University of New Mexico College of Nursing
Masters of Science in Nursing
Family Nurse Practitioner
Admission Guide
Summer 2017 Application Cycle
August 25- November 1, 2016
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Program Information

The focus of the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) concentration at the UNM College of Nursing is on primary care, with an emphasis on rural and under-served populations. Individuals from New Mexico and rural areas within the state, and those interested in rural and under-served clinical practice, are encouraged to apply.

Full time study begins in the summer and continues for six consecutive terms. The degree to be awarded at completion of the program is the Master of Science in Nursing. Graduates will be eligible to become certified as Family Nurse Practitioners in New Mexico and nationally after successfully passing the certification exams.

Because graduate education in nursing builds on the baccalaureate curriculum, students are expected to enter the program with prerequisite coursework and clinical nursing competence. Specific areas that will be built upon, but not repeated at the graduate level include: basic anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology; introductory pharmacology; basic growth and development; basic physical and psychosocial assessment; basic statistics; interviewing and development of therapeutic relationships; and community health nursing. Students who seek admission without some of these competencies will need to take personal responsibility for acquiring them. The College of Nursing and the University of New Mexico have coursework, clinical opportunities, and faculty available to assist students prior to entering the program.

The FNP clinical courses begin in the spring term (third semester). Courses are sequential, with the curriculum building on prior learned content. Thus, students must take the courses in the order outlined in the program of studies. First-semester core courses are provided online. The FNP clinical courses are taught in a block format, whereas students receive didactic content by attending on-campus sessions for 2 to 3 weeks, followed by 4 to 5 weeks of a clinical rotation. Each semester of clinical sessions has two similar block sessions. Block schedule dates vary from year to year, with faculty publishing the schedule 4 weeks in advance.

All students in the FNP concentration are expected to travel outside of the Albuquerque area for a minimum of two clinical rotations throughout the state. Depending on where the student lives, he or she may need to travel 1 to 5 hours to a clinical site, which may require an extended overnight stay. Students need to be aware that they are responsible for the travel expenses associated with all site placements. Faculty, along with the senior program manager, make all decisions regarding site placements. If a student is from a rural area and desires to have a clinical rotation there, we make every effort to place that student in that area; however, we cannot guarantee clinical site rotations.
Minimum Application Requirements

To be considered for the UNM CON MSN FNP Concentration, applicants must:

- Hold a bachelor’s degree (e.g., Bachelor of Science in Nursing) from an accredited college or university, with an upper-division major in nursing. (Graduates from non-accredited programs [NLN or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education] and RNs with baccalaureate degrees in non-nursing fields are considered on an individual basis.)
- At least two years of experience as a registered nurse.
- Have a minimum grade point average for baccalaureate work of 3.0 (B) or better.
- Submit evidence of RN licensure to NursingCAS.
- Submit one letter of intent to NursingCAS.
- Submit three letters of recommendation to NursingCAS.
- Submit one current professional resume or CV to NursingCAS.
- Submit the NursingCAS application from August 25-November 1, 2016. See the application guidelines for further information.
- Upload or send unofficial college transcripts from all institutions attended to NursingCAS for processing (see address on page 4).
- Submit a UNM Graduate Admission application by November 1, 2016. Visit www.unm.edu/apply to submit a graduate application to UNM Graduate Admissions.
- Send official college transcripts from all institutions attended to UNM Office of Admissions for verification and processing by November 1, 2016.

Failure to complete any of the above steps will result in ineligibility, and your application will not be processed.
New Mexico Residency

The UNM CON abides by the policies set forth by the UNM Office of the Registrar regarding all residency issues and decisions. For more information, visit www.registrar.unm.edu/residency

Timeline for summer 2017 Admission

- November 1, 2016, by 9:59 MST: The MSN FNP summer 2017 NursingCAS application period closes, meaning that applications must be completed and paid for by the indicated day and time.
- November 1, 2016: Unofficial transcripts must be received by NursingCAS or uploaded. This is not a postmarked deadline.
- November 1, 2016: UNM Graduate Application must be submitted and paid for.
- November 1, 2016: Official transcripts must be received by UNM Office of Admissions. This is not a postmarked deadline.
- November 2016: Applicant Interviews by invitation and appointment.
- December 2016: Applicants will be notified of the UNM CON admission decision via the email they used on their application to the UNM CON FNP program. All admission decisions are final.
- May 2017: Classes start.

How to Apply

The UNM CON utilizes NursingCAS for all MSN applications, including FNP.

We require:

- The applicant to submit or upload all unofficial transcripts to NursingCAS for processing and all official transcripts to UNM Office of Admissions. The UNM CON no longer accepts transcripts for applications.

We do not require:

- The applicant to enter any academic history under the “Academic History” section within NursingCAS.
- The applicant to take the GRE or any other entrance exam.

