	Advanced Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 8630	Advanced Pathophysiology	3.00
Semester Total:		9.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8401	Primary Care I: Management of Common Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	1.00
GN 8602	FNP Role: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	2.00
GN 8641	Clinical Applications I	2.00
Semester Total:		7.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8402	Primary Care II: Management of Acute Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8642	Clinical Applications II	1.00
GN 8691	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation I	1.00
Semester Total:		6.00

Year 2

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8403	Primary Care III: Management of Chronic Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
Semester Total:		4.00

Second Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8404	Primary Care IV: Management of Complex Conditions Across the Lifespan	2.00
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8606	Complementary Pharmacology and Alternative Therapies	1.00
Semester Total:		5.00

Second Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8643	Clinical Applications III	1.00
GN 8692	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation II	1.00
Semester Total:		4.00

Year 3

Third Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8840	Business and Management Practice for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
Semester Total:		4.00

Third Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8700	FNP Outcome Competencies Review	1.00
GN 8820	Professional Practice Issues	1.00
Semester Total:		4.00

Third Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8570	FNP Clinical Experience *	2.00
GN 8603	Societal and Ethical Issues for the Nurse Practitioner	2.00
GN 8693	FNP-Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation III	1.00
Semester Total:		5.00
Total Program Units:		48.00

*Course(s) not charged tuition.

Post-Master's Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (2024 entry and onward)

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8184	Counseling and Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Life Span	3.00
GN 8500	Advanced Pharmacology	3.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	1.00
GN 8601	Advanced Physical Assessment	3.00
GN 8630	Advanced Pathophysiology	3.00
Semester Total:		13.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8100	Psychopharmacology	2.00
GN 8181	Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings I	3.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	4.00
Semester Total:		9.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8182	Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings II	3.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	5.00
GN 8681	PMHNP Clinical Evaluations I	1.00
Semester Total:		9.00

Second Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 8183	Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings III	3.00
GN 8580	PMHNP Clinical Experience*	5.00
GN 8682	PMHNP Clinical Evaluations II	1.00
Semester Total:		9.00
Total Program Units:		40.00

*Course(s) not charged tuition.

Post-Graduate Emergency Nurse Practitioner Certificate (Fall Entry)

First Year, Fall Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5410	Advanced Emergency Care Concepts for the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Clinician I	6.00
<i>Clinical Experience Practicum (250 hours)</i>		
Semester Total:		6.00

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5420	Advanced Emergency Care Concepts for the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Clinician II	6.00
<i>Clinical Experience Practicum (250 hours)</i>		
Semester Total:		6.00
Total Program Units:		12.00

Post-Graduate Emergency Nurse Practitioner Certificate (Spring Entry)

First Year, Spring Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5410	Advanced Emergency Care Concepts for the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Clinician I	6.00
<i>Clinical Experience Practicum (250 hours)</i>		
Semester Total:		6.00

First Year, Summer Semester		
Clinical Fee Assessed for Term?		Yes
Course	Title	Credit Hours
GN 5420	Advanced Emergency Care Concepts for the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Clinician II	6.00
<i>Clinical Experience Practicum (250 hours)</i>		
Semester Total:		6.00
Total Program Units:		12.00

Course Descriptions

GN 5103 Advanced Health Systems (3.0 credit hours)

Students will focus on developing health policy, health care systems safety, quality competencies, and change-orientated communication strategies needed by today's advanced practice nurses to lead improvement at microsystem, mesosystem, and macrosystem levels. National reports and health policy drive changes in health care as the system transforms to become more accountable and transparent to its stakeholders. Nursing leadership in patient safety, quality management, interprofessional practice, and health policy will be explored as avenues for improving health, disease management, and care delivery.

GN 5180 Counseling Across the Lifespan (3.0 credit hours)

Students will study a variety of conceptual models, theories, and research related to individual, group, and family therapies across the lifespan. A requisite knowledge base will provide students a foundation to intervene therapeutically using evidence-based brief psychotherapies for the treatment of mental health disorders in a variety of settings across the lifespan. The advanced knowledge base and clinical skills will provide a foundation to use family therapy to intervene with clients experiencing dysfunctional intrafamily patterns. The advanced knowledge of group psychotherapy will provide a foundation to intervene with child, adolescent, adult, and older adult clients experiencing dysfunctional interpersonal patterns.

GN 5181 Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings I (3.0 credit hours)

Students will study the theoretical content for assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in dysfunctional coping patterns and psychiatric disorders of individuals across the lifespan. Emphasis is on a thorough assessment, differential diagnosis, diagnostic reasoning, and plan of care for mental health disorders across the lifespan and various settings. Students will develop advanced skills for the differential diagnosis of mental disorders including observational and interviewing skills, and the use and interpretation of screening tools and laboratory tests. Students will integrate non-pharmacological and pharmacological support in the management of individuals.

GN 5182 Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings II (3.0 credit hours)

Students will continue to refine competencies in the management of individuals across the lifespan with mental health disorders. Students will develop plans of care for individuals with multiple co-existing physical, substance abuse, and mental health disorders. Management of psychiatric disorders via clinical practice guidelines including pharmacological and nonpharmacological management across settings will continue to be developed. A focus of interprofessional collaboration and advocacy to address the needs of co-existing disorders will be emphasized.

GN 5183 Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings III (3.0 credit hours)

Students will synthesize the role of the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner. Students gain competency in implementing evidence-based practice interventions, case load management using technology, and interprofessional collaboration. Students will integrate into practice principles of diagnostic skills, pharmacological and non-pharmacological management, and clinical reasoning based on theory, evidence, ethics, and equity.

GN 5200 Nursing Theory (3.0 credit hours)

This course explores the theoretical context of contemporary nursing practice, which serve to guide nursing practice, and primary health care that optimizes health and self-care in families. In addition, this course will integrate knowledge from the physical, biological, and behavioral sciences to apply, systematically and critically, selected conceptual frameworks to the development of nursing, family systems, and the response to illness. It is expected that the graduate nursing student will develop an appreciation of the process of theory development in nursing, compare and contrast various theoretical perspectives, and apply nursing theories critically.

GN 5304 Nursing Research I (2.0 credit hours)

Provides a foundation for evidence-based practice by critiquing quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research studies. Ethical principles in research are studied with a requirement to obtain certification in human subjects' protection. The relationship of research, theory, and nursing practice are emphasized.

GN 5305 Nursing Research II (2.0 credit hours)

This course continues the evidence-based practice process by appraising the individual evidence as a composite and proposing a translational pathway based on the analysis of the findings. A proposal for the translational pathway in the form of a research project or quality improvement project will be developed. The protection of human subjects and instrument selection are studied and applied to the chosen project. Prerequisite: GN 5304.

GN 5306 Biostatistics and Epidemiology (3.0 credit hours)

This course focuses on the interpretation and use of biostatistics for graduate nursing practice including basic epidemiological concepts, quantitative methodology for evidence-based practice, and statistical utility for decision-making. The student is introduced to statistical analysis software; the process of instrument development, validity and reliability assessment, and pilot testing; decision theory; and the critical analysis and evaluation of the methods, results, and discussion sections of a research report.

