

# NURSE PRACTITIONER - APRN (POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE)

## Post-Graduate Certificate in Nurse Practitioner (APRN)

Unit: School of Nursing (<https://louisville.edu/nursing/>)  
Academic Plan Code(s): NUPRCNPAGA, NUPRCNPAGP, NUPRCNPFNP,  
NUPRCNPPSY, NUPRCNPNNP, NURSCPGPAC

## Program Information

The post-graduate APRN certificate program prepares registered nurses for eligibility and licensure for national certification in an advanced practice specialty. Students will progress through a specialized curriculum that focuses on the student's area of interest. Registered nurses holding a Master of Science degree in nursing or a terminal degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, DNP) are eligible to apply.

Six specialties are available:

- Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Please see Certificate Requirements tab for specific requirements for each specialty.

## Admissions Criteria

A holistic review process is used when considering applications for admission. The holistic review considers multiple criteria for admissions, including the applicant's professional career goals, academic capabilities, grade point averages, work experience, leadership, and community engagement.

Only registered nurses holding a Master of Science degree in nursing or a terminal degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, DNP) are eligible to apply. To be considered for admission to the post graduate APRN certificate program, the following items must be submitted:

### To the Graduate School

- University of Louisville Graduate Admission Application (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/admission/apply/>) with the application fee.

1. **Official Transcripts** representing all college course work. Graduate program degree in nursing must be from a regionally accredited institution and a CCNE-, ACEN-, or NLN-accredited nursing program. Recommended graduate cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
2. Applicants who have attended a college or university outside of the United States are also required to submit a course-by-course evaluation of their transcripts through World Education Services (<https://www.wes.org/>) (WES) or Educational Credential Evaluators (<https://www.ece.org/>) (ECE). Recommended graduate cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

3. **Two letters of recommendation** from individuals who can speak to your academic and/or professional capabilities and potential. Recommendations should be requested from former faculty members, current or immediate past employers, or other nursing/health professionals. Recommendations must have been completed within the last year.
4. **Current resume or curriculum vitae (CV)** including RN license number.
5. **Unencumbered RN license** from a US state board of nursing. (Prior to clinicals a RN license in the state of Kentucky or a compact state is required).
6. Upload a goal statement addressing the following: describe your reasons for applying to the selected track including your short and long term goals, your motivation for choosing your selected specialty, and explain your professional growth and development which has specifically prepared you for the specialty for which you have applied.
7. Students for whom English is not their primary language must show **English Proficiency** (<https://louisville.edu/graduate/futurestudents/application-directions/>).
8. Students offered admission will need to submit a Criminal Background check through the third-party vendor Castlebranch which will need to be approved prior to enrollment.

### Additional requirements for acute care specialties:

**Neonatal specialty:** Minimum of one year of RN clinical experience in a Level III or Level IV NICU required prior to admission. All NNP applicants must have the equivalent of two years of full-time RN clinical experience (within the last 5 years) in Level III and/or IV NICU inpatient settings before beginning clinical courses.

**Adult-Gerontology Acute Care specialty:** One year of RN experience in the ICU or one year of RN experience in any area and a commitment to complete one year of RN clinical practice in an ICU before beginning clinical courses. Applicants that do not have one year of RN experience at the point of application, but will complete one year prior to beginning clinical courses, will satisfy the work requirement.

**Pediatric Acute Care specialty:** One year of RN experience in an acute care setting or one year of RN experience in any area and a commitment to complete one year in an acute care setting before beginning clinical courses.

## Prerequisite Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
NURS 740	Advanced Pharmacology <sup>1</sup>	3
NURS 741	Advanced Pathophysiology	4
NURS 742	Advanced Physical Assessment <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>10</b>

## Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Specialty Requirements

**Minimum clinical hour requirements:** APRNs seeking an additional specialty will complete a minimum of 504 population-specific clinical hours. All other students will be required to complete a minimum of 672 patient care clinical hours and 84 professional role clinical hours. Pediatric acute care nurse practitioner specialty requires a minimum of 588 clinical hours if there is no documentation of well-child care in

primary certification. 1 credit hour of clinical coursework is equivalent to 84 clinical clock hours.

A program of study for postgraduate applicants will be created based upon a gap analysis of all official college transcripts and professional credentials.

A minimum grade point average of 3.0 is required in all course work to meet graduation requirements.

