NURSING, CERTIFICATE IN (POST-MASTER’S CERTIFICATE) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

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 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.

Program goals
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

Student learning outcomes
Graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialties
2. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of health care delivery
3. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery
4. Understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes
5. Synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations and settings
6. Use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals, populations and systems
7. Integrate organizational science and technology to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes and practice efficiency

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (http://www.vcu.edu/graduate) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/ academic-reg/grad/candidacy)

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.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg/grad/candidacy)

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.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg/grad/graduation-info)

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/post-masters-certificate).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements)
2. Be eligible for readmission or in good standing at the last college attended
3. Be a graduate of an accredited (ACEN, CCNE or CNEA) master’s or doctoral nursing degree program (Applicants to the post-master’s certificate nurse practitioner concentrations must hold a master's or doctoral degree as an advanced practiced registered nurse (NP or CNS) from an accredited [ACEN, CCNE or CNEA] program.)
4. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S.
5. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university

**Degree requirements**

Twenty-seven graduate credit hours are required for the Post-master’s Certificate in Nursing with a concentration in family nurse practitioner.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info), a candidate for the degree of Certificate 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**

Students in nurse practitioner certification concentrations are required to have completed advanced health assessment, pharmacotherapeutics and pathophysiology courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 611</td>
<td>Primary Care Advanced Practice Clinical Procedures</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 627</td>
<td>Foundational Perspectives of Family-centered Care</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 629</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Family Primary Care I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 630</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Family Primary Care II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 631</td>
<td>Primary Care of Select Populations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 643</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Practicum I</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 644</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 645</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Practicum II</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 646</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Final Synthesis Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 27**

**Graduate program director**

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**Additional contact**

Jeannetta Hollins, Ph.D.  
Director, Office of Student Success  
Email: vcu_nurse@vcu.edu

**Program website:** nursing.vcu.edu/programs/post-masters-certificate (http://nursing.vcu.edu/programs/post-masters-certificate)