PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
Generalist Track
Family Nurse Practitioner Track
WELCOME

The decision to engage in additional formal education is always a significant one that demonstrates commitment to lifelong learning and professional development. We are pleased that you have chosen to enroll at Franklin University where our mission embraces individual attention and excellent instruction in career-oriented programs. Your studies with us will be a time for critical thinking about the knowledge, skills and values that comprise professional nursing as well as for reflection on moral and ethical issues in society. The completion of advanced nursing education enriches one's life far beyond the career goals you may seek and achieve. Franklin graduates ultimately are well-prepared for the satisfactions of a lifetime of professional leadership and service to the community.

You come to the program from a variety of backgrounds and clinical specialties in which you have become experts. It is our intention to build upon who you are and what you know toward who you want to become. In this process, we are all teachers and learners.

The Franklin University Catalog/Bulletin, accessible at https://www.franklin.edu/current-students/academic-resources/university-bulletin, contains policies applicable to all students. The MSN Program Student Handbook is provided to MSN students as a supplemental guide related to specialized topics associated with completion of the MSN Program. In any situations of unintended incongruence, the University Catalog/Bulletin takes priority.

Nursing Faculty and Staff

College of Health and Public Administration

Franklin University
MSN Program Outcomes

By completion of the program, graduates will:

1. Synthesize theories and knowledge from nursing and related disciplines to develop a theoretical basis to guide practice in an advanced nursing role.
2. Apply leadership skills and decision making in the provision of high quality nursing care in diverse settings.
3. Provide leadership across the care continuum in diverse settings to promote high quality, safe, effective patient centered care.
4. Appraise, use and participate in the extension of nursing knowledge through scientific inquiry.
5. Integrate current and emerging technologies into professional practice.
6. Demonstrate responsive leadership, collaboration, and management to influence the advancement of nursing practice and the profession of nursing and to influence health policy.
7. Employ collaborative strategies and effective communication to advocate for the role of the professional nurse as a member and leader of interprofessional teams.
8. Integrate clinical prevention and population health concepts to provide holistic, comprehensive nursing care for individual, families, and aggregates.
9. Demonstrate an advanced level of understanding of nursing and relevant sciences and integrate this knowledge into practice.

Generalist Track Overview

The Generalist track of the MSN program is designed for those nurses who want to pursue more advanced positions in today’s challenging health care environments. The program prepares nurses to function in leadership roles in practice and educational settings. The program blends nursing theory and advanced practice concepts necessary to work within the structure, culture, and mission of a variety of health care organizations or educational settings.

Graduate education builds upon knowledge and competencies gained in baccalaureate education. Graduate students use critical thinking, creativity and problem solving skills that require in-depth nursing knowledge and are prepared to coordinate health care programs within complex systems in an era of health care reform. The curriculum is based upon nursing and related theories and the application of research findings to clinical and administrative nursing issues. Graduate students are also prepared for doctoral study in nursing and continued personal and professional development.

Curriculum

The minimum number of semester hours for degree completion is 38; the Core Curriculum consists of 30 semester credits with 8 semester credits of electives.
**Program Plan**
Courses are in an online learning delivery system along with seat time within the classroom or a total online format. Courses are taught in 6 or 12 week sessions.

Core courses include:
NURS 612 Role of the Master’s Prepared Nurse (3 credit hours, 6 weeks)
NURS 644 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours, 12 weeks)
NURS 646 Advanced Physical Assessment (3 credit hours, 12 weeks)
NURS 648 Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours, 12 weeks)
NURS 650 Population Focused Care (3 credit hours, 6 weeks)
NURS 693 Evidence Based Practice and Quality Improvement (3 credit hours, 6 weeks)
NURS 795 Practicum (4 credit hours, 12 weeks)
HCM 735 Organizational Systems (4 credits, 6 weeks)
HCM 752 Health Policy (4 credits, 6 weeks)

