

### **MSN: NURSE PRACTITIONER**

The Master's of Science in Nursing Nurse Practitioner (NP) Concentration is a six semester program that allows the student to continue working full or part time. Classes are a mixture of online, hybrid and face-to-face classes. Offered only one day each week, the student is able to coordinate work schedules and family obligations while attending the program. Once the student begins clinical rotations, the requirement for additional hours dedicated to clinical practice may additionally impinge on work schedules.

The curriculum is comprised of core courses that cover research and theoretical considerations of advanced nursing practice, and professional and economic issues associated with today's healthcare environment. The specialty-specific courses address principles and practices of advanced practice nurses with an emphasis on the "three P's": pathophysiology, physical assessment, and pharmacology.

UTC currently offers two nurse practitioner specialties: Family (FNP) and Acute Care (ACNP). The NP program begins in May (summer semester) of each year with core courses. The courses progress in the fall semester when the student takes Advanced Pathophysiology and Advanced Health Assessment. The first spring semester begins the specialty-specific courses and places the student in a FNP or ACNP course as well as Advanced Pharmacology. The FNP student will also begin clinical practicum hours during the first spring semester. At the start of the second summer semester, the student will take only specialty-specific courses and will be in a clinical practicum course. This is not a front-loaded program. The program allows the student to experience a didactic and clinical course concurrently, reinforcing what the student is learning in class by experiencing it in the clinical practicum. Students begin to develop plans of care and management under the guidance of a licensed healthcare provider. Our curriculum is demanding and rigorous but at the same time accommodates the student who chooses to work either full or part time. All faculty in the clinical courses are practicing nurse practitioners.

#### **National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF)**

##### Scientific Foundation Competencies

1. Critically analyzes data and evidence for improving advanced nursing practice.
2. Integrates knowledge from the humanities and sciences within the context of nursing science.

3. Translates research and other forms of knowledge to improve practice processes and outcomes.
4. Develops new practice approaches based on the integration of research, theory, and practice knowledge.

#### Leadership Competencies

1. Assumes complex and advanced leadership roles to initiate and guide change.
2. Provides leadership to foster collaboration with multiple stakeholders (e.g. patients, community, integrated health care teams, and policy makers) to improve health care..
3. Demonstrates leadership that uses critical and reflective thinking.
4. Advocates for improved access, quality and cost effective health care.
5. Advances practice through the development and implementation of innovations incorporating principles of change.
6. Communicates practice knowledge effectively both orally and in writing.

#### Quality Competencies

1. Uses best available evidence to continuously improve quality of clinical practice.
2. Evaluates the relationships among access, cost, quality, and safety and their influence on health care.
3. Evaluates how organizational structure, care processes, financing, marketing and policy decisions impact the quality of health care.
4. Applies skills in peer review to promote a culture of excellence.
5. Anticipates variations in practice and is proactive in implementing interventions to ensure quality.

#### Practice Inquiry Competencies

1. Provides leadership in the translation of new knowledge into practice.
2. Generates knowledge from clinical practice to improve practice and patient outcomes.
3. Applies clinical investigative skills to improve health outcomes.
4. Leads practice inquiry, individually or in partnership with others.
5. Disseminates evidence from inquiry to diverse audiences using multiple modalities.

#### Technology and Information Literacy Competencies

1. Integrates appropriate technologies for knowledge management to improve health care.
2. Translates technical and scientific health information appropriate for various users' needs.
  - 2a). Assesses the patient's and caregiver's educational needs to provide effective, personalized health care.
  - 2b). Coaches the patient and caregiver for positive behavioral change.
3. Demonstrates information literacy skills in complex decision making.
4. Contributes to the design of clinical information systems that promote safe, quality and cost effective care.
5. Uses technology systems that capture data on variables for the evaluation of nursing care.

### Policy Competencies

1. Demonstrates an understanding of the interdependence of policy and practice.
2. Advocates for ethical policies that promote access, equity, quality, and cost.
3. Analyzes ethical, legal, and social factors influencing policy development.
4. Contributes in the development of health policy.
5. Analyzes the implications of health policy across disciplines.
6. Evaluates the impact of globalization on health care policy development.

### Health Delivery System Competencies

1. Applies knowledge of organizational practices and complex systems to improve health care delivery.
2. Effects health care change using broad based skills including negotiating, consensus-building, and partnering.
3. Minimizes risk to patients and providers at the individual and systems level.
4. Facilitates the development of health care systems that address the needs of culturally diverse populations, providers, and other stakeholders.
5. Evaluates the impact of health care delivery on patients, providers, other stakeholders, and the environment.
6. Analyzes organizational structure, functions and resources to improve the delivery of care.

### Ethics Competencies

1. Integrates ethical principles in decision making.
2. Evaluates the ethical consequences of decisions.
3. Applies ethically sound solutions to complex issues related to individuals, populations and systems of care.