GN 5410 Advanced Emergency Care Concepts for the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Clinician I (6.0 credit hours)

Advanced emergency nursing embodies autonomous and collaborative practice with other health professionals to diagnose, treat, and manage acute conditions, exacerbation of chronic conditions, and urgent, minor illness, or emergent conditions across the lifespan. Evidenced-based approaches are utilized to develop critical thinking and to plan care for individuals and families that seek care in high acuity settings. Includes exploration of ethical, cultural, legal, and regulatory frameworks that affect patient care. Students will develop and refine the clinical skills needed to meet the competencies in the advanced nursing role through practice experience

GN 5420 Advanced Emergency Care Concepts for the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Clinician II (6.0 credit hours)

Student utilizes evidenced-based approaches to develop critical thinking, assess, plan, and provide care for individuals across the lifespan and families in high-acuity settings. Includes exploration of trauma, intra-hospital, and inter-hospital transport. Students will develop and refine the clinical skills needed to meet the competencies in the advanced nursing role through practice experience.

GN 5501 Advanced Pharmacology I: Common Conditions and Acute Conditions (2.0 credit hours)

This is the first of two pharmacology courses that will focus on the pharmacotherapy of health care problems covered in the Primary Care Management series. In the Primary Care Management I course, students learned the pathophysiological basis of acute and common health care problems of patients seen in the primary care setting. In this course, students will continue to develop their primary care clinical management skills by learning and incorporating the pharmacotherapy of acute and common health care problems into the care of patients seen in this setting.

GN 5502 Advanced Pharmacology II: Chronic Conditions and Complex Conditions (2.0 credit hours)

This is the second of two pharmacology courses that will focus on the pharmacotherapy of health care problems covered in the Primary Care Management series. In Primary Care Management I & II, students learn the pathophysiological basis of chronic and complex health care problems of patients seen in the primary care setting. In Advanced Pharmacology II, students will continue to develop primary care clinical management skills by learning and incorporating the pharmacotherapy of chronic and complex health care problems into the care of patients seen in this setting. Prerequisite: GN 5501.

GN 5505 Pharmacotherapeutics and Technology for Advanced Practice Nurses (3.0 credit hours)

This advanced pharmacology course will provide students with an in-depth knowledge of pharmacological management of patients with complex conditions and illnesses. Emphasis will be given on assuring safe, efficacious, and ethical delivery of pharmacotherapeutics. Students will explore health systems applications for using new and emerging technologies designed to reduce medical error and enhance the effectiveness of pharmacotherapeutics.

GN 5601 Advanced Physical Assessment (3.0 credit hours)

This course examines the role of the Family Nurse Practitioner as a clinical decision maker in a sociocultural context. To help students transition to this advanced practice role, the course introduces skills that build on undergraduate education and experience with respect to basic physical assessment. These advanced skills, which draw on knowledge from nursing, medicine, and other disciplines, include recognition and interpretation of clinical assessment data, diagnostic reasoning and treatment decision-making, and medical record keeping. Over the course of the program, students will be expected to integrate these skills with knowledge of common, acute, chronic, and complex illnesses in order to assess and manage patients across the life cycle.

GN 5602 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (1.0 credit hour)

This course is designed to transition the Family Nurse Practitioner student from building physical assessment skills to an application of preventive health concepts and health promotion across the life span, using the Health People 2010 guidelines as a resource. Students will learn how to apply health promotion lifestyle changes, disease prevention concepts, and genetics screening options in the primary care patient population. Clinical preventive services and health promotion concepts that will be examined include health screening, counseling, immunization, chemoprevention in pediatric and adult clients, genetic risk identification and evidence-based medicine practice applications. Methods for counseling clients in lifestyle behaviors such as nutrition, physical activity, smoking cessation, and violence prevention will also be explored.

GN 5603 Societal and Ethical Issues (1.0 credit hour)

This course focuses on the social and ethical issues that often arise when providing primary health care to clients over the life span. The interdependence of these social and clinical issues mandate that the health care provider become aware of the relevant legal, ethical, and medical implications of physical and sexual child abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, underage pregnancy, substance abuse, and elder clients at risk for polypharmacy, dementia, depression, and/or homelessness. It is expected that the student will critically reflect on and analyze the ethical challenges and societal factors that influence the provider-patient relationship.

GN 5605 Advanced Human Diversity (1.0 credit hour)

In this role development course, students will examine the skills used to be culturally competent and sensitive to human diversity. The graduate nursing student will begin by gaining an understanding of the principles of delivering culturally sensitive care. The course requires that students open their minds, examine their own cultural and humanistic beliefs and values, and explore the impact of those beliefs and values on clinical practice as a health care professional. Students will also explore strategies for successful patient-provider relationships when the patients' culture, race/ethnicity, prejudice, and lifestyle beliefs conflict with the health models used in medicine and nursing science.

GN 5606 Complementary and Alternative Therapies (1.0 credit hour)

This course focuses on the practices of alternative or complementary therapy utilized by the consumers of health care in this country. Among the complementary therapies students will consider in this course are acupuncture, yoga, biofeedback, chiropractic, dietary supplements, exercise, herbs, homeopathy, hypnosis, imagery, massage, relaxation, meditation, spiritual healing, symbols and rituals, folk medicine and energy work.

GN 5631 Advanced Pathophysiology I (1.0 credit hour)

This first course in a three-part series builds on basic pathophysiology principles and explores the principles of normal body functions and pathophysiological changes that occur because of disease, lifestyle, and homeostatic changes in the body. Altered pathophysiological health is explored at the genetic, cellular and organ system level. Epidemiology, pathophysiological processes, and related system interaction are examined. Disease processes across the life span are explored and case studies are used to demonstrate the clinical assessment approach for the advanced practice student. This first course focuses on common and acute pathophysiological processes.

GN 5632 Advanced Pathophysiology II (1.0 credit hour)

This course is the second in the series of pathophysiology principles and explores the principles of normal body functions and pathophysiological changes that occur because of disease, lifestyle, and homeostatic changes in the body across the lifespan. Disease processes across the life span are explored and case studies are used to demonstrate the clinical assessment approach for the advanced practice student. This second course focuses on chronic and complex pathophysiological processes. Prerequisite: GN 5631.

GN 5633 Advanced Pathophysiology III (1.0 credit hour)

This course is the third in the series of pathophysiological principles and explores the principles of normal body functions and pathophysiological changes that occur because of disease, lifestyle, and homeostatic changes in the body across the lifespan. This third course enhances the student's ability to integrate a

basic knowledge of pathologic changes and clinical manifestations that characterize common, acute, chronic, and complex disorders in pediatric, obstetric, and geriatric clients. Students will apply their understanding of pathophysiology and their evolving integration across the life cycle within the special populations of pediatrics, obstetrics, and geriatrics. Prerequisite: GN 5631 and GN 5632.

GN 5810 Management Practice Issues (2.0 credit hours)

This course presents a variety of role-related topics designed to prepare the prospective Nurse Practitioner for management practice. Additionally, this course will help prepare the student for the GN 5900 Collaborative Project in the next semester and the GN 5990 Culminating Project in the last semester. The course will explore fundamental business principles related to management and leadership theory, effective decision making, project management, business planning, financial risk assessment and management, creating and using financial information, grant writing, business ethics, employee relations and supervision management, and marketing and sales.

