

Master of Science in Nursing

The WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program is a professional degree which prepares experienced registered nurses to sit for certification as a family or adult nurse practitioner. The program builds on the background of professional nurses to prepare them to function as primary care givers in the emerging collaborative world of health care.

Housed in the College of Health and Human Services, the MSN program maintains close community ties with a variety of health care agencies. A heavy emphasis is placed upon precepted clinical experiences.

General Requirements for Admissions to the MSN Program

MSN Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program admission requires:

1. Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited institution with a satisfactory GPA of at least 3.0.
2. A minimum of three years full-time professional experience as a registered nurse as documented in a professional resume. **This experience must have occurred within the last five years and have involved direct patient care.** Preference will be given to

those candidates with a greater amount of professional experience.

3. Current RN licensure in the state of Georgia.
4. A minimum combined total score of 800 in the verbal and quantitative categories and a minimum 3.5 in the analytical writing category on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination.
5. A formal statement of personal goals for the program not to exceed one typed page.
6. An undergraduate physical assessment course.
7. An undergraduate research course.

Admission decisions are based on overall evaluation of all these elements.

Transfer credit

Up to 15 quarter hours or nine semester hours of graduate work from other accredited institutions may be transferred. This work must correspond to the Kennesaw State University MSN curriculum. Decisions regarding this transfer will be made by the program director. The credit to be considered for transfer will not be more than five years old at the time the student enters.

Grades

Students must earn a grade of **B** or better in every course in order to progress in the program.

Petition to Graduate

MSN candidates must petition to graduate at least one semester prior to the semester in which they complete their degree requirements. Petition to graduate forms are available in the program directors office.

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The WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program is a 40 semester hour course of study which consists of three components: A 14 credit core, a 8 credit primary care area of concentration, and a 18 credit residency.

		<i>Credit Hours</i>
COURSE DESIGNATION CORE COURSES		14
NURS 7710	Professional Role Development and Health Care Issues	2
NURS 7720	Advanced Practice Theory	2
NURS 7730	Advanced Health Assessment, Health Maintenance, and Health Promotion	4
NURS 7740	Research Applications in Nursing	2
NURS 7750	Advanced Pharmacology for the Nurse Practitioner	2
NURS 7760	Advanced Pathophysiology for the Nurse Practitioner	2
AREA OF CONCENTRATION		8
Family		
NURS 8800	Clinical Management of Selected Common Health Conditions in Adults	3
NURS 8805	Clinical Management of Selected Common Health Conditions in Children	3
NURS 8830	Clinical Management of Reproductive Health	2
OR		
Adult		
NURS 8800	Clinical Management of Selected Common Health Conditions in Adults	3
NURS 8815	Clinical Management of Selected Chronic Health Conditions in Middle-Aged and Older Adults	3
NURS 8830	Clinical Management of Reproductive Health	2
RESIDENCY		18
NURS 8850	Primary Care Residency I Prerequisite: NURS 7730 Corequisite: NURS 8800	4
NURS 8851	Primary Care Residency II Prerequisite: NURS 8850; 8800 Corequisite: NURS 8805 or NURS 8815	4

NURS 8852	Primary Care Residency III Prerequisite: NURS 8851; 8805 or 8815; Corequisite: NURS 8830, 8853	4
NURS 8853	Primary Care Residency IV Prerequisite: NURS 8851; Corequisite: NURS 8854, 8852, 8830	4
NURS 8854	Primary Care Clinical Project Prerequisite: NURS 7740 Corequisite: NURS 8852; 8853	2

PROGRAM TOTAL: 40

Master of Science in Nursing Course Descriptions

NURS 7710. Professional Role Development and Health Care Issues. 2-0-2.

Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Primary Care NP Program.

Within this course, role theory, change theory and leadership theory as they apply to collaborative and independent practice are examined. The issues related to the role of the nurse practitioner in today's society and within health care economics and health care policy are explored. Ethical and legal decision-making processes are investigated. The standards and regulations governing the practice of nurse practitioners are examined.

NURS 7720. Advanced Practice Theory. 2-0-2.

Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.

Theories from nursing and related fields are analyzed and critiqued from the perspective of theory development and theory utilization in advanced nursing practice. Theoretical concepts are considered as they apply to the nurse practitioner in research, communication, practice, and professional autonomy.

NURS 7730. Advanced Health Assessment, Health Maintenance and Health Promotion. 2-6-4.

Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program.

This course is designed to develop the student's skill and critical appraisal of the history and physical examination of clients of appropriate age groups. Health promotion, risk screening and disease prevention are emphasized while clinical strategies and interventions are critiqued utilizing research and theoretical data. The clinical practicum provides experiences in primary

care settings designed for health promotion and health maintenance of individuals and/or families allowing students to develop their assessment, interpretive and diagnostic competencies.

