APPLYING INSTRUCTIONS:
PEDIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER: PRIMARY AND/OR ACUTE CARE (MASTER OF NURSING, POST MASTER, OR DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE)

The Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) Program is designed to prepare advanced practice registered nurses to deliver primary and/or acute care to children (birth - 21 years of age) across practice settings and institutional boundaries. The overall objective of the PNP Program is to provide the foundation and scaffolding for students to become competent and caring pediatric nurse practitioners, scholars, and leaders.

The program includes both didactic and clinical courses, beginning with foundational coursework and advancing to specialized clinical applications. In addition to providing direct care, graduates are prepared as lifelong learners, leaders, and advocates for children and their families.

The PNP curriculum begins with core foundational coursework required for all advanced practice nurses. Specialty coursework begins in the second quarter of Year 1 and continues throughout the program, integrating advanced didactic content alongside clinical rotations. Students need to identify which track – Primary OR Acute Care – as coursework and clinical rotations will differ. Students in either track can opt to complete the MN degree only, which takes two years of full-time study to complete, or the DNP degree, which takes three years of full-time study to complete.

A Post Masters Certificate Option (PMCO) is also available. For PMCO, students will undergo an individualized ‘gap analysis’ to ascertain which courses and clinical hours are needed to meet graduation and certification requirements.

Course Delivery: The PNP program is Portland-based, using hybrid course delivery, and an executive model for many of the class times and pediatric clinical practicum. This flexibility allows working and/or distance students to participate more easily.

Application Deadlines & Decisions
• The PNP program will start in FALL, 2015 and is offered full time in a hybrid format that is accessible from anywhere in the state.
• Application Deadlines:
  o For application deadlines please visit the following link:
    http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/graduate_deadlines.cfm
  o All materials must be submitted by the identified deadline in order to receive priority consideration.
*Late applications may be accepted after the priority deadline if seats are still available but this is not guaranteed. Applicants wanting to receive full consideration should submit all materials by the identified deadline(s).

**Interview Dates**

Interviews are anticipated to occur for invited applicants. Review this web page: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/interview-dates.cfm for more information.

**Admissions decisions are strongly based on the following criteria:**

- Cumulative GPA and Science GPA
- Essay and Interview Responses
- GRE scores (not required for Post Master applicants)
- Scholarly sample of work (DNP applicants only)

**Admission Requirements & Eligibility**

NOTE: 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**

It is expected that applicants to the nursing graduate programs have a bachelor degree in nursing from an institution accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

**RN 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.

**Work Experience & Resume**

It is recommended that applicants have prior exposure to/experience in pediatric nursing; however, it is not required. Applicants will need to provide a curriculum vitae (CV)/resume as part of the application.

**Grade Point Average (GPA)**

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.).

**Pre-requisites** These prerequisite courses/content are required elements in most baccalaureate nursing programs for accreditation. Within the first year of the program, all pediatric nurse practitioner students will be required to take a pre-test in each of the following three areas. The statistics course needs to be documented on a transcript. The Genetics and Child Development
course can be a course listed on a college transcript or you can provide a syllabus to show that you have received this content within a college course that you successfully passed.

Statistics - Applicants must have successfully passed a basic college level statistics course with a “B” or better within the past five (5) or provide evidence of equivalent course content.

Genetics - Applicants should have a basic understanding of genetics.

Child Development - Applicants should have a basic understanding of child development.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores
Applicants to the MN or Post Baccalaureate to DNP options 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 to the Post Master Certificate Option (PMCO) are not required to complete the GRE

Letters of Recommendation
Applicants must submit three (3) letters of reference using the designated recommendation form in Nursing CAS as a part of the application process. Applicants are advised to choose individuals who can speak to their potential as a learner and ability to fulfill the PNP role.

Sample of Scholarly Work
Applicants to the DNP program track are required to submit a sample of their scholarly writing. It is up to applicants to select which type of scholarship they want to highlight. For example, samples might include a professional work sample that is evidence based, with citations and references, an article you have authored, or a paper from your undergraduate program that synthesizes evidence, using citations and references.