GN 5820 Professional Practice Issues (2.0 credit hours)

This course presents a variety of role-related topics designed to prepare the prospective Nurse Practitioner for professional practice. Beginning with a historical overview of the NP profession, the course will examine some of the critical issues that determine the practitioner's scope of practice, career options, peer review, protocols and standardized procedures, practice profiling, leadership and political involvement. In addition, the course presents guidelines for resolving professional legal and ethical issues that are often confronted by the NP. Students will also be introduced to valuable tools for ongoing professional development such as professional organizations and journals.

GN 5900 Collaborative Project (2.0 credit hours)

The GN 5900 collaborative exercise is based on a health care project. The graduate student learns to approach, evaluate, and design an intervention for a community health care project with the assistance of colleagues in a group effort. The skills learned in this collaborative project will help prepare the student in developing the independent culminating project for the GN 5990 course.

GN 5990 APN Master's Project (3.0 credit hours)

The APN Master's Project provides the Advanced Practice Nurse prospective graduate with a final opportunity to demonstrate their ability to integrate and apply concepts learned throughout the Master's program in the practice setting. The culminating course requires the student to develop a health care improvement project, which is broad in scope and has implications for community or practice settings. The project should offer insight into the unique contributions nurse practitioners make for a specified population(s). Prerequisites: All program courses. GN 5990 must be taken at the end of the program.

GN 5999 Master's Project (3.0 credit hours)

This course requires integration of the AACN's Master of Nursing Essentials in the form of a proposed study, business plan, or change project to improve patient care, patient outcomes, or work design. Prerequisites: All program courses. GN 5999 must be taken at the end of the program.

GN 6001 Social Structures and Disparities in Healthcare I (1.0 credit hours)

Students acquire introductory knowledge of social differences and health disparities. Students engage scholarship on categories such as race, ethnicity, sex, gender, disability, indigeneity, sexuality, religion,

nationality, class, and age. Students gain introductory knowledge of social structures, determinants, and intersectionality as they relate to interpersonal relationships in the clinic and other settings. Students imbibe key ethical lessons from the establishment of major upstream social structures and the modernization of the biomedical sciences in the United States.

GN 6002 Social Structures and Disparities in Healthcare II (1.0 credit hours)

Students acquire intermediate knowledge of social differences and health disparities. Students examine case studies in government policy, public health, community initiatives, and various social structures. Students develop a literacy for engaging with myriad forms of patient concerns about health, medicalization, dehumanization, discrimination, and more. Students analyze and synthesize cutting-edge research on structural competency, social determinants of health, and health disparities via analysis of the impacts on various communities, the health professions, and the biomedical sciences.

GN 6120 Pathophysiology (4.0 credit hours)

Pathophysiology focuses on alterations and disruption of physiologic functions across the lifespan. A systems approach based on differentiation of pathophysiologic findings is essential to understanding and identification of major disease processes.

GN 6141 Pharmacology (3.0 credit hours)

Students will integrate pharmacology and pathophysiological applications using a systems approach. Topics include drugs and classifications, mechanisms of action, side effects, drug interactions, and monitoring of drug therapies.

GN 6165 Evidence Based Practice and Theory (3.0 credit hours)

Theoretical frameworks and processes of evidence-based practice, research, quality improvement, and clinical guidelines that inform nursing knowledge and practice are examined. The evolution of knowledge development, multiple ways of knowing, structural components of theory within the nursing profession and other disciplines are explored. Students develop a spirit of inquiry, ask relevant clinical questions, search, collect, and understand best evidence.

GN 6170 Utilization of Evidence in Healthcare (2.0 credit hours)

Students examine and critique the components of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research including the research question, literature review, theoretical framework, methodology, data analysis, and interpretation of findings for application to nursing practice. Students are introduced to descriptive and inferential statistical measures, the process of instrument development, validity and reliability assessment, pilot testing, and decision theory. In addition, students interpret and choose relevant evidence for decision making in clinical situations.

GN 6210 Physical Assessment & Health Promotion (2.0 credit hours)

Students will learn theoretical concepts related to comprehensive patient health assessment and promotion across the lifespan. Emphasis includes the analysis and utilization of comprehensive health assessment data including the bio-psycho-social, developmental, and environmental needs of patients and families as related to the role of the nurse.

GN 6211 Clinical Practicum: Physical Assessment and Health Promotion (1.0 credit hour)

Students will apply theoretical concepts related to comprehensive patient health assessment and promotion across the lifespan. Emphasis includes the analysis and utilization of comprehensive health assessment data including the bio-psycho-social, developmental, and environmental needs of patients and families as related to the role of the nurse.

GN 6410 Nursing Fundamentals (3.0 credit hours)

Foundational nursing concepts, competencies and techniques are introduced in this course. Students will develop critical thinking abilities utilizing the nursing process in the roles of communicator and caregiver, and educator. Students learn principles of professional nursing practice. Students will develop selected fundamental competencies including, but not limited to, therapeutic communication, maintaining a safe and hygienic environment, assessing vital signs, medical asepsis and infection control, principles of body mechanics and mobility, basic gastrointestinal and urinary care, oxygen therapy and airway management, calculation of drug doses and medication administration.

GN 6411 Clinical Practicum: Nursing Fundamentals (2.0 credit hours)

Students will apply theory, critical thinking, and the nursing process to gain mastery of selected fundamental competencies through practice in the simulation lab. Clinical experiences in selected acute care facilities will provide opportunities to utilize said nursing process, critical thinking and reflection as nursing care is delivered to adults and older adults.

GN 6510 Medical-Surgical Nursing I (3.0 credit hours)

Students will learn theoretical concepts related to the nursing process in caring for adults. Acute and chronic health conditions are the foci. Emphasis is placed on the delivery of safe, person-centered, interdisciplinary care integrating knowledge of pathophysiological processes, pharmacotherapy, developmental theories, and human responses to illness.

GN 6511 Clinical Practicum: Medical-Surgical Nursing I (3.0 credit hours)

Students will apply theoretical concepts to clinical experiences. Learners will develop the psychomotor and critical thinking skills to provide safe, person-centered, interdisciplinary care. Students integrate developmental theories and the roles of communicator, caregiver, advocate, and educator while providing and coordinating care for adults.

GN 6560 Medical-Surgical Nursing II (3.0 credit hours)

Students will continue building on the integrated knowledge from previous courses to apply the nursing process across healthcare settings. Emphasis is placed on the delivery of safe, person-centered, interdisciplinary care of the patient with complex health needs.

GN 6561 Clinical Practicum: Medical-Surgical Nursing II (2.0 credit hours)

Students will continue to apply clinical competencies across healthcare settings to provide safe, person-centered, interdisciplinary care for adults with complex health needs.

GN 6610 Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing (2.0 credit hours)

Students will learn, assess, and care for clients with psychosocial, mood, and mental health disorders. Psychiatric concepts, neurophysiology, interventions, and the nursing role will be discussed.

GN 6611 Clinical Practicum: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing (2.0 credit hours)

Students will develop critical thinking skills, therapeutic communication, and nursing interventions when caring for clients with identified acute and chronic psychosocial, mood, and mental health disorders. The mental health clinical experience provides an opportunity for the student to integrate and apply the nursing process in a mental health setting.