Franklin electives from graduate offerings (including but not limited to):
HIM 702 Health Information Governance;
HIM 710 Clinical Workflow & Applications;
HIM 761 Healthcare Analytics;
HCM 733 Financial & Managerial Accounting in Healthcare Organizations;
HCM 742 Healthcare Law & Ethics;
HCM 762 Global Health;
HRM 701 Human Resource Management;
HRM 706 Organizational Development & Intervention;
HRM 707 Organizational Leadership;
IDPT 600 Principles of Learning Theory;
IDPT 645 Learning Management Systems,
IDPT 650 Evaluation
NURS 772 Program Curriculum Design, Development, and Evaluation
NURS 777 Teaching/Learning Strategies and Technology in Nursing Education

Students must consult with academic advisor and get approval if another graduate course is being requested in lieu of above. Please note that some courses may have a prerequisite.

**Practicum Course**
The Practicum will enable the graduate student to synthesize didactic concepts from the MSN Generalist track curriculum and apply those concepts in a practical, supervised experience. The practicum consists of 80 hours with a preceptor.
Clinical Attire

Dress during clinical practicum and field experiences should be appropriate to and consistent with the agency or setting to which the student is assigned. This may mean street clothes and lab coat, scrubs, uniform or casual professional attire. Students must wear the Franklin University nametag at all times.

Preceptors/Site

- Students will be expected to select an appropriate preceptor and site for the practicum course at least six months in advance of the practicum course. Sites could include but are not limited to health care facilities as in hospitals, clinics, extended care and/or appropriate education institutions. Preceptors need to be selected based upon their education, experience, and willingness to work with students.
- Preceptors cannot be immediate supervisors, family, or friends. The preceptor must have at least two (2) years of experience and be a master’s prepared registered nurse. Franklin faculty and staff will be responsible for oversight of all regulatory and educational components of the practicum experience, including assessment of clinical sites, verification of preceptor qualifications, maintenance of all student documentation, evaluation of sites, preceptors, and students, and oversight of students.
- If the student is having difficulty securing a preceptor, the Clinical Coordinator should be contacted for assistance and suggestions.

Nametags
The MSN Program Office will provide a Franklin University MSN student nametag at no cost to each enrolled student. This nametag is to be worn during practice activities in clinical agencies and at community sites.

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Track

The curriculum is designed to prepare graduates to take national FNP certification exams. Professional standards provide the foundation for the curriculum, including the Essentials of Master’s Education in Nursing (AACN, 2011), CCNE standards, the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF), and the National Taskforce on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education (NTF), and in accordance with the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification and Education (LACE).

This document provides general information regarding the expectations of the FNP student. Additional information will be provided in the FNP clinical handbook and course documents. **NOTE: This track may not be available in all states of residence. Please let the Program Chair know if you are anticipating relocation during the FNP course and clinical portion of the program.**
Curriculum

The FNP curriculum is comprised of 41 total credit hours, divided into didactic, laboratory, and clinical practice components. All didactic coursework is offered online. Course lengths vary from 6-16 weeks.

Didactic: The curriculum begins with foundation courses designed to support student achievement of AACN Essentials, and development of graduate level analysis and critical thinking. Foundational coursework includes advanced study of evidence-based practice, quality improvement, population health, pathophysiology, health assessment, and pharmacology. Nurse Practitioner (NP) students begin with examination of the critical role of the NP, and foundations of NP practice, including regulatory, prescriptive, and integral functions of the NP as expected to meet the criteria of the NONPF competencies for family primary care practice.

Laboratory: Students must demonstrate achievement of foundational clinical competencies, in a hands-on, instructor-guided skills laboratory environment, prior to beginning clinical courses. This laboratory experience will be a two day, in person session, held immediately prior to entering clinical courses. The laboratory experience will be held in Columbus, Ohio. Students are responsible for arranging travel and accommodations for this mandatory experience.

Program Plan

Courses are in an online learning delivery system along with seat time within the classroom or a total online format. Courses are taught in 6, 12, or 16 week sessions.