Transcript Requirements

NursingCAS: For the MSN FNP application, you must submit or upload unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended to NursingCAS for application purposes.

UNM Office of Admissions: For the UNM Graduate application, you must submit official transcripts from all institutions attended to UNM Office of Admissions for application purposes.
All questions regarding transcripts must be directed to NursingCAS or the UNM Office of Admissions, as the UNM CON does not have access to them until they have been received and processed by NursingCAS or the UNM Office of Admissions.

**NursingCAS Address for Transcripts**
To send your unofficial transcripts directly to NursingCAS. Their address is:

**NursingCAS Transcript Processing Center**  
P.O. Box 9201  
Watertown, MA 02471

**UNM Office of Admissions Address for Transcripts**
You will be sending your official transcripts directly to UNM Office of Admissions. Their address is:

**UNM Office of Admissions**  
PO Box 4895  
Albuquerque, NM 87196-4895

**Letter of Intent**
Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent that outlines and conveys the experiences and events in your academic and professional life that have led you to desire an academic graduate education. It should be no more than two pages in length. Your letter of intent will be uploaded in the “Program Materials” section of the NursingCAS application, under the “Documents” tab.

**Letters of Recommendation**
Applicants are required to submit three letters of recommendation with their MSN FNP NursingCAS application. The letters of recommendation need to be from professional contacts and need to convey your maturity and experience in pursuing graduate education. The contact information for the individuals providing the letters of recommendation will be entered in the “Supporting Information” section of the NursingCAS application, including: first name, last name, email address, and the due date of 11/01/16.

**Resume or CV**
Applicants are required to submit either a current resume or CV with their MSN FNP NursingCAS application. This will be uploaded under the “Program Materials” section of NursingCAS.
Interview
Top scoring applicants will be invited to participate in an interview. Interviews will be held at the UNM CON with dates and times to be determined.

Licensure and Certifications
Applicants are required to submit a copy of their current RN license under the “Supporting Information” section of NursingCAS.

FAQs Regarding the NursingCAS Application
Do I have to enter my entire academic history?
No, you do not need to enter your academic history for the MSN FNP application.

If I have already sent my official transcripts to UNM, do I still need to send them to NursingCAS?
No, you will only need to upload or submit all unofficial transcripts to NursingCAS. The UNM CON will not accept application transcripts under any circumstances. Transcripts sent to NursingCAS can be unofficial or official.

Do I have to submit my high school transcript?
No, we do not require high school transcripts. The only transcripts we require are official college transcripts sent directly to NursingCAS for processing. See above for the official transcript requirements.

FAQs Regarding the MSN FNP Program
Can I take the FNP program part-time?
Not at this time.

What non-clinical courses are required for the FNP concentration?
The non-clinical core courses include:

- N501 Nursing Theory 3 hours
- N503 Nursing Research 3 hours
- N505 Health Care Policy 3 hours
- N554 Evidence Based Practice for APRN’s 1 hour

Are the non-clinical courses offered on the Web?
Yes.
What are the clinical core courses?

The following courses are clinical core courses:

N526 Advanced Pathophysiology 3 hours
N540 Advanced Health Assessment∗ 3 hours
Advanced Health Assessment has three components, didactic, lab and clinical. In addition to weekly lectures in health assessment students have a lab component for 4 hours a week during the first half of the semester. At about mid semester students then start a clinical rotation, which replaces the lab, for a total of about 48 hours over the remaining 8 weeks (students continue with lecture in the second part of the semester).
N543 Pharmacology 3 hours

Are any of these courses offered on the web?

NURS 543 Pharmacology and NURS 526 Advanced Pathophysiology are offered online. NURS 540 Advanced Health Assessment is taught onsite only. Advanced Health Assessment has three components: didactic, lab, and clinical.

What are the FNP clinical courses?

The FNP clinical core courses are:

N541 Antepartum 1 hours
N542 Ambulatory Pediatrics 3 hours 50 clinical hours
N535 Adult Health I 4 Hours 100 Clinical hours
N536 Adult Health II 3 Hours 50 Clinical hours
N546 Ambulatory Pediatrics II 4 hours 100 clinical hours

What is the total number of clinical hours?

This concentration has a total of 848 clinical hours.

Will I get to visit any rural sites?

Yes, we use a variety of sites, including sites in rural and under-served areas. All students in the FNP concentration are expected to travel outside of the Albuquerque area for a minimum of two clinical rotations throughout the state. Faculty along with the senior program manager make all decisions regarding site placements.

If I have a MSN, how can I get a FNP?

Students with an MSN will have already completed the core courses. They will be responsible for taking the remaining FNP courses. They must have taken graduate level pathophysiology and pharmacology within the past 5 years. Faculty will review any advanced health assessment courses on a case-by-case basis.