GN 6710 Obstetric Nursing (2.0 credit hours)

Theory and application of nursing process and nursing roles related to the care of women and childbearing families of diverse psychosocial and cultural backgrounds are examined. Family systems theory, development theories, and the nursing process serve as the organizing framework for this group of clients. Employing established standards, students gain knowledge and apply essential principles for professional roles and nursing practice in the care of childbearing women, families, and newborns. Students apply the theoretical concepts in the clinical setting.

GN 6711 Clinical Practicum: Obstetric Nursing (2.0 credit hours)

Clinical practice to develop critical thinking, psychomotor, and communication skills provides students with opportunities to develop competence in the care of antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum clients, neonates, and families. The roles of caregiver, communicator, caregiver, advocate, and teacher are emphasized.

GN 6720 Pediatric Nursing (2.0 credit hours)

Emphasizes theory and application of nursing process and nursing roles related to the care of children and their families. Family systems theory, developmental theories, vulnerable population theory and the nursing process serve as the organizing framework for providing care to this group of clients. Students gain knowledge and apply essential principles for nursing practice in the care of children and their families within a culturally diverse population. Students apply the theoretical concepts in the clinical setting.

GN 6721 Clinical Practicum: Pediatric Nursing (2.0 credit hours)

Provides clinical opportunities to practice the psychomotor, critical thinking, and communication skills in order to develop competence in the care of pediatric clients and their families. Emphasis is placed on integration of didactic knowledge with clinical practice as students continue to develop their roles in the clinical setting.

GN 6730 Gerontological Nursing (2.0 credit hours)

Students will focus on the understanding of the aging process, age-related changes, and complex health issues impacting older adults. This course will take into consideration issues related to culture, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, safety and quality, and person-centered care.

GN 6731 Clinical Practicum: Gerontological Nursing (1.0 credit hour)

The learner will be provided with the appropriate and current information related to the care of older adults. The focus of this course is the promotion of the understanding of the aging process, age-related changes, and complex health issues impacting older adults. This course will take into consideration issues related to culture, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, safety and quality, and patient centered care. It is expected that students will apply this knowledge in medical surgical, telemetry, intensive care,

emergency, perioperative, rehabilitative, community and extended care areas throughout their training and beyond.

GN 6750 Nursing Professional Roles (1.0 credit hour)

Students will explore roles and professional standards of Master's prepared nurses and advanced practice registered nurses. Multiple theories and frameworks related to nursing roles are examined.

GN 6760 Master's Project I (1.0 credit hour)

Students will begin projects by assessing and analyzing current quality improvement data and initiatives in a clinical microsystem within a healthcare environment.

GN 6761 Clinical Practicum: Capstone (3.0 credit hours)

Students integrate theoretical knowledge with clinical and leadership skills to develop competency in managing patients in healthcare settings. Emphasis is placed on the application of the nursing process in the roles of professional nursing for patients, families, and communities.

GN 6770 Master's Project II (1.0 credit hour)

Students will continue scholarly exploration of their identified project and propose implementation.

GN 6771 Clinical Practicum: Master's Project II (1.0 credit hour)

Students will continue scholarly exploration of their identified project and propose implementation. Learners synthesize theoretical and clinical knowledge, translating the evidence into their clinical practice. Students transition into the entry level of the professional role is emphasized.

GN 6780 Master's Project III (1.0 credit hour)

Students will apply change theory and appropriate models of care to improvement frameworks for proposed implementation, evaluation, dissemination, and sustainability of their project.

GN 6781 Clinical Practicum: Master's Project III (1.0 credit hour)

Students synthesize theoretical and clinical knowledge, translating the evidence into their clinical practice, including multiple elements of the Master's Project. Students are supported through the transition into professional practice.

GN 6801 Leadership and Management in the Clinical Setting (2.0 credit hours)

The scope of professional practice for the registered nurse includes leadership as a role competency. Students will gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to lead and manage unit/microsystem-based teams in the provision of high quality, patient-centered care. Various modes of inquiry, including management process, problem-solving models, and decision-making tools will be included. Theories related to leadership, management, organization, human resources, behavior, and communication are emphasized.

GN 6802 Clinical Practicum: Leadership and Management (1.0 credit hour)

The RN integrates and applies leadership competencies into professional nursing practice. Students utilize evidence-based knowledge, leadership, and management skills to enhance decision-making, critical thinking, and problem-solving in the clinical setting.

GN 6905 Public Health and Population Based Nursing Practice (3.0 units)

Students address population health through health promotion and disease prevention at individual, family, community, population, and systems level. Students complete community assessments and identify community resources for the target populations. Students examine public health issues including environmental health, epidemiology and health care delivery trends. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of social determinants of health as well as sociocultural, political, economic, social justice, ethical, and environmental factors that influence community and global health.

GN 6906 Clinical Practicum: Public Health and Population Based Nursing Practice (2.0 credit hours)

Students apply theory and evidence in their public and population based practice with an emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention in diverse community settings.

GN 6915 Improvement Science for Quality and Safety (2.0 credit hours)

Students analyze health care systems safety and quality in order to lead improvement at the microsystem level. Nursing leadership in patient safety, quality management, interprofessional practice, and health are explored as avenues for improving healthcare delivery. Students will design and plan patient safety and quality improvement initiatives within an interprofessional team.

GN 6920 Health Systems Leadership (3.0 credit hours)

Development as leaders of health systems change at microsystem, mesosystem, and macrosystem levels is emphasized. Nursing leadership for patient safety, quality management, interprofessional practice, and health policy is explored as avenues for improving population health, disease management, and care delivery.

GN 6921 Clinical Practicum: Health Systems Leadership (1.0 credit hour)

Using the science of improvement, students apply relevant systems leadership and change theories in precepted clinical settings.

GN 6935 Informatics and Applied Statistics (4.0 credit hours)

Master's prepared nurses utilize informatics and technologies across the health care delivery system. As knowledge workers, nurses determine appropriate use of data and healthcare technologies to support safe practice environments, cost-effectiveness, and evidence-based decision making. Students will explore utilization of informatics and technologies in areas such as basic competencies, ethical and legal parameters of information systems, data security, communication, data evaluation, and future directions.

GN 6960 Care Coordination/Chronic Disease Management (2.0 credit hours)

Nurses integrate care coordination and chronic care management into practice throughout the continuum to optimize outcomes and reduce fragmentation of care for populations. Students will coordinate care for persons/populations with complex, chronic conditions within the interprofessional practice environment across diverse health settings.

GN 6970 Applied Pathophysiology (3.0 credit hours)

Students will delve deeper into the understanding of the complex mechanisms underlying various diseases and disorders commonly encountered in clinical practice. Emphasis will be placed on utilizing evidence-based practice to critically analyze the current understanding of diseases, their progression, and the most effective treatment modalities available.

GN 6980 Applied Pharmacology (3.0 – 4.0 credit hours)

Students will increase their knowledge of pharmacology, focusing on how evidence-based practice can enhance healthcare outcomes. With increased understanding of drug classification, mechanisms of action, therapeutic applications, and current pharmaceutical utilization, students will further develop proficiency in patient response monitoring to ensure safe and effective care.