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 $45.00.  
• NCAS runs on Eastern Standard Time and applications will close on the designated date at 12:00 PM EST. |
| --- | --- |
| **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 | • 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 3**: Done. Check back to your NCAS account often as we will e-mail you with status updates and additional information requests. | • You will be notified when admission decisions have been made. |

### Additional materials that will be submitted as part of your Nursing CAS Application

- Complete the essay question (located below) and upload your essay response to the appropriate location in your Nursing CAS application. Note: There is a specific “essay response” dialogue box that you will copy and paste your essay response(s) into.
- Submit 3 letters of reference as part of your application. Send the electronic reference form in your Nursing CAS account to those that you are asking to provide a reference to. They will be able to respond electronically and your NCAS account will be automatically updated when these items are completed.
- Please submit a resume or vitae as part of your application. Please PDF this item(s) and upload them to your Nursing CAS account.
- Submit official transcripts from ALL institutions that you have ever attended as part of your application. Follow the instructions provided in your Nursing CAS application to submit your official transcripts to Nursing CAS directly. Hint: You may want to request multiple copies of transcripts from each institution to have in your records in case they are needed for future use.
- GRE Scores are sent directly to OHSU via code: 4900.
- Hint: NCAS runs on Eastern Standard Time and applications will close on the designated date at 12:00 PM EST. Plan accordingly.

OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.
Additional Resources

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

Prerequisites: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/masters_prereqs.cfm

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

Tuition and Fees: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/index.cfm

Financial Aid and 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.

Please send questions about program information to proginfo@ohsu.edu.
Essay Instructions for
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) Applicants

Instructions:

As part of your application to the OHSU School of Nursing we ask that you prepare a response to the following three (3) questions.

When ready, copy and paste your response essay to your NursingCAS application by the designated application deadline. You will be asked to upload your responses to the appropriate location in your Nursing CAS application. NOTE: There is a specific “essay response” dialogue box that you will copy and paste your essay response(s) into. When ready, copy and paste your essay response(s) to your NursingCAS application by the designated application deadline. Please limit your response to 700 words for each question.

(Required) Essay Question #1:

Talk about your decision to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP), your rationale for selecting the PNP program at OHSU, your understanding of the advanced practice nursing role, and what you hope to derive from the program, and your career goals and plans following graduation.

(Required) Essay Question #2:

Review the 14 skills listed (See right column below). Then take a moment to sort them into the following three (3) groups: 1) Skills I feel I have, 2) Skills I continue to strengthen, and 3) Skills I need to develop. Share your ‘groupings’, then identify one skill from each group to tell us about, reflecting on the sorting process and your selections.

Skills I feel I have
1. Self-confidence
2. Realistic self-assessment
3. Self-deprecating sense of humor
4. Trustworthiness/integrity
5. Comfort with ambiguity
6. Openness to change
7. Strong drive to achieve
8. Optimism, even in the face of failure
9. Organizational commitment
10. Cross cultural sensitivity/humility
11. Service

Skills I continue to strengthen
12. Effectiveness in leading change
13. Persuasiveness
14. Expertise in building and leading teams

Skills I need to develop.

(Optional) Essay Question #3:
Optional Background Essay Questions: We are interested in knowing about your experiences and potential for contributing to the diversity of our campus community. Diversity at OHSU means creating a community of inclusion. We honor, respect, embrace and value the unique contributions and perspectives of all employees, patients, students, volunteers and our local and global communities. Diversity includes age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, diversity of thought, ideas and more. Diversity maximizes our true potential for creativity, innovation, quality patient care, educational excellence and outstanding service.

Questions:

1. Would you identify yourself as being an underrepresented minority? (Yes, No) If yes, please explain.
2. Would you identify yourself as being from a small town or an isolated rural area? Please explain.
3. How would you describe your current or previous experience with economic and educational adversity? Please evaluate (none, slight, moderate, or severe) and explain.
4. Including your native language, how many languages do you speak fluently and in what settings do you use your language skills?
5. Describe your cultural/ethnic experience.

Submitting your Essay Response(s):

Remember to copy and paste your essay response to your NursingCAS application by the appropriate application deadline.

Questions:

Contact the Office of Admissions at the OHSU School of Nursing at proginfo@ohsu.edu with any additional questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

What can I do with a graduate nursing degree?
A graduate degree in nursing can open career doors and unlock personal potential. In particular, there are many opportunities and options for advanced practice nurses. Nurses who continue onto graduate education 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, families, and communities.