Core courses include:

NURS 613 Role of the Nurse Practitioner (3 credit hours, 6 weeks)
NURS 644 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours, 12 weeks)
NURS 646 Advanced Physical Assessment (3 credit hours, 12 weeks)
NURS 648 Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours, 12 weeks)
NURS 650 Population Focused Care (3 credit hours, 6 weeks)
NURS 693 Evidence Based Practice and Quality Improvement (3 credit hours, 6 weeks)
HCM 752 Health Policy (4 credits, 6 weeks)
NURS 700 Foundations of Nurse Practitioner Practice (3 credit hours, 6 weeks, includes 16 hours on-site practical experience for skills instruction and assessment)
NURS 701 Primary Care I (4 credit hours, 12 weeks, practicum/clinical course – 150 hours of precepted practice)
NURS 702 Primary Care II (4 credit hours, 16 weeks, practicum/clinical course – 150 hours of precepted practice)
NURS 703 Management of Multidimensional Health (4 credit hours, 16 weeks, practicum/clinical course – 150 hours of precepted practice)

NURS 790 FNP Capstone (4 credit hours, 12 weeks, practicum/clinical course – 150 hours of precepted practice)

**Clinical Practice**

Clinical courses include not only prescribed practice hours, but also advanced content and study for preparation for certification exams. Students are paired in a 1:1 relationship with experienced preceptors throughout four clinical courses. Each clinical course requires 150 hours (approximately 2 days per week) of clinical practice, within prescribed content and application, are attended over four semesters. Experienced FNP faculty direct, supervise, and evaluate the clinical experiences of each course, and work closely with students and preceptors to attain clinical goals and expected competencies.

Students will be expected to secure appropriate clinical sites (such as but not limited to health care facilities such as hospitals, extended care facilities, and/or clinics) and preceptors at least six (6) months prior to the first clinical course. Preceptors cannot be immediate supervisors, family, friends, or a personal health care provider. The preceptor must have at least two (2) years of experience, and may be a physician or nurse practitioner. In some states, a physician assistant is permitted as a preceptor. Franklin faculty and staff will be responsible for oversight of all regulatory and educational components of the clinical practice experience, including assessment of clinical sites, verification of preceptor qualifications, maintenance of all student documentation, evaluation of sites, preceptors, and students, and oversight of students.

**Required Documentation: Practicum and Clinical Experiences**

Any expenses incurred by the student for any of the documentation below is the responsibility of the student.

*Some practicum or clinical sites may require students to fulfill additional requirements beyond those listed below prior to starting their experience. The Clinical Coordinator will work with students to obtain any additional required documentation.

**Active and Unencumbered Nursing License:** Students must have a current, unencumbered registered nurse license for the state in which the practicum or clinical experience will occur. If a license expires during the course, the new license must be acquired before the practicum or clinical may continue. All RN licenses will be re-verified prior to the start of the practicum or each clinical. Failure to maintain a current unencumbered RN license will result in the removal from the practicum or clinical experience.

**Background Check:** Students will be required to complete a satisfactory criminal background check before beginning the practicum. A comprehensive national background check is required including a Federal OIG/GSA search, which identifies individuals who have committed any type of fraud against Medicare, Medicaid or other Federally funded health care programs. The results
of the background check will be maintained by the Clinical Coordinator. **Clinical agencies may require additional background checks including blood or urine drug screens.**

**CPR Certification:** Students must be currently certified in CPR by the American Heart Association or through a Military Training Network Provider Card. Certification must be renewed every two (2) years with no lapse in certification.

