



Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program

FAQ for First-Time Masters

1. When do you admit students? We admit in the fall to start spring semester. **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.
3. How long does it take to complete the program? Based on the semester you are admitted; the full-time program is 5 semesters; the part-time and post-master's certificate varies based on number of courses taken and credit given for previous courses taken if on the post-master's track.
4. If I am admitted full time, can I change to part time? Yes, absolutely. But keep in mind the pre-requisite courses and the semester courses are offered. 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 pediatric clinical experience either in the hospital or in a specific pediatric site. Remember this is an Advanced Pediatric program. We expect you to have a solid RN pediatric foundation before you start the program.
6. How much of my program is clinical? We have four clinical courses- NURS 7420 (Common Health Problems in Children – 225 clinical hours; NURS 7430 – Chronic Health problems in Children – 135 clinical hours; NURS 7440 – Advanced Practicum for Child Health – 240 clinical hours). It is a minimum of 600 required 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. Do 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 Pediatric 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 pediatric nurse practitioner

association such as the Georgia chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (students have a reduced rate) is another way to network.

8. Is this program an on-line program? We are what is considered a web enhanced program/ Distance learning program. New Student Orientation is on-site and attendance is Mandatory. In addition, your first day of class for NURS 7420 , Common Health Problems and Issues Pertinent for Children and Adolescents is on-site (unless otherwise directed by the course administrator) . Each month each class will have at least one synchronous class. Advanced Assessment (NURS 7500) requires students to be on campus for lab several days, this is the only class which is outside the model. The other weeks students meet with their faculty via a program called WebEx which is synchronous on-line 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 changes 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 though the University's financial aid office, and scholarships are available through the school of nursing and information in available on the school of nursing website. Please note post master's certificate students may not 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 Masters 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, depends 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~~