Graduates will be able to:

Student learning outcomes

Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:

1. Systems and organizational leadership
2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
3. Effective use of research and technology
4. Systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes

Program goals

The VCU School of Nursing family nurse practitioner concentration prepares graduates for advanced practice registered nurse roles by developing the knowledge and skills needed to diagnose and manage common acute and chronic health problems across the lifespan through comprehensive physical and psychosocial assessments, use of decision-making/diagnostic reasoning processes, performance of advanced practice skills and procedures and implementation of evidence-based treatment strategies, including health promotion and disease prevention.

The FNP is prepared to provide direct care to individuals and families in a variety of primary care settings, including college health services, health maintenance organizations, community clinics, long-term care, assisted living, continuing care retirement communities, occupational health maintenance organizations, community clinics, long-term care, in a variety of primary care settings, including college health services, health maintenance organizations, community clinics, long-term care, assisted living, continuing care retirement communities, occupational health settings, urgent care and private practices.

Graduates of the FNP concentration are eligible to apply for certification as a FNP by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Degree candidacy requirements

A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master’s or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s faculty regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Other information

VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources/) are located on the school’s website.
Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school's academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/graduates/).

### Admission requirements

| Degree: M.S. | Semester(s) of entry: Fall | Deadline dates: Rolling admissions | Test requirements: |

**Note:** No admissions test is required for this program.

To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must:

1. Be eligible for readmission or be in good standing at the last college or university attended
2. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School
3. Submit a complete application with all required materials to the School of Nursing
4. Have an earned baccalaureate (or higher) degree in nursing from an accredited nursing school (e.g. ACEN, CCNE, CNEA)
5. Have completed a minimum of three credit hours in statistics with a minimum grade of B
6. Have a current, unrestricted R.N. license from a U.S. state or territory at the time admissions application is submitted (Applicants without a R.N. license in the U.S. should consult with the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (http://www.cfnos.org/) and the Virginia Board of Nursing (https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/) for the steps needed to obtain a Virginia R.N. license.)
7. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university (Additional information can be found on the 'Required materials' tab of the VCU International Admissions website (https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/international/undergraduate-applicants/).)

School of Nursing B.S. graduates who successfully completed the requirements of the VCU Honors College are eligible for guaranteed admission to the master's program.

### Degree requirements

Forty-four credit hours are required for the family nurse practitioner concentration.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/), a candidate for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

### Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 502</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 504</td>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 511</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 512</td>
<td>Foundations for Evidence-based Advanced Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 520</td>
<td>Professional Transitions for the Advanced Practice Nurse</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 607</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Population Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 638</td>
<td>Health Policy Leadership and Advocacy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 640</td>
<td>Teamwork In Complex Clinical Situations</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

#### Concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 580</td>
<td>Primary Care of the Adult-Gerontology Population</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 589</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health in Primary Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 590</td>
<td>Complex Problems in Family Primary Care</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 595</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Practicum I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 642</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Practicum II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 658</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Practicum III</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 44

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 44.

**Contact**

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**Additional contact**

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cnye@vcu.edu

**Program website:** nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters (http://www.nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters/)