GN 6990 Applied Physical Assessment (3.0 – 4.0 credit hours)

Students will further increase their knowledge of the art and science of physical assessment, with a focus on how evidence-based practice can be applied to improve healthcare outcomes. The curriculum emphasizes the development of comprehensive assessment skills, further gaining proficiency in assessing various body systems and recognizing normal and abnormal findings, and current treatment outcomes.

GN 6991 Clinical Practicum: Applied Physical Assessment (1.0 credit hour)

Students will gain hands-on experience that complements the theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom in a laboratory setting. Under the guidance of experienced registered nurses, learners will refine their assessment techniques, recognizing normal and abnormal findings, and fostering effective communication with patients and healthcare teams. Emphasis is placed on mastering comprehensive assessment techniques, recognizing normal and abnormal findings, early assessment and screening, and promoting health through prevention strategies.

GN 7570 Clinical Experience (1.0 – 6.0 credit hours, CR/NCR)

This course is designed to provide students with progressive opportunities to develop and refine the clinical skills needed to meet the competencies in the advanced nursing role. Over the course of their chosen concentration, students will integrate prior nursing education, previous experience and learning objectives in alignment with their concentration focus. Course is repeatable.

GN 7999 MSN Program Continuous Enrollment (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

This course is an administrative course designed to keep students who are at the end of their program, but not complete with their program of study, registered, and connected to the university until completion is reached. Course is repeatable.

GN 8004 Scholarly Writing (1.0 credit hour)

Graduate students utilize expository writing to achieve professional and effective communication. This course introduces the concepts and skills of writing to develop formal papers with a scholarly voice. Learning activities will include critiquing professional writing, creating written work, and integrating feedback for improvement.

GN 8005 Advance Practice Inquiry (2.0 credit hours)

Health care professionals draw upon a foundation of clinical inquiry, research methodology, and critical appraisal in synthesizing research findings that translates research into practice. The course will focus on the development of a practice question, literature search methods, critique of research, and appropriate statistical analysis in published research evidence. The course learning activities inform the synthesis of evidence to facilitate evidence-based practice.

GN 8006 Reflective Practice and Professional Identity Formation in Advanced Practice Nursing (1.0 credit hour)

Reflective practice allows learners to understand self and facilitates the development of professional identity. The value of reflective practice and its critical role in personal and professional growth will be examined. Enhancing competencies for reflective practice, engagement in the reflective process, and implementation of reflective activities contribute to the DNP educational journey and professional identity development.

GN 8007 Theoretical Perspectives for Nursing Practice (2.0 credit hours)

Advanced nursing practice requires an extensive understanding of the discipline's distinct theoretical perspectives and where points of view are shared with other professions. Application of theory and research-based knowledge forms the basis for clinical judgement and innovation in nursing practice. The translation and application of theoretical knowledge will improve health and transform health care.

GN 8015 Humanism in Healthcare (1.0 credit hour)

Building an inclusive culture and learning environment prepares students to increase their knowledge and develop skills in delivering patient-centered care through team engagement. A humanistic approach to care enables health professionals to function as culturally competent practitioners who engage effectively with individuals, families, and communities across various backgrounds, including those with historically limited access to care. Students critically examine how existing practices, institutional structures, and clinical protocols may exacerbate or mitigate health disparities across populations.

GN 8025 Health Informatics and Outcome Driven Practice (3.0 credit hours)

Health care professionals integrate a variety of information systems and technology to inform outcome-based practice. The learner will leverage health informatic skills for transforming data to information, knowledge, and action to drive decision-making. Structuring health care data with technology tools and solutions for organizing, interpreting, and presenting data builds evidence for improving practice and population health.

GN 8035 Applied Biostatistics for Health Professionals (2.0 credit hours)

Principles and data analysis methods are central to determining and implementing evidence-based preventive interventions that address population health. The application of biostatistical methods and data analysis is designed to solve practice problems or to inform practice directly. Learners engage in the practical application of statistical software along with analysis and interpretation of findings for use in evidence-based practice and research. Learners apply, integrate, and synthesize core program competencies and specialty practice requirements essential to establish expertise in advanced nursing practice.

GN 8045 Population Health (3.0 credit hours)

Health care providers utilize population-focused knowledge and skills to enhance outcomes. Learners will explore comprehensive surveillance, prevention, and health promotion approaches across various populations. This course focuses on a systems-based approach using epidemiological, bio-statistical, environmental, geographic, genetic, behavioral, and socioeconomic data. Learners will assess, implement, and evaluate evidence-based interventions to improve health outcomes.

GN 8055 Organizational Leadership, Collaboration, and the Science of Improvement (3.0 credit hours)

Advanced practice nurses engage in evidence-based approaches to leadership and collaboration and utilize the science of improvement to transform health systems. Within this course, the learner will expand their capacity for developing interprofessional teams through the application of leadership, collaboration, and improvement methodologies to advance system quality and safety outcomes.

GN 8065 Assessment, Measurement, and Evaluation in Outcomes-Based Advanced Nursing Practice (3.0 credit hours)

Advanced practice nurses use assessment, measurement, and evaluation in outcome-based practice. Exploration and identification of various health outcome measures are defined and applied within care delivery models and settings. Intervention strategies and measurement tools guide evaluation of outcome measures to drive improvement within health systems. Measurement properties of tool selection and design requirements optimize translational utility of outcomes in healthcare practice based on performance data and metrics.

GN 8075 DNP Systems Thinking I: Developing the Scholarly Project (2.0 credit hours)

Advanced practice nurses contribute to health systems improvement. The *Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence* (SQUIRE) framework will direct learners with identification of a local problem, integration of a stakeholders' needs assessment, a synthesis of the relevant literature, theoretical framework, and the specific aims of the project. The student completes a formal proposal in collaboration with a team leader and clinical partner. This is a DNP Practicum continuation course of a 3-part series.

GN 8076 DNP Systems Thinking II: Implementing the Scholarly Project (2.0 credit hours)

DNP learners implement a systems-directed change project in collaboration with a practice partner/clinical agency. Through application of *Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence* (SQUIRE) guidelines, learners focus on describing the intervention, planning data collection methods, obtaining data, and interpreting data in a manner consistent with quality improvement. This is a DNP Practicum continuation course of a 3-part series.

GN 8077 DNP Systems Thinking III: Evaluation and Dissemination of the Scholarly Project (2.0 credit hours)

DNP learners evaluate the process improvement plan, discuss project findings, and implications for practice. The culminating project includes oral and written reports for dissemination using the *Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence* (SQUIRE) framework. This is a DNP Practicum continuation course of a 3-part series.

GN 8085 Social Justice, Health Policy, and Advocacy in Practice (3.0 credit hours)

Empowering health professionals to advocate for change within complex health care systems requires tools and skills necessary to address the care of populations. Addressing social justice issues involves an examination of accessible, equitable, and ethical healthcare for populations. Formulation, application, analysis, and evaluation of health care policy and health policy research prepares professionals to examine the structure and function of legislative and regulatory organizations, governance, public relations, and global health care issues. Learning activities in this course lead to engagement in policy development, implementation, and opportunities to influence policy-making processes.

GN 8090 Practice Immersion Project (1.0 – 6.0 credit hours, CR/NCR)

This course focuses on the completion of a practice immersion experience and independent evidence-based project in a vulnerable population, which provides an illustration of the essential competencies of the practice doctorate. Course is repeatable up to six units.