**Health Insurance:** students are required by clinical agencies to carry health insurance throughout the program.

**Immunizations:** evidence of the vaccine or laboratory proof of immunity is required for each of the following:

- Tuberculin Skin Test: Documentation of an initial 2 Step TST is required AND documentation of annual 1 Step TST’s (without lapse) since 2 Step was completed. Alternatively, a negative IGRA (T-Spot or Quantiferon blood test) is acceptable in lieu of a 2 Step TST.
- TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis): within the past 10 years;
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella);
- Varicella (Chicken pox);
- HBV (Hepatitis B): series of 3 vaccines;
- Influenza: vaccine required by October 1 annually, or within 14 days of availability. If you choose not to get the vaccine, an Influenza Waiver Form must be signed annually. **Signing a waiver may exclude you from placement at some clinical sites.**

Students can opt out of immunizations for medical or religious reasons:

- Medical exemptions: must be written by physician, PA, or NP and state a medical exemption exists, why, and which specific immunizations this covers
- Religious exemptions: written and signed statement from student
- Exemptions will be reviewed on annual basis

**Liability Insurance:** Students are required to purchase student liability insurance annually with no lapse in coverage at $1,000,000 per occurrence & $3,000,000 aggregate. This may be an additional role for your registered nurse carrier and may require an additional fee or can be purchased separately. Typically liability insurance provided by an employer will not have the option of adding a student role.

Several resources for insurance are listed below (other companies may be available). Please check with the carrier to be certain the policy includes coverage as a nurse practitioner student.

In both instances, a copy of the liability policy summary/face sheet showing coverage amounts and dates of coverage/expiration or liability insurance application form indicating payment has been made must be submitted prior to starting the first course with a practicum or clinical experience. Failure to do so will prohibit you from starting your experience.

Academic Information and Services

Academic Policies

Franklin University’s academic policies and student code of conduct standards can be found in the Academic Catalog. The Academic Catalog is available at https://www.franklin.edu/current-students/academic-resources/university-bulletin.

Support Staff

- **Clinical Coordinator**: The Clinical Coordinator is responsible for managing documentation of all student requirements for practicum and clinical rotations, including health records, liability/malpractice insurance, CPR, RN licensure, and background checks. In addition, the Clinical Coordinator supports completion of affiliation agreements that may be required by clinical agencies.

- **Graduate Academic Advising**: Students are assigned to an academic advisor throughout their program. Academic advisors are available to assist students with academic planning, understanding University policies and processes, reviewing academic progress, course scheduling, developing goals, and exploring potential careers. Appointments can be made through the University Call Center. The Graduate Academic Advising team is also available by email at graduate.advising@franklin.edu.

- **Office of Military and Veteran Affairs (OMVA)**: OMVA facilitates academic advising and military benefits certification services, as well as provides other information regarding military and veteran processes and procedures, for current military service members (Active, National Guard, and Reserve), veterans, and spouses and dependents of current service members of all branches of the United States Armed Forces. Please contact OMVA via the University Call Center or by email at omva@franklin.edu.
Academic and Learning Support

- **University Call Center**
  - Local: (614) 797-4700
  - Distance (toll-free): (877) 341-6300

- **Academic Writing Support**: [www.franklin.edu/learning-commons](http://www.franklin.edu/learning-commons)

- **Bookstore**
  - Website: [http://franklin.bncollege.com](http://franklin.bncollege.com)
  - Phone: (614) 947-6828

- **Disability Services**: qualified students can register with the Office of Disability Services and request accommodations for disabilities. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Call Center or email [accommodate@franklin.edu](mailto:accommodate@franklin.edu).

- **Library**: Franklin University Nationwide Library provides both online and print resources to support its community of face-to-face and online learners. On Franklin’s Main Campus, the Library is located in Phillips Hall, at the southwest corner of Main Street and Grant Avenue. **Online, the Library is located at** [http://library.franklin.edu/](http://library.franklin.edu/). Extensive online resources, including eBooks and databases are accessible to students, faculty and staff via their myFranklin username and password. Librarians and library staff are available to provide assistance with library resources and services via instant message chat, telephone (614.947.6550 or toll free at 1.866.341.6252), email (library@franklin.edu), or in person during library hours.

- **Technology Help Desk**: the Help Desk can assist with issues such as retrieving usernames and passwords, accessing and utilizing e-mail, and questions about BlueQuill. Assistance is available via phone, e-mail, live chat, and a student self-support portal. For more information, visit [https://www.franklin.edu/current-students/student-services/technology-support](https://www.franklin.edu/current-students/student-services/technology-support).