### Independent Practice Competencies

1. Functions as a licensed independent practitioner.
2. Demonstrates the highest level of accountability for professional practice.
3. Practices independently managing previously diagnosed and undiagnosed patients.
  - 3a). Provides the full spectrum of health care services to include health promotion, disease prevention, health protection, anticipatory guidance, counseling, disease management, palliative, and end of life care.
  - 3b). Uses advanced health assessment skills to differentiate between normal, variations of normal and abnormal findings.
  - 3c). Employs screening and diagnostic strategies in the development of diagnoses.
  - 3d). Prescribes medications within scope of practice.
  - 3e). Manages the health/illness status of patients and families over time.
4. Provides patient-centered care recognizing cultural diversity and the patient or designee as a full partner in decision-making.
  - 4a). Works to establish a relationship with the patient characterized by mutual respect, empathy, and collaboration.
  - 4b). Creates a climate of patient-centered care to include confidentiality, privacy, comfort, emotional support, mutual trust, and respect.

- 4c). Incorporates the patient's cultural and spiritual preferences, values, and beliefs into health care.
- 4d). Preserves the patient's control over decision making by negotiating a mutually acceptable plan of care.

### **Rights and Responsibilities**

NP Concentration Student Rights and Responsibilities: You are our partner in your education to be a Nurse Practitioner (NP). As a student in the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga School of Nursing--NP Concentration, you are entitled to rights and are charged with responsibilities for your education. Your participation is essential as well as your willingness to communicate your concerns and needs. As an adult learner with extensive professional and life experiences, you bring knowledge, dedication, professional expertise, and maturity to this educational endeavor. It is within this context that your education will be designed and your future career as a NP will be forged. As a student you have the right to expect:

- The freedom to pursue your educational goals. The NP Concentration will provide a highly specialized, graduate curriculum steeped in professionalism, progressive didactic instruction, and a personally designed preceptored clinical experience. Students' performance will be evaluated on established grading criteria outlined in each course syllabus.
- To be treated with respect and consideration throughout the program.
- Exposure to a variety of procedures and clinical experiences while in your clinical practica.
- Appropriate clinical supervision and direction throughout the program by advanced practice nurses or physicians.
- Reasonable time commitment throughout the program conducive to learning.
- The Program Coordinator and all NP faculty including the Clinical Site Coordinators to serve as strong student advocates.
- Fair and accurate evaluations of your progress in the educational program and to be kept informed of your status of that progress.
- The right to freedom of expression, inquiry, and assembly subject to reasonable and nondiscriminatory NP Concentration rules and regulations regarding time, place, and manner.
- The right to inquire about and to propose improvements in policies, regulations, and procedures affecting the welfare of the students through your class representative or with the Program Coordinator.
- The right to privately confer with faculty concerning a personal grievance. If the outcome is not satisfactory, you may proceed to the next person on the organizational chain. If you feel that you have been subject to irresponsible treatment, arbitrary decisions, discrimination, or differential treatment that has resulted in dismissal from the program, you have the right to appeal and due process. Students shall have access to the accrediting agency after all grievance procedures have been exhausted at the local institution relative to student appeals.

- Confidentiality regarding exam grades, clinical experiences, and status in the program.
- The right to review your school record and to request nondisclosure of certain information. The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga abides by the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- A complete and accurate certified transcript of their student educational experiences and supporting documentation, as required, will be forwarded to the Certifying Agency in sufficient time for eligibility determination for the qualifying examination within two months of graduation.

Students have a responsibility to:

- Read the student handbooks/manuals, knowing, understanding, and acting within the NP Concentration's, School of Nursing's and University's regulations, policies, and procedures.
- Properly complete all academic and clinical obligations at the NP Concentration and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.
- Maintain your personal physical and emotional health and to notify the NP Concentration if the student is under the care of a healthcare provider for any serious or chronic illness.
- Maintain communication with the NP Concentration regarding current licensure, certifications, address, and telephone number. Similarly, as a graduate, the student has the responsibility to complete post-graduate program evaluation of the NP Concentration and notify the NP Concentration of changes in employment status, completion of additional degrees and advanced training or certification.
- Respect and guard the confidentiality of all client/patient information.
- Maintain professional demeanor and conduct at all times.
- Treat others with respect and consideration.
- Be active in the professional NP organization.
- Maintain integrity and academic honesty.
- Follow the rules and policies of the clinical area to which they are assigned.
- Serve as advocates for the program and their classmates.
- Fulfill financial obligations i.e. payment of tuition, repayment of loans, etc.

**Patient Rights and Responsibilities:** As a member of the NP profession and The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, students are held to the ethical standards of ANA and the university. Among these standards are honesty and integrity. These standards are the basis for representation of the profession and the NP Concentration. This attitude should be conveyed to patients, faculty, and healthcare providers. As a primary care provider, the student must be aware of the patient's rights and responsibilities.

