NEONATAL NURSE PRACTITIONER, MSN

Degree: Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
Field of Study: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Program Overview

Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (NNPs) are advanced practice nurses who focus on the management and care of fragile, critically ill, and premature infants and their parents. Their role encompasses activities that promote optimal health, detect illness, and facilitate restoration and maintenance of the health of neonates. NNPs practice in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), which are found in children's and large general hospitals.

Path to the MSN

The Master of Science in Nursing program prepares registered nurses for advanced practice either as a nurse practitioner or nurse midwife. Students in the MSN program choose from several different majors, but virtually all students must take at least ten core courses. Students must complete a required number of credit hours as well as clinical hours. Most majors require an average of 40 credit hours, usually completed in three or four semesters (including summer for some majors). MSN majors also require at least 600 or more clinical hours depending on major.

Students can choose either a part-time or full-time program, with full-time consisting of 9 or more credit hours per semester and part-time being anything less. Post-graduate APRN certificates can be provided for most programs and are crafted according to individual needs and background education. Dual degree programs are offered in Bioethics (MSN/MA), Anthropology (MSN/MA), and Public Health (MSN/MPH).

Course Grades

Progression in the MSN program is contingent on a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and passing grades in all courses (A, B, C, P, or S). If the cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 during any semester, the student will be placed on academic probation. In addition, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) students in the MSN program must maintain an APRN GPA of 2.5 or higher in all APRN core courses (advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and advanced physical assessment) and APRN clinical courses.

The grade of Incomplete (I) can only be assigned by the discretion of the instructor when: 1) There are extenuating circumstances, explained to the instructor before the assignment of the grade, which clearly justifies an extension of time beyond the requirements established for and met by other students in the class, and 2) The student has been passing the course and only an evaluative component of the course, such as a term paper, final exam, or project remains to be completed. The "Arrangement to Resolve a Grade of Incomplete" form must be completed prior to the end of the semester, or the instructor may assign a grade of U or F. The instructor shall enter a final evaluative grade if and when the completed work has been submitted. A grade of Incomplete must be removed by the 11th week of the semester following the one in which the courses were taken. If the student does not complete the required work by the date established, the Registrar will convert the I to an F when the deadline for completion has passed. Students may not sit in the same course in a later semester to complete the work required for the original course. Please see the **School of Graduate Studies Incomplete Policy**.

A student who receives a grade of F or U for a required course must register for the course the next semester it is offered to continue in the MSN program. If the grade of U or F is in a course that is not required for the MSN program, the student may register for the same course or a substitute course and achieve a passing grade to continue in the MSN program. MSN students who receive 2 failing grades (F, U, NP) will be separated from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

Majors and Sample Full-Time Curriculum

Virtually all MSN students must take at least ten core courses in Professional Development, Scientific Inquiry, and Nursing Practice. Although the MSN program itself requires a minimum of 36 credit hours to graduate, most majors require an average of 40 credit hours, usually completed between 18 and 30 months depending on the MSN major. Students are required to complete 600 or more clinical hours depending on MSN major. Post-Graduate Certificates can be provided for most programs and are crafted according to individual needs and background education. Sample full-time curriculum are listed for each major.

Program Requirements

Two years of NICU nursing are needed prior to beginning the NNP major. As part of FPB's MSN program, the major requires 40 credit hours of coursework, plus 700 hours of clinicals in Level III NICUs. Full-time coursework is completed within 18 months (4 semesters).

Sample Plan of Study

First Year		
Fall		**Credit Hours**
NURS 405	Inquiry I - Theoretical Foundations	2
NUNP 416	Integrated Assessment of the Neonate	3
NURS 453	Advanced Pathophysiology	4
NUNP 405	Foundations for the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner	3
	Credit Hours	**12**
Spring		
NURS 425	Inquiry II - Research Process	3
NURS 430	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUNP 412	Health Problems of the Neonate	4
NURS 431	Psychosocial and Spiritual Dimensions of Advanced Nursing Practice	2
	Credit Hours	**12**
Summer		
NURS 502	Inquiry III Evidence-Based Practice	2
NUNP 413	Advanced Management of the Acutely Ill Neonate	3
	Credit Hours	**5**
Second Year		
Fall		
NUNP 414	Advanced Management of the Neonate with Complex Health	5
NURS 451	Leadership for Quality Healthcare within Organizations and Systems	3

NURS 444A	Ethical Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice	1
NURS 444B	Health Care Delivery and Finance in Advanced Practice	1
NURS 444C	Health Policy Legislation and Legal Issues in Advanced Practice	1
	Credit Hours	**11**
	Total Credit Hours	**40**