

## Brigham Young University College of Nursing

### Family Nurse Practitioner Graduate Program Information Packet

#### Family Nurse Practitioner

The Family Nurse Practitioner role emphasizes health promotion, health maintenance, prevention and detection of alterations in health through supportive interventions, counseling, and teaching of families and individuals. In addition, the Family Nurse Practitioner role includes aspects of illness care management that include diagnosis and management of common, chronic, and acute conditions. The practitioner acknowledges and recognizes limitations in the scope of practice, collaborates and consults with other health care providers. Family Nurse Practitioner practice is based on an epidemiological approach to health problems, an understanding of family and community systems, the management of resources and economics, and the use of appropriate technology.

Family Nurse Practitioners improve access to primary care for all populations, especially those considered under-served, whether inner city, suburban, or rural. The Family Nurse Practitioner may provide care to families and individuals in a variety of settings, including the home, school, workplace, or hospital, depending on client needs. The practitioner's function in each setting may vary and include care in a specific specialized area.

The Family Nurse Practitioner keeps current in knowledge and skills through education, review of the literature, and systematic inquiry. The practitioner engages in and utilizes relevant health care research and contributes to the knowledge of colleagues through peer review, publication or verbal communication methods. The Family Nurse Practitioner engages in issues relevant to the profession, community, state, and nation.

Brigham Young University College of Nursing offers a Master's of Science degree in Family Nurse Practice. This degree program emphasizes clinical expertise and includes nursing theories and concepts as well as extensive clinical experience. Practice based on the best evidence is an important component of the program, and students are required to write a thesis, develop an innovative clinical project, or complete a scholarly evidence-based paper of a relevant clinical problem. Graduates can work in a variety of nursing fields as an FNP.

#### Admission Requirements

Complete and Submit Application Before the Deadline: **December 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Minimum criteria that must be met to be considered for acceptance into the graduate program include:

1. Acceptance by the Graduate School of Brigham Young University.

2. Completion of a baccalaureate degree in nursing from a school with national nursing professional accreditation (e.g. CCNE, ACEN, CNEA).
3. Current R.N. licensure in Utah in good standing.
4. Completion of a basic undergraduate statistics course.
5. Completion of a college level pathophysiology course.
6. A minimum GPA of 3.0 or better. The GPA will be calculated using the cumulative GPA of the applicant's undergraduate program.
7. Three letters of recommendation from employers and former teachers. (Preference is given to current employers).
8. Statement of applicant's purposes and goals for graduate education.
9. Applicants must have the equivalent of at least one year of full-time RN experience before submitting an application.
10. Resume (optional)
11. Online Interview

Acceptance into the graduate Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Program is highly competitive and with a limited number of openings each year. Approximately 10-15 students are admitted each year. All students who meet the minimum requirements will be considered but due to limited enrollment acceptance is not guaranteed.

Applicants are evaluated on a variety of criteria using a point system that measures the level of performance on criteria including but not limited to: GPA, letters of recommendation, interview, and the letter of intent, etc. Also, the professional judgment of the admissions committee will be used in selecting the candidates to be accepted into the Family Nurse Practitioner Program.

### **International Student Information**

For an international student to be admitted, the following criteria needs to be met in order to qualify for the program in addition to the standard requirements:

1. Have an RN License in the State of Utah in good standing (Need to pass the NCLEX test and can apply for a Utah nursing license at <http://www.dopl.utah.gov/>).
2. Complete a credential evaluation that provides a transcript and verification of the equivalent of a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (i.e. Commission of Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools {CGFNS [www.cgfns.org](http://www.cgfns.org)}).
3. English as Second Language (ELS) students need to take an English Proficiency Test (such as TOEFL or E3PT). Minimum score requirements are listed on the Graduate Studies website <https://gradstudies.byu.edu/page/english-proficiency>.

### **Class Schedule**

. The sample class schedule is listed below.