What is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP)?

A Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) is an advanced practice nurse focused on the health care needs/outcomes of infants, children, and adolescents (0-21 years of age). There are three tracks or concentrations available for PNP programs: 1) primary care, 2) acute care, or 3) dual track - a combination of primary and acute care. PNP educational programs can opt to offer any combination of these tracks, with the newest innovation being the dual track. PNP programs, along with other advanced nursing practice programs, have traditionally been offered only at the masters level (MN); however, national and professional trends are shifting to the doctorate of nursing practice (DNP) for all advanced nurse practitioners. The national goal is for all programs to shift by 2015.

Listen to faculty member Martha Driessnack PhD, PNP provide an explanation about what is distinctive about advanced nurse practitioners as well as how our education and practice overlaps with other health care professionals. (NOTE: This is a 5 minute recording which starts with a black screen. The speaker will begin to “draw” the illustration at the 1 minute mark, so stay with it)

http://tlc.ohsu.edu/replay/driessna/2013-07-19/NP_vs_PA_vs_MD_-_Flash_%28Medium%29_-_20130719_12.01.16PM.html.

What is the difference between the primary and acute care tracks?

The difference between a primary and acute care focus is not based on where the PNP practices (e.g. primary care clinic, ER, ICU, OR, etc.), but on who the PNP is caring for.

Primary care (PC) PNPs provide primary health care to children, from birth through young adulthood, including independent management of well-child care and common pediatric acute and chronic illness/conditions.

Acute care (AC) PNPs provide health care to children, from birth through young adulthood, with complex acute, critical, and chronic illness/conditions, or characterized as physiologically unstable, technologically dependent, and/or highly vulnerable to complications.

What clinical experiences may be available to me during the program?

All PNP students will rotate through primary, acute, and chronic pediatric care clinical sites. In addition, those students focusing on primary care will spend extra hours in clinical rotations focused on well-child care and common pediatric acute (e.g. primary care clinics, Head Start centers, school health centers, ERs, & sub-specialty clinics). Students focusing on acute care will
spend extra hours in clinic rotations focusing on complex acute, critical, and chronic pediatric illness/conditions, which are sites where children are more likely to be physiological unstable, technologically dependent, and/or highly vulnerable to complications (e.g. ER, ICU, OR, Acute care units).

**Who are my faculty and lecturers?**

Faculty are typically advanced nurse practitioners with specific pediatric specialty focus and experiences; however, there may be some faculty whose advanced pediatric knowledge, specialty, and/or experience does not include advanced nursing practice education, certification, or practice. The Program Director is required to be a PNP.

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

No. Prior work experience is recommended, especially experience that provides pediatric exposure, but it is not required.

**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?**

The program is set up for full time.

Students may opt for part time, but in doing so may have to wait until specific courses are offered, as coursework is only offered once each year.

**How many students do you accept per year?**

The anticipated headcount is for a maximum of 10 students/year. This conservative number is based on national data that highlights ideal faculty/student ratio, quality clinical sites/preceptors, national need, and ongoing enrollment for PNP programs over the past 30 years.

**Do most students work during the PNP program?**

This is hard to predict. Some do. Some don’t. The reasons for their choices vary.

The PNP program is Portland-based, using hybrid synchronous/asynchronous classroom/clinical learning opportunities delivered in a combination of quarter-long and executive model intensives (concentrated blocks of time on campus, including weekends). This flexibility allows working and/or distance students to participate more easily.

**Are there courses required prior to admission?**

Yes. Master’s students must have successfully passed a college level statistics course with a grade of a “B” or higher 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.

In addition, it is recommended that all PNP applicants have basic understanding of both genetics and child development. This content is typically embedded in baccalaureate nursing programs.

**Can I take courses without being admitted into the graduate nursing program?**
Possibly. This depends on pre-approval from our Program Director for the specific coursework that you would like to take. 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. Tuition and fees apply to non-matriculated students including insurance coverage.

**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?**
The OHSU Office of Financial Aid assists students in locating scholarships and loans to cover educational expenses. A Web site with helpful financial aid information and links to scholarship and aid search engines is www.finaid.org.

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.