

Family Nurse Practitioner Program FAQ for First-Time Masters

1. When do you admit students? We admit in the spring and fall semesters. **However, suppose you are not ready to apply for our degree-seeking program. In that case, you can apply to the non-degree option to take core courses before starting the program. For more information on the requirements and application process, visit <https://lewis.gsu.edu/admissions/graduate/> (under the Special Status tab).**
2. How many students are admitted each semester? Although we have no set number, we do have to limit our admissions based on resources. We will admit the most qualified students. We base our decision on GPA, GRE or MAT, experience, references, personal statement, and interview. The GRE or MAT entrance exam is waived for MS nursing applicants who hold a graduate degree in a non-nursing field (i.e., MEd, MBA, MPH, etc.), Post-master's certificate applicants OR if you have a GPA of 3.0 or higher from your Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.
3. How long does it take to complete the program? Based on the semester you are admitted, the part-time programs can run 7 or more semesters; the full-time programs can run 5 or more semesters.
4. If I am admitted full-time, can I change to part-time? Yes, absolutely. But keep in mind the pre-requ. If you drop a course, it could lengthen your program plan by a year.
5. How many years of clinical experience are required to start the program? We require at least one year of recent general clinical experience either in the hospital or the community setting. Remember this is an Advanced Practice program. We expect you to have a solid RN foundation before you start the program.
6. How much of my program is clinical? We have four clinical courses- (NURS 7340 Adult Medical – 135 clinical hours; NURS 7342 – Common Health Problems of Children and Adolescents – 135 clinical hours; NURS 7080 – Gender and Reproductive Health– 135 clinical hours; and Advanced Practicum – 180 clinical hours).
7. Do I have to find my own preceptors? No, following AACN guidelines we assist with clinical paperwork and do have contacts with major agencies to place our students. Due to the limited number of available preceptors in the metro area, students are asked to assist to find an appropriate preceptor for their clinical courses. This can be done by networking in the community, talking with colleagues, and working with our clinical placement coordinator. Students are not allowed to pay preceptors or use a program or agency which requires a fee to find a preceptor. Joining a nurse practitioner association such as

the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (students have a reduced rate) is another way to network.

8. Is this program an online program? We are what is considered a web-enhanced program/Distance learning program. Each month each class will have at least one synchronous class. Some classes such as Advanced Assessment (NURS 7500) require students to be on campus for lab for several days. The other weeks students meet with their faculty via a program called WebEx which is synchronous online learning or may have asynchronous assignments. Students are required to have a working computer with high-speed internet service. On-site and synchronous class days are mandatory.
9. Do students continue to work while in the program? Yes, the majority of our students continue to work during their graduate program. Many students change to a weekend or per diem option in order to facilitate class time and clinical hours. We do not encourage a full-time employment commitment while in the full-time program.
10. Are scholarships and financial aid available? Yes, financial aid is determined through the University's financial aid office, scholarships are available through the school of nursing, and information is available on the school of nursing website. Please note post master's certificate students may not be eligible for financial aid since they are not degree-seeking. Students may also apply for scholarships from professional organizations or other agencies. Many students use tuition reimbursement programs from their employers.
11. Go to the iCollege Graduate Resources page after you are admitted. This site has important announcements and information. Read the Master's Student Handbook for information.
12. What are other expenses in the program? (Approximate, subject to change)

Expenses per Semester

- * Tuition - For more details go to: <http://www.gsu.edu/tuition>
- * Books \$50 to \$1500 per semester, depending on class load
- * Clinical agency badges, parking \$1 - \$50.00
 - * Immunizations & Medical Tests Varies

Expenses per Year

- * Liability Insurance \$ 35
- * American Heart Association CPR (**every other year**) \$35 - \$100
 - Nursing license state of Georgia (**every other year**) \$65.00

One Time Expense~~ Price subjected to change

- * Drug Screening/Criminal Background Checks \$85.00 ~~
- * Typhon Tracking System Database \$80~~
- * ACEMAPPING ~\$85
- * NURS 7500 Supplies (diagnostic set, stethoscope, etc.) \$400 - \$800
- * GSU Student Name Tag \$8~~