Patients have the right to

- Appropriate primary care regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, handicap, or source of payment.

- Appropriate assessment and management of pain and illness.
- Be treated kindly and respectfully.
- Know who is determining their plan or care who will be supervising this plan and the relationship between the two. No practice shall be engaged in which the intention is to deceive the patient in this regard. The student should introduce himself or herself as a “Graduate Nurse Practitioner Student” and identify who will be supervising them during the visit.
- Expect that primary care services provided by students be under the supervision of a licensed healthcare provider.
- Expect that the student and supervisory personnel providing their services are mentally alert and not impaired by fatigue, drugs, or other incapacitating conditions.
- Know that the attending licensed healthcare provider shall be kept informed of information pertaining to the management of the patient.
- Participate in developing the plan of care and make informed decisions about the care to be given.
- Expect that all communications and clinical records pertaining to their care will be treated confidentially.

Patients are responsible for

- Providing accurate and complete information about present complaints, past illnesses, hospitalizations, medications, and other matters relating to their health.
- Following, as best as he or she can, instruction provided by his or her licensed healthcare provider and ask for clarification if something is not clear to them.

Expected Benchmarks: Based upon the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga School of Nursing—NP Concentration Program Terminal Outcomes, the faculty have identified the following goals:

1. Ninety percent (90%) of the graduates will pass the National Certification Examination on the first writing.
2. One hundred percent (100%) of the graduates will be employed as nurse practitioners within six months of graduation.
3. Ninety percent (90%) of the graduates will have participated in some form of continuing education within two (2) years of obtaining certification.
4. Ninety percent (90%) of the students admitted to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga School of Nursing--NP Concentration will complete the Concentration’s course of study within 24 months.
5. Ninety-five percent (95%) of the respondents to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga School of Nursing--NP Concentration’s Alumni Survey six (6) months and eighteen (18) months following graduation will evaluate their ability to perform entry-level tasks as satisfactory or above.
6. Ninety-five percent(95%) of the respondents to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga School of Nursing--NP Concentration’s Graduate Employer

Survey one year following graduation will evaluate the graduate's ability to perform entry-level tasks as satisfactory or above.

### **Graduation Criteria**

In order for students in the NP Concentration to be eligible for graduation, the student must complete all didactic and clinical coursework outlined in the student's program of study. The student must successfully complete clinical courses, must maintain academic progression standards, and finish all clinical requirements.

### **Certification**

Upon completion of all didactic and clinical requirements with a specialization as a NP, the graduate will be eligible to take either the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) national certification exam. Once the student passes certification and is granted licensure in his/her desired state, the student will be eligible to practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) in the designated state.

### **Student Employment**

Students in the NP Concentration are permitted to work while in the program but should be advised of the course and clinical load required each semester. The student must determine what a reasonable work schedule and load is individually. Students should not act in a nurse practitioner role at their place of employment while in the program and not currently licensed as a NP.

### **Dress Code Policy**

Students represent not only themselves, but the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga School of Nursing and the nursing profession as a whole. This policy requires UTC NP Students to present a professional image consistent with community standards for an advanced practice nurse. This policy applies to all NP students during all clinical education experiences. For clinical experiences, students are expected to abide by specific dress code policies of the assigned facility.

1. The UTC picture ID badge must be worn at all times and be visible.
2. A white lab coat with appropriate identification is to be worn over professional street clothes (business casual). However, the student is expected to follow the dress code dictated by the practice in which they are being precepted. For example, if the student is in a pediatric practice that does not require lab coats, the student has the option to follow the practice's dress code. However, the UTC picture ID badge must be worn at all times.

3. Dress shoes are to be worn but no open toe, beach, or exercise type sandals are to be worn in clinical areas. If appropriate for the practice, clean athletic shoes may be worn.
4. Undergarments must be worn but not visible through clothing.
5. Personal hygiene is basic and essential. No perfume or cologne should be worn and the smell of smoke from tobacco should be avoided.
6. Tattoos must be covered at all times.
7. Jewelry may only be worn conservatively. No more than four earrings of a conservative style are permitted, maximum of two earrings per ear. Other than small earrings, no visible body piercings are allowed, including tongue piercing. No pendant necklaces, bangle bracelets, large dangling earrings or fashion rings may be worn.
8. Hair must be clean and neat. Unconventional hairstyles should be avoided. Hair should be secured and kept from falling onto the patients or equipment.
9. Beards and mustaches must be kept clean and trimmed.
10. Extremes in style or clothing, which may be offensive or immodest, are not appropriate. Inappropriate clothing includes sweat suits of any type, sports apparel, halter tops, exposed cleavage, bare midriffs, crop tops, tank tops, clothing containing profanity or other inappropriate language, leggings, and facial/tongue rings and studs.
11. Failure to follow the Dress Code Policy as stated shall result in disciplinary action.