Hello and welcome to Chamberlain College of Nursing’s Master of Science in Nursing degree program Family Nurse Practitioner specialty track overview.
The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) defines the role of the nurse practitioner (NP). What sets NPs apart from other health care providers is their unique emphasis on the health and well-being of the whole person. With a focus on health promotion, disease prevention, and health education and counseling, NPs guide patients in making smarter health and lifestyle choices, which in turn can lower patients’ out-of-pocket costs.

All NPs must complete a master’s or doctoral degree program, and have advanced clinical training beyond their initial professional registered nurse preparation. Didactic and clinical courses prepare nurses with specialized knowledge and clinical competency to practice in primary care, acute care and long-term health care settings.

Autonomously and in collaboration with health care professionals and other individuals, NPs provide a full range of primary, acute and specialty health care services.

For more information on the responsibilities of nurse practitioners in general please visit the AANP website by clicking on the link in this slide: http://www.aanp.org/all-about-nps/what-is-an-np

Family Nurse Practitioners are licensed independent healthcare providers in many States in the US. They function independently from Physicians and their actual scope of practice is determined by the individual State Board of Nursing for all 50 states. FNPs work primarily in out-patient practices and do not treat patients that are acutely ill or are hospitalized. They may work in the fast track or urgent care side of an emergency department, but not in the emergent area. They will treat patients with commonly occurring illnesses and injuries. In family practice, internal medicine and pediatric practices they will perform primary and secondary care (illnesses) with an emphasis on following up with the patient and family to be sure they are doing better and modifying the treatment plan based upon the results of their work up or the results of their treatment plan.

What is a Family Nurse Practitioner?

www.aanp.org

- FNP Practices and Specialties
  - Primary care outpatient locations
  - Family practice
  - Internal medicine
  - Pediatrics
  - Fast-track area of Urgent Care centers and Emergency Departments

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There are a total of 15 courses in the MSN FNP curriculum: 5 core courses, 5 FNP Track courses and 5 FNP Practicum courses.

You must take all courses in the required sequence.
Once you have completed your core courses you must complete the FNP track courses in the order presented here, with the exception of NR-510 which will be taken in place of NR-504 during your core courses.

It is possible to double up, meaning take more than one class at a time, while taking NR: 503, 510, 507, and 508. It is not possible to double up on NR: 509 or any of the practicum courses as they are clinically based courses requiring an increased amount of your time for completion.
Another requirement of the FNP specialty track is attending an Immersion Weekend. This is a 2 day weekend that is currently located at the Q-Center in St. Charles, IL, a western suburb of Chicago, IL. The location is subject to change. The Immersion Weekend occurs in NR-509: Advanced Physical Assessment, near the end of the 8 week session, which is the 9th class in the program and the class immediately proceeding your practicums.

During the immersion weekend you will receive one on one personal attention from our experienced faculty. You will receive hands-on lab experience and the opportunity to observe, participate and be evaluated on clinical assessment skills. By the end of the weekend you will feel clinically competent and ready to start your practicums. You will be responsible for your travel arrangements. Student Services and your practicum coordinator will provide you with more information and answer any questions you may have once you begin the program.
Once you’ve completed your core courses, track courses and Immersion Weekend you will be ready to move into your practicums. All practicums require the completion of 125 practicum hours within an eight week session, or approximately 16 hours per week. Working nurses may need to employ creative time management during the practicum courses. Practicum time will need to be pre-arranged with your employer and your preceptor. The practicum courses are designed to cover care over the lifespan and your practicum hours will need to mimic these patient populations. 

**FNP Practicum Courses**

- NR-511: Differential Diagnosis and Primary Care Practicum
- NR-601: Primary Care of the Maturing and Aged Family Practicum
- NR-602: Primary Care of the Childbearing and Childrearing Family Practicum
- NR-603: Advanced Clinical Diagnosis and Practice across the Lifespan Practicum
- NR-661: APN Capstone Practicum
It is very important to realize what the clinical-hour component will mean in terms of scheduling your time for work and family. Most students will not be able to maintain their full work schedule unless other aspects of their life are maintained by others, e.g. children, meals, cleaning or other responsibilities. The 125 clinical hours equates to about 16 hours per week and is worked out according to the student’s and preceptor’s schedules, so the actual hours per week may vary, depending upon specific circumstances.

Please keep in mind these clinical hours will be in addition to similar classroom expectations that you will find in all of your courses. It is imperative to understand that time management will be a crucial aspect in the program, especially when completing your practicums.
The admission requirements into the MSN FNP program are: a BSN from an accredited institution with a minimum 3.0 GPA and an active, unrestricted nursing license in the state you plan to complete your practicums in. Provisional acceptance may be granted with a GPA between 2.75 and 2.99.

In addition to these requirements, as previously mentioned, you will be required to identify a practicum site(s) before starting the program.

Please note that your admission representative will help you throughout this process, but please prepare now in identifying a practicum site and preceptor.
In order to be registered into the first course of the MSN FNP program you must identify a potential practicum site(s), fill out a Practicum Application identifying this site and turn it in to your admissions representative. The application will then be sent to our Practicum Coordination team for initial approval (making sure the application is filled out correctly with a legitimate practicum site) before the admission representative can register you for your first class. Your admission representative will not register you for your first class if this application is not turned in and approved.

Although it is not an admission requirement, we do encourage you to also identify a potential preceptor(s) as early as you can and turn in a preceptor profile, along with the potential preceptor’s CV and proof of licensure, identifying the preceptor. Please note it is likely you may need more than one practicum site and/or preceptor to fulfill all necessary practicum hours and patient exposure.

Chamberlain does prefer you use a Family Nurse Practitioner in a primary care setting as a preceptor and site but other options may be considered.
Chamberlain’s Practicum Coordination Team is here to assist you from a practicum and preceptor perspective throughout your program. After you have started the program you will be assigned a practicum coordinator who will work to approve your previously identified practicum site and preceptor and will help to secure a contract agreement with the practicum site.

Please note that desired sites and/or preceptors do not always come to fruition. Therefore it is very important to remain in contact with your assigned practicum coordinator for assistance in these situations. Having multiple site and preceptor options may be beneficial should your original choices not meet all necessary requirements. If this should occur your practicum coordinator will be there to assist you and answer any questions you may have regarding the process.
To help prepare you to be successful on the national certifying examination, we have imbedded a complete family nurse practitioner review course in your capstone course, NR-661. The review program was developed by APEA, Advanced Practice Education Associates. You will begin the course by taking a predictor examination that allows you to understand the areas that require further understanding on your part. Over the seven weeks of the course you will have the opportunity to listen to embedded lectures in the course so that you will become familiar with the content and questions of the national certifying examination. The course will culminate in a final examination - passing the final examination is a requirement for successful completion of NR-661. Students will have the opportunity to retake the examination one time and must pass the final examination. By completing Chamberlain’s MSN FNP program you are eligible to sit for the national certification exam as a Family Nurse Practitioner either through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).
Working as an Advanced Practice Nurse in family practice is very challenging but also very rewarding. The role is entirely different from that of a Registered Nurse, as your level of autonomy of practice will increase significantly.

Faculty at Chamberlain are here to ensure your success and help you gain the necessary skills to treat patients of all ages.

If you have not started classes please contact your assigned admissions representative if you have any questions.

If you have started classes and have questions please contact your Student Services team at 888-556-8226 (option 3).

Thank you and good luck!