# BYU College of Nursing



## Master of Science in Nursing (MSN): Family Nurse Practitioner

60 credits (including electives)

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|--|
| <b>FALL SEMESTER, YEAR 1 (13 CREDITS)</b>                                    |
| • NURS 555: Adv. Pharmacology, 3 credits                                     |
| • NURS 614: Biostats/Epi, 2 credits  |
| • NURS 615: Nursing Knowledge & Evidence Based Practice, 1 credit            |
| • NURS 619: Adv. Patho & Genetics/Genomics, 3 credits                        |
| • NURS 621: Adv. Physical Assessment Lab, 1 credit                           |
| • NURS 621: Adv. Physical Assessment, 2 credits                              |
| • NURS 698R: Project, 1 credit   |
| <b>WINTER SEMESTER, YEAR 1 (12 CREDITS)</b>                                  |
| • NURS 610: QL, Safety & EBP, 2 credits                                      |
| • NURS 616: Project #1, 1 credit   |
| • NURS 627: Diagnostics & Procedures, 2 credits                              |
| • NURS 633: FNP #1, 6 credits  |
| • NURS 698R: Project, 1 credit   |
| <b>SPRING TERM, YEAR 1 (6 CREDITS)</b>                                       |
| • NURS 634: FNP #2, 6 credits  |
| <b>FALL SEMESTER, YEAR 2 (12 CREDITS)</b>                                    |
| • NURS 607: Informatics, 1 credit (1 <sup>st</sup> block)                    |
| • NURS 612: Ethics & Professionalism, 1 credit                               |
| • NURS 613: Healthcare Finance, 1 credit (2 <sup>nd</sup> block)             |
| • NURS 617: Project #2, 1 credit   |
| • NURS 624: Clinical #1, 7 credits (294 hours)                               |
| • NURS 698R: Project, 1 credit   |
| <b>WINTER SEMESTER, YEAR 2 (12 CREDITS)</b>                                  |
| • NURS 590R: Org. Systems POCUS, 1 credit (1 <sup>st</sup> block – Elective) |
| • NURS 590R: Career Strategies, 1 credit (2 <sup>nd</sup> block – Elective)  |
| • NURS 611: Policy, Leadership & Org. Systems, 2 credits                     |
| • NURS 618: Project #3, 1 credit   |
| • NURS 626: Clinical #2, 6 credits (252 hours)                               |
| • NURS 698R: Project, 1 credit   |
| <b>SPRING TERM, YEAR 2 (5 CREDITS)</b>                                       |
| • NURS 635R: Clinical #3, 5 credits (210 hours)                              |

Total Number of Clinical Hours: 1008      Face-To-Face Patient Hours: 756,  
 Indirect Patient Hours (Project): 252      Total Number of MS Project Credit Hours: 4  
 Note: the term/semester of individual courses is subject to change.

Revised by R. Platt 04/25

## FAQ's

Q: What is the application deadline?

**A: December 1<sup>st</sup> (usually 35-45 applicants apply and we accept 15 per year).**

Q: When does the program start?

**A: The FNP program begins in fall semester. (Students have classes fall, winter, and spring, but no classes during summer term).**

Q: Where do I apply?

**A: You can submit an application online at <https://gradstudies.byu.edu/> (click on the "apply" button in the right corner). Application for Fall semester opens late September.**

Q: How many credits per semester?

**A: 5-13 credits depending on the semester/term. See the Graduate Student Handbook on the nursing website for the current schedule.**

Q: Is the GRE required?

**A: No, it's optional and not recommended.**

Q: Are there any scholarships available?

**A: Scholarships are awarded by financial need and/or student performance. If you are accepted, you will be given a form to fill out prior to the start of the program. Students are expected to submit a new scholarship form each semester. There are also some TA and RA opportunities available.**

Q: What is the cost of tuition?

**A: Check the financial website for current costs <https://finserve.byu.edu/content/tuition-and-general-fees>.**

Q: Can I work full time and/or part time while I am in the program?

**A: We strongly encourage students not to work while they are in the program. In the past, students who have worked find the coursework more challenging than students who do not work. However, about 85% of our current students do work part time. We make no accommodations for work schedules.**

Q: Can I attend the program part time?