NURS 7740. Research Applications in Nursing. 2-0-2.

Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.

This course builds upon the student's basic knowledge of the research process. It explores research design, methodology and data analysis for clinically relevant problems encountered by the nurse practitioner. Both quantitative and qualitative methods are reviewed. Students will critique nursing studies in an area of interest and develop a proposal related to a specific primary care health promotion or disease prevention problem in the selected area.

NURS 7750. Advanced Pharmacology for the Nurse Practitioner. 2-0-2.

Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.

This course expands the experienced professional nurse's understanding of pharmacological principles, including pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Emphasis is placed on drugs commonly used for the treatment of chronic diseases and minor acute illnesses.

NURS 7760. Advanced Pathophysiology for the Nurse Practitioner. 2-0-2.

Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.

This course is designed to provide the nurse practitioner student with advanced content concerning normal and abnormal human physiologic responses to pertinent pathophysiologic conditions. Emphasis is placed on the clinical manifestations of these conditions so that the student may successfully intervene in a variety of primary care advanced practice clinical settings.

NURS 8800. Clinical Management of Selected Common Health Conditions in Adults. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: NURS 7730. *Corequisite:* NURS 8850.

This course addresses the common health conditions, both simple and complex, affecting individuals, aged 17 and older, frequently encountered in primary care setting. Client's clinical presentation, underlying causes, and appropriate treatment modalities are explored. The nurse practitioner's role in the clinical management of common health conditions in the adult client is the focus with emphasis on referral, follow-up, and client education. The impact of health problems on the family unit is also explored.

NURS 8805. Clinical Management of Selected Common Health Conditions in Children. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: NURS 7730; 8800. *Corequisite:* NURS 8851.

This course is designed to provide an exploration of theories and knowledge needed for child health supervision in the primary care setting with a focus on the nurse practitioner's role in clinical management, anticipatory guidance, referral, and follow-up. Emphasis is placed upon parents as participants in assessment, decision-making, and management of common health problems and the stresses of normal development in infancy, childhood, and adolescence.

NURS 8815. Clinical Management of Selected Chronic Health Problems in Middle-Aged and Older Adults. 3-0-3.

Prerequisite: NURS 7730; 8800. *Corequisite:* NURS 8851.

This course addresses the chronic health conditions frequently encountered in the primary care of middle-aged and older adults. Clients' clinical presentation, underlying causes, and appropriate treatment modalities are explored. The nurse practitioner's role in the management of chronic health conditions is emphasized with attention to protocol development, referral, follow-up, and client education.

NURS 8830. Clinical Management of Reproductive Health. 2-0-2.

Prerequisite: NURS 8805 or 8815. *Corequisite:* NURS 8852, 8853.

This course focuses on the health care needs of essentially healthy women throughout the reproductive years and beyond. Emphasis is placed on the clinical management of common health

problems of women, well pregnant women and the care of the newborn. Appropriate referral and follow-up care for more complex health problems and high risk pregnancy are explored.

NURS 8850. Primary Care Residency I. 1-9-4.

Prerequisite: NURS 7730. *Corequisite:* NURS 8800.

This course consists of an introductory practicum with a nurse practitioner, physician assistant or physician preceptor approved by NP faculty. Beginning clinical management skills are the focus of the course. The theory component emphasizes student case study presentation and critique.

NURS 8851. Primary Care Residency II. 1-9-4.

Prerequisite: NURS 8850. *Corequisite:* 8805 or 8815.

A continuation of the practicum experience with appropriate preceptors. Improved clinical management skills are an expectation in a variety of clinical sites. The case study methodology is continued.

NURS 8852. Primary Care Residency III. 1-9-4.

Prerequisite: NURS 8851; 8805 or 8815. *Corequisite:* NURS 8830, 8853.

A continuation of the practicum experience with appropriate preceptors. Increasing complex clinical management skills are an expectation in a variety of appropriate clinical sites. The case study methodology is continued.

NURS 8853. Primary Care Residency IV. 1-9-4.

Prerequisite: NURS 8851; *Corequisite:* NURS 8852, 8830.

This course is the capstone practicum experience in which students synthesize all elements of their clinical management skills. Competence in the clinical management of health conditions frequently encountered is an expectation.

NURS 8854. Primary Care Clinical Project. 2-0-2.

Prerequisite: NURS 7740. *Corequisite:* NURS 8853, 8852.

The clinical project provides the student with the opportunity to synthesize and apply acquired knowledge and skills in a clinically focused project related to the role of the nurse practitioner in research, health promotion, and community education. The student identifies a problem/need and designs a project that will improve the health care of a specific population.