GN 8100 Psychopharmacology (2.0 credit hours)

Students will build upon prior knowledge of advanced pharmacology to develop essential skills to prescribe/furnish appropriate pharmacology treatments across the lifespan. The focus is on the neurobiological and psychopharmacological principles for the clinical management of psychotropic medications. Students integrate neuroanatomy, pharmacogenomics, neurophysiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology and behavioral science for the selection, use, monitoring, or modifying psychoactive medications. Ethical, cultural, and legal considerations of psychopharmacology are reviewed.

GN 8181 Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings I (3.0 credit hours)

Students will study the theoretical content for assessing, diagnosing, and intervening in dysfunctional coping patterns and psychiatric disorders of individuals across the lifespan. Emphasis is on a thorough assessment, differential diagnosis, diagnostic reasoning and plan of care for mental health disorders across the lifespan and various settings. Students will develop advanced skills for the differential diagnosis of mental disorders including observational and interviewing skills, and the use and interpretation of screening tools and laboratory tests. Students will integrate non-pharmacological and pharmacological support in the management of individuals.

GN 8182 Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings II (3.0 credit hours)

Students will continue to refine competencies in the management of individuals across the lifespan with mental health disorders. Students will develop plans of care for individuals with multiple co-existing physical, substance abuse, and mental health disorders. Management of psychiatric disorders via clinical practice guidelines including pharmacological and nonpharmacological management across settings will continue to be developed. A focus of interprofessional collaboration and advocacy to address the needs of co-existing disorders will be emphasized.

GN 8183 Psychiatric Mental Health Care Management Across Settings III (3.0 credit hours)

Students will synthesize the role of the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner. Students gain competency in implementing evidence-based practice interventions, case load management using technology, and interprofessional collaboration. Students will integrate into practice principles of diagnostic skills, pharmacological and non-pharmacological management, and clinical reasoning based on theory, evidence, ethics, and equity.

GN 8184 Counseling and Diagnostic Decision-Making Across the Lifespan (3.0 credit hours)

This course equips students with the necessary skills to provide holistic care across the lifespan. Through a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical application, students will learn evidence-based counseling techniques, diagnostic reasoning skills, and ethical considerations. The course emphasizes the integration of counseling techniques and diagnostic reasoning in the context of mental health assessment and treatment planning. PMHNPs will explore a range of evidence-based counseling strategies, psychotherapeutic approaches, and interventions to address diverse mental health concerns. Special attention will be given to the unique needs and considerations across different developmental stages.

GN 8401 Primary Care I: Management of Common Conditions Across the Lifespan (2.0 credit hours)

This first course in Primary Care Management will help students integrate basic knowledge of human anatomy and physiology with an understanding of the pathologic changes and clinical manifestations that characterize **common** healthcare disorders in adult, obstetric, pediatric, and geriatric clients. Students will evolve clinical decision-making skills, including the interpretation of assessment data in **common** healthcare diagnoses, and the treatment of primary care clients and their families across the lifecycle.

GN 8402 Primary Care II: Management of Acute Conditions Across the Lifespan (2.0 credit hours)

This second course in Primary Care Management will help students integrate basic knowledge of human anatomy and physiology with an understanding of the pathologic changes and clinical manifestations that characterize **acute** healthcare disorders in adult, obstetric, pediatric, and geriatric clients. Students will evolve clinical decision-making skills, including the interpretation of assessment data in **acute** healthcare diagnoses, and the treatment of primary care clients and their families across the lifecycle.

GN 8403 Primary Care III: Management of Chronic Conditions Across the Lifespan (2.0 credit hours)

This third course in Primary Care Management will help students integrate basic knowledge of human anatomy and physiology with an understanding of the pathologic changes and clinical manifestations that characterize **chronic** healthcare disorders in adult, obstetric, pediatric, and geriatric clients. Students will evolve clinical decision-making skills, including the interpretation of assessment data in **chronic** healthcare diagnoses, and the treatment of primary care clients and their families across the lifecycle.

GN 8404 Primary Care IV: Management of Complex Conditions Across the Lifespan (2.0 credit hours)

This fourth course in Primary Care Management will help students integrate basic knowledge of human anatomy and physiology with an understanding of the pathologic changes and clinical manifestations that characterize **complex** healthcare disorders in adult, obstetric, pediatric, and geriatric clients. Students will evolve clinical decision-making skills, including the interpretation of assessment data in **complex** healthcare diagnoses, and the treatment of primary care clients and their families across the lifecycle.

GN 8500 Advanced Pharmacology (3.0 credit hours)

Advanced practice nurses encounter health care problems requiring pharmacological management. Learners will apply the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of drugs to the pathophysiology associated with acute, common, chronic, and complex patient conditions.

GN 8570 FNP Clinical Experience (1.0 – 6.0 credit hours)

This course provides students with progressive opportunities to develop and refine the clinical skills needed to meet the competencies in the advanced nursing role. Over the course of the FNP program, students will integrate prior nursing education, previous experience, and learning objectives in alignment with their clinical focus. Course is repeatable.

GN 8580 PMHNP Clinical Experience (1.0 – 6.0 credit hours)

This course provides students with progressive opportunities to develop and refine the clinical skills needed to meet the competencies in the advanced nursing role. Over the course of the PMHNP program, students will integrate prior nursing education, previous experience and learning objectives in alignment with their track focus. Course is repeatable.

GN 8601 Advanced Physical Assessment (3.0 credit hours)

This course introduces the student to advanced skills that build on undergraduate education and experience with respect to basic physical assessment. These advanced skills, which draw on knowledge from nursing, medicine, and other disciplines, include recognition and interpretation of clinical assessment data, diagnostic reasoning, treatment decision-making, and medical record keeping. Over the course of the program, the student will be expected to integrate these skills with knowledge of common, acute, chronic, and complex illnesses to assess and manage patients across the life cycle.

GN 8602 Health Promotion Disease Prevention (2.0 credit hours)

During Nurse Practitioner role transition from RN to APN, it is essential for learners to progress from advanced physical assessment of individual patients to application of population preventive health concepts that promote health across the life span. Using clinical practice guidelines and national initiatives as evidence-based resources, learners apply health promotion lifestyle changes, disease prevention strategies and self-care practices to consult, refer and coordinate within the primary care patient population.

GN 8603 Societal and Ethical Issues for the Nurse Practitioner (2.0 credit hours)

Learners in this course will obtain the ability to recognize societal issues and resolve ethical dilemmas in clinical practice. This course will enhance the nurse practitioner's knowledge for understanding of ethical practice principles and approaches for all populations across the lifespan.

GN 8606 Complementary Pharmacology and Alternative Therapies (1.0 credit hour)

Students focus on the practices of alternative or complementary therapy used by the consumers of health care in this country. Among the complementary therapies the student will consider in this course are acupuncture, yoga, biofeedback, chiropractic, dietary supplements, exercise, herbs, homeopathy, hypnosis, imagery, massage, relaxation, meditation, spiritual healing, and energy work.

GN 8630 Advanced Pathophysiology (3.0 credit hours)

In this course the learner will integrate and apply system-focused physiologic and key pathophysiologic concepts across the life span that supports the foundation for advanced-level nursing education and practice. Emphasis is on the association of physiological alterations with clinical manifestations.

