APPLYING TO THE FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER
(MASTER OF NURSING, POST MASTER, OR DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE)

In Oregon, family nurse practitioners deliver critically important services especially to rural and medically underserved populations. Family nurse practitioners (FNP) apply advanced knowledge and clinical skills in many facets of healthcare, including providing prenatal care and family-planning services; providing well-child care; obtaining medical histories and performing physical examinations; diagnosing, treating, and monitoring acute health problems and chronic diseases; ordering, performing and interpreting diagnostic studies. FNP’s have prescriptive rights and work in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, businesses, physician offices, independent nurse practitioner offices, and schools of nursing.

The family nurse practitioner program has been designed to cover a combination of advanced practice core, FNP specialty courses, and either master or doctor of nursing practice core courses. This combination prepares students for practice in the field and simultaneously provides a framework for clinical leadership and policy that is critical for any nurse practitioner in practice today.

Students in this program can either take two years of full-time study and complete the Master of Nursing (MN) degree and elect to get licensed as a FNP or attend for three years of full-time study and achieve the MN on the way to receiving the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Either option offers a practice-focused curriculum that will support the career trajectory for those pursuing expert clinical practice and leadership as a family nurse practitioner. A post master’s certificate option is also available in this area.

Note: An Accelerated Bachelor to Master’s with the FNP specialty is available for applicants that hold a bachelor degree in another field but not in nursing. Please review the specific application instructions for the Accelerated Bachelor to Master’s program found on this page: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/programs/index.cfm.

Course Delivery: This program is offered on the Portland campus. We also offer a regional distance accessible program. Students who live greater than 2 hours commuting distance from Portland within Oregon or a bordering county are eligible for the regional option.

Bordering counties include:

- California State Counties: Del Norte, Siskiyou, and Modoc
- Idaho State Counties: Nez Perce, Idaho, Adams, Washington, Payette, Canyon, and Owyhee
- Nevada State Counties: Washoe and Humboldt
Application Deadlines & Decisions

- Applications are accepted once a year for fall term entry.
- Applications open each fall with established application deadlines that can be found at: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/deadlines.cfm. All materials must be submitted by the identified deadline. Late applications or application materials will not be accepted.
- Note: Applications close at midnight on the designated deadline date Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Admissions decisions are strongly based on the following criteria:

- Cumulative GPA
- Science GPA
- Essay response and Interview
- GRE scores (and TOEFL scores for international applicants if applicable)

Admission Requirements & Eligibility

Applicants must have the following materials in order to apply. If you are an international student please see the international applicant web page for additional requirements if you are a resident of a country other than the United States.

Prior Degree
Applicants need a B.S. with a major in nursing or B.S.N. degree from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education.

R.N. Status

- Must have or be eligible for an Oregon registered nurse license upon application & must be licensed in the state of Oregon prior to matriculation. Acc Bacc to FNP students are exempt from this requirement until they start the nursing coursework.

Grade Point Average
Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a minimum science GPA of a 3.0 (this includes coursework from departments such as anatomy, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, physiology, etc.)

Statistics
Applicants must have successfully passed a basic statistics course with a grade of "B" or better within five years prior to entry into the master's program. Post Master Certificate Option applicants are not required to complete statistics.
Nursing Work Experience
You do not need to have work experience as an RN in order to be eligible to apply for the FNP program.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores
Applicants to the advanced practice nursing programs (CNM, CRNA, FNP and PMHNP) are required to submit official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores from the general test from ETS. The OHSU School of Nursing GRE code is 4900. OHSU recommends a minimum score of 500 in each section (verbal and quantitative) as well as a minimum analytic writing score of 4.0 for the scoring scale used prior to August 2011 or a 144 in the quantitative section, 153 in the verbal section, and a minimum analytic writing score of 4.0 to be competitive.

- *Applicants who already hold a graduate degree from an accredited US institution do not need to take the GRE.

