If you’re a nurse with a passion for patient and family care, enjoy health promotion, disease prevention and the challenge of diagnosing and managing common health problems for patients of all ages and have a commitment to lifelong learning, a career as a family nurse practitioner could be for you.

Western Carolina University’s Master of Science in Nursing degree in the Family Nurse Practitioner track prepares students with the necessary competencies to become family nurse practitioner and meets eligibility requirements to sit for the national certification exam.
Clinical Courses  These clinical courses provide the experiential practicum needed to prepare students to function as an advanced practice nurse in the FNP role. Each FNP Clinical Management Course has a focus area.

- NSG 683* Women's Health
- NSG 684* Pediatric Focus
- NSG 685* Adult Focus
- NSG 784* Geriatric Focus
- NSG 686* Internship

Advanced Nursing Project Or Thesis  You will have the choice of completing either a scholarly project, such as an integrated literature review, or a traditional thesis focusing on a problem encountered in FNP practice.

- NSG 679 or NSG 699

Culminating Experiences  Your success will be measured by a comprehensive exam at the end of your coursework. An oral presentation of your project or defense of your thesis is required. You will be required to submit your project or thesis for publication.

Application Process

- Apply online at grad.wcu.edu. You will be asked to submit your transcripts, your GRE or MAT scores, three letters of recommendation, a professional statement, your resume and an application fee.

Specific instructions on recommendations, professional statement and resume are available at the application website. Applicants under consideration will be contacted for an interview by the School of Nursing’s Graduate Admissions Committee.

Admission Requirements

1. Registered Nurse: All applicants must hold an unencumbered license to practice as a registered nurse.
2. Educational Background: Bachelor of Science in Nursing awarded by a school of nursing accredited by the National League for Nursing (NLN) or by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework.
3. One Year Work Experience as a Registered Nurse Within the Past Five Years.
4. Completion of Prerequisite Coursework: Introductory-level statistics course and a nursing research course with an earned grade of C or better.
5. Satisfactory Performance on a Standardized Exam: A combined score of 300 or higher on the GRE or 400 on the MAT is recommended.
6. Recommendations that document potential for academic success, including recommendations from a current, immediate supervisor.

Admission and program requirements are subject to change at any time. Visit nursing.wcu.edu for the most current requirements.

Post-Master’s Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program  This certificate is available for those students who have earned a Master's in Nursing (MN) degree from a nationally accredited program. The postgraduate certificate program requires 43 semester hours of study and courses are taught at the Biltmore Park campus on Tuesdays or online. Courses required for the certificate program are marked with an asterisk (*).