GN 8641 Clinical Applications I (2.0 credit hours)

This is the first course in a series of three designed to enhance the student nurse practitioner's physical assessment, diagnostic reasoning, and diagnostic procedure interpretation. The student will integrate knowledge and skills to identify and distinguish normal from abnormal findings. Using clinical cases, the student will apply a new understanding to build on basic health appraisal and create a list of differential diagnoses to manage patients across the lifespan. Clinical diagnostics including radiological procedures, laboratory evaluations, and other testing will be incorporated into the assessment process. The skills gained in this course will provide the foundations of diagnostic reasoning that will guide students through other courses throughout the program.

GN 8642 Clinical Applications II (1.0 credit hour)

In this second course in the Clinical Applications series, students will continue to learn diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and skills critical to the advanced practice nurse. The area of focus in this course

is Women's Health diagnostics and therapeutics across the lifespan. These procedures and skills include: the clinical breast examination and practicum; gynecologic procedures and diagnostics [e.g., endometrial biopsies, inserting/removing IUDs, and cervical cancer diagnostics & therapeutics; sexually transmitted infection diagnostics; infertility diagnostics and therapeutics; contraceptive technology; obstetric surveillance and diagnostics (e.g., obstetric ultrasonography, stress tests, Triple Marker testing, etc.)].

GN 8643 Clinical Applications III (1.0 credit hour)

This is the third course in a series of three the student nurse practitioners will continue to learn diagnostic reasoning, testing, and therapeutic procedures critical to their practice. The areas of focus will be in health diagnostics and therapeutics across the lifespan. The content will include common primary care diagnostic therapies and procedures with particular emphasis on eyes, ears, nose, and throat as well as the dermatologic, urinary, and gastrointestinal systems.

GN 8681 PMHNP Clinical Evaluation I (1.0 credit hour)

Advanced nursing roles require progressive opportunities to develop and refine clinical skills. This is the first course in a series of three courses providing an opportunity for students to synthesize concepts, skills, and techniques from previous courses and apply their learning toward assessing and managing mental health cases from simple to complex across the lifespan. The student will participate in various methodologies for assessing competency development for practice.

GN 8682 PMHNP Clinical Evaluation II (1.0 credit hour)

Advanced nursing roles require progressive opportunities to develop and refine clinical skills. This is the second course in a series of three courses providing an opportunity for students to synthesize concepts, skills, and techniques from previous courses and apply their learning toward assessing and managing mental health cases from simple to complex across the lifespan. The student will participate in various methodologies for assessing competency development for practice.

GN 8683 PMHNP Clinical Evaluation III (1.0 credit hour)

Advanced nursing roles require progressive opportunities to develop and refine clinical skills. This is the third course in a series of three courses providing an opportunity for students to synthesize concepts, skills, and techniques from previous courses and apply their learning toward assessing and managing mental health cases from simple to complex across the lifespan. The student will participate in various methodologies for assessing competency development for practice.

GN 8691 Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation I (1.0 credit hour)

This is the first in a series of courses providing an opportunity for students to synthesize concepts, skills and techniques from previous courses and apply their learning toward assessing and managing case studies across the life span. The student will participate in various methodologies for assessing their application of knowledge learned. To assess clinical performance and knowledge of patients with common, acute, chronic, or complex conditions (depending on the students' year in the program); students will engage in observed structured clinical examinations, create written clinical case management evaluations of common, and complete certification review by taking initial or final evaluation assessment. The certification review provides prospective graduates with an opportunity to validate the knowledge they have acquired throughout the program and assess their readiness for the

national certification exam. Students are required to be registered for Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation Series at the end of each year in the program.

GN 8692 Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation II (1.0 credit hour)

This is the second in a series of courses providing an opportunity for students to synthesize concepts, skills and techniques from previous courses and apply their learning toward assessing and managing case studies across the life span. The student will participate in various methodologies for assessing their application of knowledge learned. To assess clinical performance and knowledge of patients with common, acute, chronic, or complex conditions (depending on the students' year in the program); students will engage in observed structured clinical examinations, create written clinical case management evaluations of common, and complete certification review by taking initial or final evaluation assessment. The certification review provides prospective graduates with an opportunity to validate the knowledge they have acquired throughout the program and assess their readiness for the national certification exam. Students are required to be registered for Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation Series at the end of each year in the program.

GN 8693 Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation III (1.0 credit hour)

This is the third in a series of courses providing an opportunity for students to synthesize concepts, skills and techniques from previous courses and apply their learning toward assessing and managing case studies across the life span. The student will participate in various methodologies for assessing their application of knowledge learned. To assess clinical performance and knowledge of patients with common, acute, chronic, or complex conditions (depending on the students' year in the program); students will engage in observed structured clinical examinations, create written clinical case management evaluations of common, and complete certification review by taking initial or final evaluation assessment. The certification review provides prospective graduates with an opportunity to validate the knowledge they have acquired throughout the program and assess their readiness for the national certification exam. Students are required to be registered for Clinical Comprehensive Evaluation Series at the end of each year in the program.

GN 8700 Family Nurse Practitioner Outcome Competencies Review (1.0 credit hour)

This course provides a comprehensive clinical review that promotes student success in program competency assessments and prepares family nurse practitioner students for their FNP National Board Certification exam. The content in this course reflects current evidence-based practice within the scope of the Family Nurse Practitioner.

GN 8701 Principles of Teaching and Learning for Nurse Educators (3.0 credit hours)

This is the first of a three-course series. Preparing for the role of nurse educator is essential for advancing the profession of nursing. Formulating a teaching philosophy is the foundation for becoming an effective nurse educator. Analyzing pedagogic philosophies, theories, and ethical/legal issues related to teaching strategies and education will be explored. Evidence-based strategies will be used to design an effective teaching-learning environment that integrates the experiences of diverse student populations. Students will design a course incorporating educational technologies for the diverse teaching-learning environment.

GN 8702 Facilitation of Teaching-Learning in Nursing Education (3.0 credit hours)

This is the second of a three-course series. The curricular development process includes evaluating and analyzing current trends in student competency measurement. The facilitation of teaching-learning in academia, role socialization, professional development, and engagement with professional organizations will be explored. Students will integrate educational competencies during the teaching practicum fieldwork in an academic setting.

GN 8703 Program Development, Evaluation, & Leadership for Nurse Educators (3.0 credit hours)

This is the third course in a three-course series where the scholarship of teaching, service, and leadership are central to advancing the nurse educator's role as a thriving academic leader. Analysis of curriculum models and evaluation of program outcomes promotes organizational change and strengthens teaching effectiveness. Nurse educators function as change agents and leaders to enhance the visibility of nursing and its contribution to the community by addressing health care and educational needs. Students will integrate innovative and reflective practices during the teaching practicum fieldwork in an academic setting.

GN 8820 Professional Practice Issues (2.0 credit hours)

This course presents a variety of role-related topics designed to prepare the prospective Nurse Practitioner (NP) for professional practice. Beginning with a historical overview of the NP profession, the course will examine some of the critical issues that determine the practitioner's scope of practice, career options, peer review, protocols and standardized procedures, practice profiling, leadership, and political involvement. In addition, the course presents guidelines for resolving professional legal and ethical issues that are often confronted by the NP. Students will also be introduced to valuable tools for ongoing professional development such as professional organizations and journals.