Letters of Recommendation
- Applicants must submit three professional letters of reference using the electronic reference form located in the Nursing CAS system. At least one reference must be from a supervisor and one must be from a professor/instructor.

Entrance Essay Question
- You will be asked to provide a written essay(s) as part of your application. Please see the link to the essay instructions for this program located on this page:
  http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/index.cfm

Sample of Scholarly Work
Applicants to the DNP program track are required to submit a sample of scholarly writing. This can include a professional work sample that is evidence based, with citations and references, an article you have authored (and if co-authored highlight the sections that you contributed to) or, a paper from your undergraduate program that synthesizes evidence, using citations and references (this should not be a reflection type paper).

- Note: If you do not have this type of work to submit, please let us know; we can arrange for you to write an article analysis in response to an article that we provide you.
Applying to OHSU School of Nursing Via Nursing CAS (NCAS)

| STEP 1: Set up a Nursing CAS account and start your application for the program/campus to which you are applying. | • All students applying to any of the OHSU Nursing programs must submit an application through Nursing CAS by the stipulated deadline date.  
• The NCAS application fee is $65.00.  
• NCAS runs on Eastern Standard Time and applications will close on the designated date at 12:00 AM EST. |
| --- | --- |
| • All application materials (official transcripts, essay responses, vitae, & letters of reference) must be received by Nursing CAS by the designated application deadline in order to have your application considered.  
See the full list and instructions below.  
• Nursing CAS will not forward incomplete files for review. Please make sure to check your Nursing CAS account to ensure that you have provided all required materials. |
| STEP 2: Upload all required items into your Nursing CAS account and select the designated OHSU program to which you would like to apply.  
Note: GRE scores are sent directly to OHSU code: 4900 | --- |
| • You will be notified when admission decisions have been made. |
| STEP 3: Done. Check back to your NCAS account often as we will e-mail you with status updates and additional information requests. | --- |

**Materials that will be submitted as part of your Nursing CAS Application**

- You will be asked to submit an essay response as part of your application. Between September 15 and your application deadline, you will be able to find the essay question(s) for your program at the following link:  
Complete the essay question and upload your essay response to your Nursing CAS application.  
After uploading your personal statement, go to “Designations” on the home page of your Nursing CAS account, select “designated schools” then Oregon Health & Science University and ATTACH the personal statement to your designated program.

- You will be asked to submit 3 letters of reference as part of your application. You will be able to send the electronic reference form your Nursing CAS account.

- You will be asked to submit a resume or vitae as part of your application. Please PDF this item(s) and upload them to your Nursing CAS account.

- You will be asked to submit official transcripts from ALL institutions that you have ever attended as part of your application to NCAS. Follow the instructions provided in your Nursing CAS application to submit your official transcripts to Nursing CAS directly.
  
  o Note: Order 2-3 copies of your transcripts to keep for your records for later use if needed upon matriculation.

Updated as of 1.22.15 for AY 2014-2015
Please send questions about your NCAS application to NCAS directly and questions about our program materials and application requirements to OHSU at proginfo@ohsu.edu.

Additional Resources

A sample program of study for each program can be found online: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/programs/programs-of-study-page.cfm

Application Deadlines: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/graduate_deadlines.cfm

Financing your education: Start planning to finance your nursing education now. Review the tuition and fees and potential limitations for receiving federal aid here: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/index.cfm

Scholarship information: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/scholarships.cfm

This document is a guide; final decisions regarding the acceptance of prerequisite course work is made by the OHSU Registrar's Office. The OHSU School of Nursing reserves the right to make changes to the academic program structure.

FAQs

What can I do with a graduate nursing degree?

There are many opportunities and options for advanced practice nurses. Nurses are discovering the path to ensuring continued upward mobility in their profession, greater personal satisfaction and, not the least, a greater impact on the lives of patients. That path is the professional credential of a graduate degree in nursing. A graduate degree in nursing can open career doors and unlock personal potential.