**A: This is not a feasible option. Most courses are taught only once a year and so it makes it problematic. The program is a lock step program; some courses are prerequisites for other courses.**

Q: What does a top applicant look like?

**A: GPA 3.5 -4.0, the best candidates have at least 1 year experience as an RN and perform well during the interview portion of the application.**

Q: What is the GPA requirement?

**A: Minimum of 3.0 but the average GPA of accepted applicants is 3.7.**

Q: Do you plan to do a DNP?

**A: The College of Nursing does not plan to have a DNP at this time.**

Q: Will you have a bridge program from MS to DNP?

**A: As of right now, we do not have plans for a bridge program.**

Q: Can I have a Baccalaureate Degree in an area other than nursing with an Associate Degree in nursing and still get in the program?

**A: No, you must have a BSN to attend our program.**

Q: What are the advantages of going to BYU?

**A: Graduates are highly sought after. We have a long tradition of 100% pass rate on the certification exam. Students have a small, in-person cohort. Most students are on scholarships, and it is the most affordable program in Utah.**

Q: Do I have to write a thesis?

**A: No, all students will complete a graduate project instead of a thesis.**

Q: Do I have to be a member of the church to attend?

**A: No, but you have to be willing to abide by BYU's Honor Code.**

Q: Can I do my clinical in Salt Lake or wherever I live?

**A: Clinical locations are typically along the Wasatch Front in Salt Lake and Utah counties but there is also 1 rural rotation.**

Q: Do I need an ecclesiastical endorsement from the stake president as well?

**A: Yes, an ecclesiastical endorsement from the stake president as well as the bishop is required for your application to be considered. You can start this process at [endorse.byu.edu](https://endorse.byu.edu). You will need a BYU netID to request the endorsement. (The online netID instructions are found at [graduatestudies.byu.edu/content/application-checklist](https://graduatestudies.byu.edu/content/application-checklist))**

Q: Will I be contacted to set up an interview or do I need to do that myself?

**A: no, it's an online interview with your application.**

Q: How much time is spent on campus? And are the classes every day or only a few days per week?

**A: Classes are usually 2-3 days a week (Tues, Wed, and Thurs), but the schedule can change each semester.**

Q: What it's like to be an NP? (or) What do NPs do?

**A:** <https://www.aanp.org/all-about-nps> The AANP website includes lots of information such as becoming an NP, FAQs, NP facts, etc. Students can also look into shadowing an NP to see what it's like day to day. You will need to contact local clinics and hospitals to see if they offer opportunities for students to shadow NPs.

**Q:** Does BYU offer an accelerated program?

**A:** BYU does not offer an accelerated program. However, Nightingale College, Roseman University, and University of Utah all offer accelerated programs. All these schools are in the Salt Lake County area. You can learn more about their programs via their websites.

**Q:** What is the difference between a Physician Assistant and a Nurse Practitioner?

**A:** They are similar in some ways. Both can diagnosis and subscribe to patients. The main difference is that NPs have an individual license whereas a PA works under their employer's license.

**Q:** Is there an application fee?

**A:** Yes, \$50.

**Q:** What are you looking for in a good letter of intent?

**A:** Talk about your aspirations and goals in nursing and in school, and why you'd want to be at BYU, especially why you'd want a master's instead of a Doctorate degree. It's a good idea to utilize the College's Mission, Vision and Values as well.

**Q:** Who are the best people for the letters of recommendation?

**A:** Employers and supervisors at work are the best. You can have 1 faculty recommender too if you'd like. If your company doesn't allow recommendation letters by supervisors, then a co-worker is fine.

**Q:** What is the difference between an MNP and a DNP?

**A:** In practice there is none. You can do all the same things, pay is the same and you can get hired at the same jobs in Utah. Outside of Utah, for example, in CA, some places require the DNP to work at but for the most part, there's not difference. If you want to work in academia, then a DNP might be required. Other than that, the only difference is the prestige of the Doctorate degree.