GN 8840 Business and Management Practice for the Nurse Practitioner (2.0 credit hours)

The student will be presented with a variety of role-related topics designed to prepare the prospective nurse practitioner for business and management practice. The learner will explore the fundamentals of practice proprietorship and business planning, professional liability, risk management, reimbursement, billing and coding in the outpatient setting, and successful strategies to gain employment. The business and management practice concepts explored will prepare the graduate to enter the business of health care with the tools essential for success.

GN 8999 Continuous Enrollment/Dissertation (3.0 credit hours, IP/CR)

Supervised creation of a dissertation or scholarly project under the guidance of a dissertation/scholarly project committee, demonstrating scholarship skills in writing, reasoning, and interrelating theory and practice. The dissertation/scholarly project is defended in a public oral exam. Course is repeatable.

IPE 5000 Patient Centered Cases I– An Interprofessional Approach (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

Prerequisite: Acceptance to the program. IPE 5000 is offered as part of the college curriculum for all first-year entry-level health professional students and is a university requirement for all participating colleges. The course is designed to prepare the health care student to practice patient-centered collaborative care through a team approach. Working in small interprofessional teams, students will explore cases representing conditions across the human lifespan.

IPE 5100 Patient Centered Cases II – An Interprofessional Approach (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

Continuation of IPE 5000.

IPE 6000 Team Training in Healthcare I (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

IPE 6000 will continue to build upon the knowledge from the IPE 5000 series but will expand upon that knowledge and require the student to learn and apply advanced tools and strategies that are crucial to develop a collaborative healthcare team. The majority of the course is independent study with students engaging in a large-scale tabletop activity where they apply team tools necessary to solve a healthcare dilemma.

IPE 6100 Team Training in Healthcare II (1.0 credit hour, CR/NCR)

This course is a continuation of IPE 6000.

Honors and Awards

The following awards are considered for presentation to CGN students annually:

Corinne Faith Donatini Memorial Award

College of Graduate Nursing Alumni Memorial Award

Excellence in Scholarship Award

President's Society Award

Advanced Practice Award

Leadership in Service Award

The Dean's Award

The Roy G. and Marion L. Kramer Endowment Scholarship Fund Award

Academic Excellence Scholarship (formerly known as Tribute to Caring)

DNPA Leadership Scholarship

Endowed Chair Scholarship: Fletcher Jones

Dr. Ingrid Roberts-Terrell Memorial Scholarship

Academic Calendar

Students in the College of Graduate Nursing can review the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar via the following link: https://www.westernu.edu/nursing/nursing-academics/nursing-cogn_calendar/

Fall 2026

Event	Date/s	Synchronous Event Details
Orientation/Welcome Week for ALL NEW incoming students	August 5 – 8, 2026	MSNE: On-Campus and synchronous online All Other Programs: Synchronous online
Semester Begins for MSN-E First Year Students	17-Aug-26	
Semester Begins for MSN, DNP/FNP, PMHNP/DNP, Post-Masters FNP, MSN/FNP, MSN/PMHNP, Post-Masters PMHNP, ENP, and DNP-Leadership Students	24-Aug-26	
Seminar Weekend #1 for DNP/FNP, DNP/PMHNP, Post-Masters FNP, Post-Masters PMHNP, MSN/FNP, MSN/PMHNP, and DNP Intensive #1 for ALL Fall Entry First Year DNP Students	*September 11 – 13, 2026	Synchronous online
Seminar Weekend #2 for DNP/FNP, DNP/PMHNP, Post-Masters FNP, Post-Masters PMHNP, MSN/FNP, MSN/PMHNP, and DNP Intensive #3 for Spring Entry DNP-Leadership Second Year (6th semester) Students	*October 23 – 25, 2026	Synchronous online
ENP Procedural Intensive for Fall Entry ENP Students ONLY	8-Nov-26	On-Campus
Thanksgiving Break for ALL College of Graduate Nursing Students	November 23 – 29, 2026	
Semester Ends for ALL Students except MSN-E	4-Dec-26	
Semester Ends for MSN-E Students	5-Dec-26	

*Depending on the courses you are enrolled in, you may or may not have to meet all 3 days of seminar weekend. Final schedules with dates required for attendance will be posted for student access 3 to 4 weeks before seminar weekend.

The University will be closed for the following dates:

Labor Day – September 7, 2026

Indigenous People’s Day – October 12, 2026

Veteran’s Day – November 11, 2026

Thanksgiving Recess – November 26 -29, 2026
 Winter Recess – December 19, 2026 – January 3, 2027

Spring 2027

Event	Date/s	Synchronous Event Details
Semester Begins for ALL Students	6-Jan-27	
ENP Procedural Intensive for Fall Entry ENP Students ONLY	7-Feb-27	On-Campus
Seminar Weekend #1 for DNP/FNP, DNP/PMHNP, Post-Masters FNP, Post-Masters PMHNP, MSN/FNP, MSN/PMHNP, and DNP Intensive #1 for Spring Entry First Year Students	*February 12 – 14, 2027	Synchronous online
Seminar Weekend #2 for DNP/FNP, DNP/PMHNP, Post-Masters FNP, Post-Masters PMHNP, MSN/FNP, MSN/PMHNP, and DNP Intensive #2 for Second Year APRN Students and First Year Leadership Students	*March 19 – 21, 2027	Synchronous online
ENP Procedural Intensive for Spring Entry ENP Students ONLY	4-Apr-27	On-Campus
Semester Ends for ALL Students except MSN-E	9-Apr-27	
Semester Ends for MSN-E Students	10-Apr-27	

*Depending on the courses you are enrolled in, you may or may not have to meet all 3 days of seminar weekend. Final schedules with dates required for attendance will be posted for student access 3 to 4 weeks before seminar weekend.

The University will be closed for the following dates:

Martin Luther King Day – January 18, 2027

President’s Day – February 15, 2027

Summer 2027

Event	Date/s	Synchronous Event Details
Semester Begins for ALL Students	26-Apr-27	
University Commencement for Students receiving degrees	Date TBD	In-Person, Location TBD

Seminar Weekend #1 for DNP/FNP, DNP/PMHNP, Post-Masters FNP, Post-Masters PMHNP, MSN/FNP, MSN/PMHNP, and <i>DNP Intensive #3 for ALL Graduating DNP Students</i>	*May 21 – 22, 2027	Synchronous online
Seminar Weekend #2 for DNP/FNP, DNP/PMHNP, Post-Masters FNP, Post-Masters PMHNP, MSN/FNP, and MSN/PMHNP	*July 9 – 11, 2027	On-Campus
ENP Procedural Intensive for Spring Entry ENP Students ONLY	11-Jul-27	On-Campus
Semester Ends for ALL Students except MSN-E	30-Jul-27	
Semester Ends for MSN-E Students	7-Aug-27	

*Depending on the courses you are enrolled in, you may or may not have to meet all 3 days of seminar weekend. Final schedules with dates required for attendance will be posted for student access 3 to 4 weeks before seminar weekend.

The University will be closed for the following dates:

Memorial Day – May 31, 2027

Juneteenth – June 18, 2027

Independence Day – July 5th (observed and subject to change based on official University calendar)