What is a nurse practitioner (NP)?

A Nurse Practitioner is an advanced practice nurse with master's or post-master's education. The NP is a skilled health care provider who provides direct care to patients and families in primary care settings. Family Nurse Practitioners care for individuals of all ages from newborns to the elderly in the context of individuals, families and communities.
What clinical experiences may be available to me during the program?

Clinical sites include private offices, such as nurse practitioner owned practices, large health institutions, such as HMOs, migrant and Indian Health Centers and county health departments. Because Oregon is a largely rural state, students can obtain experiences serving rural and or underserved populations. Students find rural opportunities autonomous and highly rewarding. These opportunities may be two or more hours from the Portland metropolitan area. OHSU SON faculty are responsible for arranging clinical placements for the students.

Who are my faculty and lecturers?

All OHSU SON FNP faculty are nationally certified family nurse practitioners, who practice in a variety of settings. Many faculty and guest lecturers are known experts in their field as OHSU is part of a large academic health center. This is advantageous as these experts lecture from their relevant clinical experiences and programs of research, providing students with the latest medical evidence.

Do I need RN work experience to apply to the master's program?

No, you do not need to have work experience as an RN in order to be eligible to apply for the FNP program. However, in Oregon you need a minimum of 384 hours of RN practice in order to be eligible to apply for an FNP license.

How long does the master's program take?

The estimated length of time to complete the master's degree is two years full time.

Can I take classes’ part time?

Due to limited space, course schedules in the FNP program are for full-time study only. In special circumstances, faculty advisors may be able to work out a part time option in designated terms.

How many students do you accept per year?

The FNP cohort is limited to 24 students.

Do most students work during the FNP program?

Many students work part time, usually 8-16 hours/week the first year and fewer hours the second year as clinical requirements increase.

When are the courses and clinical experiences offered?

Courses and clinical experiences are generally day time hours Monday through Friday, with minimal evening lab offerings. The faculty strives to cluster classes 1-3 days/week to allow greater access to clinical opportunities.
Are there courses required prior to admission?
Yes. Master's students must have successfully passed a statistics course within five years prior to entry into the program. If this requirement has not been met at the time of application, the student will be required to take a statistics course (graduate or undergraduate) prior to the first quarter of the program. Check your local community college or university for course offerings, or review the course equivalency guide page.

Can I take courses without being admitted into the graduate nursing program?
Yes. You may take up to nine (9) credits total as a non-degree student on the OHSU main campuses if you are a registered nurse with a bachelor's degree, with the permission of the course faculty. For example, some students have elected to take required courses such as Pathophysiology prior to matriculating. Close communication with a faculty advisor is recommended prior to enrolling as a non-degree student.

Is there a matriculation (enrollment) deposit?
Yes, once you have received a letter of acceptance to the program, you must submit a deposit of $200.00 to the OHSU School of Nursing in order to hold your place in the cohort. Failure to do so in the time allotted may forfeit your place and an alternate will be selected. The matriculation fee is applied towards payment of tuition for the first term of the program.

Is financial aid available?
For specific information about scholarships and financial aid offered at OHSU, visit the School of Nursing’s financial aid Web page and click on “Financial Aid”. Or, call the OHSU Registrar and Financial Aid office at 503 494-7800 or 800 775-5460.

Gainful Employment Disclosure:
http://www.ohsu.edu/academic/gainful-employment/Gedt_FNP/Gedt.html

Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Policy
Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity operated by recipients of federal aid. OHSU complies with Title IX and 34 CFR Part 106 by prohibiting sex and gender discrimination in education programs, activities, employment, and admissions. Inquiries about Title IX compliance or sex/gender discrimination may be directed to the OHSU Title IX Coordinator: Michael Tom, Director of the Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity (AAEO) Dept., 503-494-5148, tomm@ohsu.edu. Mailing address: OHSU, Mail code MP240, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97239. Office: Marquam Plaza.