

FNP Program: General Information and Quick Facts

Overview: 24-month full time graduate program to earn a Master's in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner. Full-time graduate student status allows you to apply for federal financial aid and other scholarships. A part-time program of study is currently not available. Currently, 25 seats are available for each fall start.

Schedule: Students are required to attend classes at the Biltmore Park instructional site each Tuesday throughout semester, as well as online courses. Once a semester, student are required to be on campus on a Monday or Wednesday, for the day but are notified way ahead of time for scheduling purposes. Some of the FNP students over the past several years commute from up to 2-2 ½ hours away and they seem to make it work. The classes are typically from approximately 9am – 3pm, but this varies by semester.

Clinical Training Schedules: Clinical courses start the 2nd semester and that is when many students experience the scheduling need to cut back at work to part-time or prn, when possible. Clinical days are arranged individually between students and preceptors each semester and average one 8-hour day per week during the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th semesters and two days a week during the final internship semester. Clinicals are an average of 8 hours a week, but increase in the final semester.

Clinical Rotations: Students are responsible for selecting and establishing their clinical sites according to the Clinical Placement Guidelines. WCU does have a clinical placement coordinator for the FNP program who facilitates the process and keeps a list of sites with current contracts. FNP students have access to the FNP Clinical Site Database to assist in arranging clinical placement with sites currently under contract with WCU.

Attrition Rate: We have a very low attrition rate of 0-1 student out of each cohort and the reasons have always been related to a change in the student's family circumstances, not grades.

Pass Rate: Our program has had a 100% first-time pass rate on National FNP Certification Exam for the past 5 years.

Working while enrolled in the WCU FNP Program: We encourage students to cut down to part-time work if possible. However, many of the students in the program and alumni from the FNP program arranged work schedules to maintain their employment status for benefits, etc.

Scholarships: The university has scholarships and financial aid that students can inquire about through the graduate school or student services. WCU has been able to offer limited grant sponsored scholarships to FNP students after they begin the program and we hope that continues

DNP information: A DNP is currently not required to practice as a nurse practitioner. Some nursing associations are promoting a doctoral level degree, but it is not required at this time. The national FNP certification organizations (American Nurse Credentialing Center, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners) require a MSN with a nurse practitioner population focus for certification exam eligibility.

Does the current fulltime MSN-FNP track at WCU articulate well into a DNP program? You will be earning 6 doctoral-level credit hours that may be transferred to the WCU post-masters DNP program or another institution.

Study Abroad Opportunities: There is one study abroad opportunity in Scotland and WCU is exploring more options.

Post-Masters Certificate FNP Program: This is offered as a fulltime curriculum that includes all the courses listed in the FNP curriculum, except the two advanced nursing courses and the completion of a graduate project or thesis. This is delineated in the FNP Brochure with asterisks.

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