

PEDIATRIC ACUTE CARE NURSING (CERT)

This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2021–Spring 2022 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (<http://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/>).

Graduate Certificate in Pediatric Acute Care Nursing

Unit: School of Nursing (<https://louisville.edu/nursing/>)
Academic Plan Code: NURSCPGPAC

Program Information

The post-graduate certificate focuses on the student's new role as a pediatric acute care NP including development of knowledge in treatment of the new population, patient advocacy, and communication. The post-graduate certificate curriculum is for students who are already a board certified APRN in another specialty or doctorally prepared (ie. PhD, EdD, DNP) RNs returning to school for an APRN certification.

A student who is enrolled full time can complete the program in 12 months. The post-graduate curriculum incorporates the NONPF core competencies for nurse practitioners as well as the pediatric acute care specialty competencies. Coursework concentrates on the role of the nurse practitioner in the specific pediatric acute care specialization.

The curriculum begins with a foundation of pathophysiology and pharmacology in pediatric acute care, then progresses to diagnosis and management of acute pediatric illnesses. The diagnosis and management courses are leveled, starting with acute exacerbation of chronic pediatric illnesses and progressing to acute conditions and critical illness. Students must attain a minimum of 504 population specific clinical hours (588 in the pediatric acute care track if there is no documentation of well-child care in primary certification).

Prerequisite courses to the Post-Graduate Certificate Program

- Advanced Pathophysiology
- Advanced Pharmacology
- Advanced Physical Assessment

Admission Requirements

Admission Requirements Post Graduate Certificate

Completed Graduate School Application (<http://graduate.louisville.edu/apply/>) including an application fee.

1. Official transcripts representing all college course work with a recommended cumulative graduate grade point average of at least 3.25 on 4.0 scale. Baccalaureate and Graduate degree must be earned from an accredited nursing program (by NLN, CCNE or ACEN). A Master's or Doctorate degree from a regionally accredited university is required. Applicants for this program must be nationally certified to practice as an advanced practice nurse
2. Two letters of recommendation from individuals chosen from among: former faculty, current or immediate past employer, or other

nursing/health professional who can speak of academic and/ or professional nursing capabilities and potential. These letters should accompany the Letter of Evaluation form required by the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies.

3. Goal Statement that discusses career goals, areas of expertise, and reasons for pursuing a Post-Graduate degree. Maximum of 2 pages; double spaced; 12-point font.
4. Current Resume or CV.
5. RN verification of licensure from the Board of Nursing. Eligibility for an RN license from the Kentucky Board of Nursing.
6. Verification of advanced practice certification from a national certification agency (i.e. AANP, AACN, NAPNAP) if applicable.
7. Proof of English Proficiency. International students for whom English is not their primary language must show English language proficiency by 1) demonstration of a degree awarded from an acceptable English language institution or 2) acceptable examinations: TOEFL; International English Language Testing System (IELTS); successful completion of the exit examination for the advanced level of the intensive English as a Second Language Program. Recommended test scores are available on the University International Student website.

Certificate Requirements

| Code | Title | Hours |
|----------|---|-------|
| NURS 761 | Pediatric & Adolescent Well Child Theory ¹ | 2 |
| NURS 762 | Diagnosis & Management of Pediatrics in Primary Care ¹ | 2 |
| NURS 800 | Pathophysiology for Pediatric Acute Care | 1 |
| NURS 782 | Clinical Practicum: Population specific clinical for the NP ^{2,3} | 1-6 |
| NURS 801 | Pharmacology for Pediatric Acute Care | 1 |
| NURS 802 | Procedures for Pediatric Acute Care | 1 |
| NURS 803 | Diagnosis and Management for Pediatric Acute Care I: Special Needs in Chronic Illness | 3 |
| NURS 804 | Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric Acute Care II: Acute Illness | 3 |
| NURS 806 | Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Role | 1 |
| NURS 805 | Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric Acute Care III: Critical Illness | 3 |

Minimum Total Hours 18-23

- ¹ NURS 761 and NURS 762: Waived for Family or Pediatric Nurse Practitioners upon gap analysis of first population focus transcript.
- ² NURS 782: Six credit hours required. One additional credit hour (84 clinical hours) required if there is no documentation of well-child care clinical hours in primary certification.
- ³ NURS 782 can be completed at the student's desired pace. This is a variable credit hour course. Students may elect to take the course one-three (1-3) credits per semester. One (1) credit hour = 84 clinical contact hours. A minimum total of 504 clinical hours must be completed to earn this certificate.

Graduation Requirements:

Post-Graduate Certificate

1. Attainment of a minimum of 504 population specific clinical hours (588 in the pediatric acute care track if there is no documentation of well-child care in primary certification)
2. A minimum GPA of 3.0 after completion of all required course work.

Graduates from the UofL School of Nursing post-master's APRN certificate program are prepared to apply for APRN certification in their population track upon graduation; however, educational preparation does not guarantee professional licensure. If you have questions regarding Kentucky APRN licensure, please contact the Kentucky Board of Nursing (<https://kbn.ky.gov/apply/Pages/Examination/examination.aspx>). For APRN licensure questions in other states, please contact the respective state board of nursing (<https://ncsbn.org/contact-bon.htm>).