### Adult Gerontology Acute Nurse Practitioner

Academic Plan Code(s): NUPRCNPAGA

The patient population of the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner practice includes the entire spectrum of adults including adolescents, adults, and aging adults. Acute care nurse practitioners work in the intensive care unit (ICU), progressive care unit (PCU), other hospital units and specialty provider's offices.

Code	Title	Hours
Courses		
NURS 754	Clinical Reasoning in Advanced Practice Nursing <sup>2</sup>	1
NURS 777	The Adult/Gerontology Acute Care NP Role	1
NURS 779	Diagnosis & Management in Acute Care I	5
NURS 780	Procedures and Diagnostics for the Acute Care NP	2
NURS 781	Diagnosis & Management in Acute Care II	3
NURS 783	Diagnosis & Management in Acute Care III	2
NURS 792	Pharmacology for the Acute Care APRN	1
NURS 807	The Professional Role of the Advanced Practice Nurse	3
NURS 726	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP I (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 727	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP II (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 728	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP III (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 729	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP IV (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 840	Clinical Seminar I	1
NURS 841	Clinical Seminar II	1
NURS 842	Clinical Practicum in the Advanced Practice Role (84 clinical hours) <sup>2,5</sup>	1
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>29</b>

### Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Academic Plan Code(s): NUPRCNPAGP

The patient population of the adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner practice includes the entire spectrum of the adults including adolescents, adults and aging adults. An Adult-Gerontology NP could work in the following settings: internal medicine offices, health clinics, a specialty office, hospital rehab or a hospice unit; long term care facility, fast-track ER, or adult urgent care facility.

Code	Title	Hours
Courses		
NURS 753	Adolescent Well Child Theory	1
NURS 754	Clinical Reasoning in Advanced Practice Nursing <sup>2</sup>	1

NURS 755	Diagnosis and Management of Adult Health in Primary Care	4
NURS 756	Procedures & Diagnostics for Adult Health	1
NURS 757	Diagnosis and Management of Women's Health in Primary Care	2
NURS 758	Diagnosis and Management of Mental Health in Primary Care	2
NURS 759	Diagnosis and Management of the Older Adult in Primary Care	3
NURS 807	The Professional Role of the Advanced Practice Nurse	3
NURS 726	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP I (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 727	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP II (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 728	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP III (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 729	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP IV (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 840	Clinical Seminar I	1
NURS 841	Clinical Seminar II	1
NURS 842	Clinical Practicum in the Advanced Practice Role (84 clinical hours) <sup>2,5</sup>	1

**Minimum Total Hours 28**

### Family Nurse Practitioner

Academic Plan Code(s): NUPRCNPFNP

The family nurse practitioner (FNP) is prepared to care for individuals and families across the lifespan. An FNP could work in the following settings: health clinic, adult or pediatric primary care office, inpatient rehab or hospice unit, school, fast-track ER, or urgent care facility.

Code	Title	Hours
Courses		
NURS 754	Clinical Reasoning in Advanced Practice Nursing <sup>2</sup>	1
NURS 755	Diagnosis and Management of Adult Health in Primary Care	4
NURS 756	Procedures & Diagnostics for Adult Health	1
NURS 757	Diagnosis and Management of Women's Health in Primary Care	2
NURS 758	Diagnosis and Management of Mental Health in Primary Care	2
NURS 759	Diagnosis and Management of the Older Adult in Primary Care	3
NURS 761	Pediatric & Adolescent Well Child Theory	2
NURS 762	Diagnosis & Management of Pediatrics in Primary Care	2
NURS 807	The Professional Role of the Advanced Practice Nurse <sup>2</sup>	3
NURS 726	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP I (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 727	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP II (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 728	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP III (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2

NURS 729	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP IV (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 840	Clinical Seminar I	1
NURS 841	Clinical Seminar II	1
NURS 842	Clinical Practicum in the Advanced Practice Role (84 clinical hours) <sup>2,5</sup>	1

**Minimum Total Hours** 31

### Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Academic Plan Code(s): NUPRCNPNP

Neonatal nurse practitioners (NNP) provide health care to neonates, infants, and children through 2 years of age. The NNP role includes the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of acute and chronic illness in neonates, infants, and children.

Code	Title	Hours
Courses		
NURS 763	Advanced Neonatal Physiology & Pathophysiology I	3
NURS 764	Neonatal Diagnostic Reasoning I	1
NURS 765	Advance Neonatal Physiology & Pathophysiology II	3
NURS 766	Neonatal Diagnostic Reasoning II	1
NURS 767	Neonatal Residency I (252 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	3
NURS 768	Neonatal Residency II (252 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	3
NURS 769	Neonatal Residency III (252 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	3
NURS 784	Advanced Neonatal Pharmacology	3
NURS 785	Advanced Neonatal Assessment	3
NURS 786	Human Embryology and Genetics	3
NURS 844	Advanced Practice Care: Birth to 2 years of age	2
NURS 807	The Professional Role of the Advanced Practice Nurse <sup>2</sup>	3
NURS 840	Clinical Seminar I	1
NURS 841	Clinical Seminar II	1
NURS 842	Clinical Practicum in the Advanced Practice Role (84 clinical hours) <sup>2,5</sup>	1
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>34</b>

### Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Academic Plan Code(s): NURPCNPPSY

Psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNP) focus on individuals across the lifespan, families, and populations across the lifespan at risk for developing and/or having a diagnosis of psychiatric disorders or mental health problems. This includes assessment, diagnosis, and management of mental health and psychiatric disorders across the lifespan.

Code	Title	Hours
Courses		
NURS 770	Adv. Psychiatric Assessment of Psychopathology and Clinical Interviewing Across the Lifespan	2
NURS 771	Foundations of Individual and Group Psychotherapy for the Adv. Practice Psychiatric Mental Health NP	2
NURS 772	Psychopharmacology	2

NURS 773	Diagnosis and Management of Children and Adolescents in Adv. Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing	3
NURS 774	Diagnosis and Management of Adults in Advanced Practice Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing	3
NURS 775	Diagnosis and Management of Special Populations in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	2
NURS 794	The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Role	2
NURS 726	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP I (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 727	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP II (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 728	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP III (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 729	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP IV (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 807	The Professional Role of the Advanced Practice Nurse <sup>2</sup>	3
NURS 840	Clinical Seminar I	1
NURS 841	Clinical Seminar II	1
NURS 842	Clinical Practicum in the Advanced Practice Role (84 clinical hours) <sup>2,5</sup>	1
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

### Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Academic Plan Code(s): NURSCPGPAC

The pediatric acute care nurse practitioner (PACNP) is educationally prepared to provide advanced nursing care to meet the specialized needs of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults with complex, acute, critical, and chronic health conditions, including the delivery of acute care services, as delineated in the acute care nurse practitioner competencies. PACNPs work in hospital-based pediatric acute care areas, pediatric intensive care units, pediatric cardiac intensive care units, emergency departments, and pediatric specialty practices that manage acutely ill patients.

Code	Title	Hours
Courses		
NURS 754	Clinical Reasoning in Advanced Practice Nursing <sup>2</sup>	1
NURS 761	Pediatric & Adolescent Well Child Theory <sup>3</sup>	2
NURS 762	Diagnosis & Management of Pediatrics in Primary Care <sup>3</sup>	2
NURS 800	Pathophysiology for Pediatric Acute Care	1
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 for Pediatric Acute Care II: Acute Illness	2
NURS 805	Diagnosis and Management for Pediatric Acute Care III: Critical Illness	3
NURS 806	The Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Role	1
NURS 807	The Professional Role of the Advanced Practice Nurse <sup>2</sup>	3

NURS 726	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP I (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 727	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP II (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 728	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP III (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 729	Clinical Practicum for the MSN NP IV (168 clinical hours) <sup>4</sup>	2
NURS 840	Clinical Seminar I	1
NURS 841	Clinical Seminar II	1
NURS 842	Clinical Practicum in the Advanced Practice Role (84 clinical hours) <sup>2,5</sup>	1

---

**Minimum Total Hours** **31**

<sup>1</sup> Course not required for Neonatal specialty.

<sup>2</sup> Course not required for APRNs seeking a second specialty.

<sup>3</sup> Course not required for APRN with PNP or FNP certification and evidence of previous coursework.

<sup>4</sup> This course contains population specific patient care clinical hours. These hours should be considered direct patient care clinical hours.

<sup>5</sup> This course contains 84 advanced practice professional role clinical hours. These hours should not be considered direct patient care clinical hours.

Graduates from the APRN certificate program are eligible for national certification in an advanced practice specialty 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/advanced-practice-registered-nurse/Pages/default.aspx>). For APRN licensure questions in other states, please contact the respective state board of nursing (<https://ncsbn.org/contact-bon.htm>).