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**School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering**  
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### **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)**

At this time, the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) is the only option available in the MSN program.

### **Program Description**

The purpose of this master's program is to prepare nurses with advanced nursing theory and clinical experiences in the advanced practice nursing role of Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). Students are prepared to assess the health needs and health risks of all family members, apply family theories, and analyze legal, ethical, economic, leadership, and professional issues pertinent to nurse practitioners. Graduates from this program will be qualified to practice in mid-level primary care practice settings within the changing patterns of health care; assume leadership roles in multidisciplinary health groups; and practice family nursing in primary and secondary health care settings. Graduates will be prepared to apply for doctoral programs in nursing.

The content of this program includes advanced health assessment, advanced pathophysiology, and advanced pharmacology; analysis, utilization, and evaluation of theories of nursing; research methodology; role development; care of vulnerable populations; health care policy and delivery systems; leadership; and application of advanced knowledge in providing nursing care for clients representing a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds in both urban and rural community settings. Students complete a culminating experience (comprehensive examination) which demonstrates their competence in the conduct of scientific inquiry related to clinical problem solving. Students must complete the requirements for the Master's degree before they can pursue FNP certification from the California State Board of Registered Nursing.

The MSN/FNP Option has been approved by the CSU Chancellor's office and has been accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The program is seeking accreditation from the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) according to their routine procedures. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) already holds CCNE accreditation. For further information about the accreditation status of the FNP program, please contact the

Department of Nursing office or the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036-1120, phone (202) 887-6791.

### **Master's Degree Program Objectives**

The program objectives are to prepare students for graduation who can:

1. Expand knowledge and evaluate nursing theories and theories from related disciplines as a basis for advanced roles and nursing practice.
2. Utilize nursing concepts, theories, and knowledge to support advanced practice roles and evidence-based nursing practice.
3. Demonstrate expertise in advanced roles in nursing.
4. Apply evidence based research findings to advanced roles and nursing practice.
5. Utilize the steps of scientific inquiry to evaluate and integrate research, theory, and practice.
6. Advance practice through the development and implementation of strategies for improving nursing care and initiating changes in the health care system.
7. Actively engage in collaborative relationships with other members of the health care team to improve health care and influence health care policies.
8. Assume responsibility for contributing to the advancement of the nursing profession.
9. Utilize technology to enhance the effectiveness of managing client and clinical information.
10. Acquire a foundation for doctoral study in nursing.

### **Family Nurse Practitioner Program Objectives**

Upon graduation or entry to advanced practice, the Family Nurse Practitioner should demonstrate competence in the following:

1. Synthesize theoretical, scientific, and contemporary clinical knowledge for the assessment and management of both health and illness states for the purposes of health promotion, health protection, disease prevention, and treatment of the individual, the family, aggregate groups, and the community.
2. Demonstrate a personal, collegial, and collaborative approach which enhances the Family Nurse Practitioner's effectiveness in patient care.
3. Function as a licensed independent practitioner by using best available evidence to continuously improve quality of clinical practice.
4. Demonstrate a commitment to the implementation, preservation, and evolution of the Family Nurse Practitioner role.
5. Implement clinical reasoning and build collaborative, interdisciplinary relationships to provide optimal health care to the patient.
6. Oversee and direct the delivery of clinical services within an integrated system of health care to achieve improved health outcomes for patients, communities, and systems.
7. Ensure quality of health care through consultation, collaboration, continuing education, certification, and

evaluation (eligible for state and national certification upon completion of the program).

8. Provide culturally competent care, deliver patient care with respect to cultural and spiritual beliefs, and make health care resources available to patients from diverse cultures.

(Adapted from the *Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies*, Amended 2012. The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, April 2011)

Additional information regarding the following Department of Nursing policies is available at: [www.csub.edu/nursing](http://www.csub.edu/nursing):

1. Eligibility Criteria and Application Procedure
2. Physical and Mental Health Requirements
3. Health Clearance for Newly Admitted and Continuing Graduate Nursing Students
4. Admission Requirements
5. Program Progression
6. Requirements Related to Program Completion

### Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements to be considered for the MSN program:

1. Be a graduate of an accredited baccalaureate nursing program
2. Be in good standing at the last college/university attended
3. Have an overall baccalaureate GPA of at least 3.0
4. Have completed the 3 prerequisite courses (Pathophysiology, Statistics, and Nursing Research) with a "C" or better
5. Hold an active, unrestricted California RN license
6. Hold a current American Heart Association BLS certification
7. Have the equivalent of 1 year of full-time RN experience in the past 3 years
8. Apply, and be eligible for, fall admission to CSU Bakersfield as a graduate student
9. Submit a complete nursing application packet during the application submission period

### Admission Requirements:

Once accepted, students must complete the following requirements to be fully admitted and continue in the MSN program:

1. Initial Requirements
  - a. Complete a background check
  - b. Complete a drug screen
  - c. Complete all annual requirements (below)
2. Annual Requirements (copies of documentation must be submitted each August)
  - a. Complete a health clearance for newly-admitted and continuing graduate nursing students through CSUB Student Health Services
  - b. Possess the physical and mental qualifications necessary for clinical setting (submit Essential Functions form)

- c. Hold an active, unrestricted California RN license
- d. Hold current American Heart Association BLS certification
- e. Purchase CSU Bakersfield Student Professional Liability Insurance
- f. Complete respiratory fit (mask fit) testing
- g. Maintain personal health insurance (or submit a completed Medical Insurance Declination form)
- h. Maintain immunizations (submit Pertussis and Influenza Vaccination Status form)

### Student Classification

#### Classified Graduate Standing

For classified status, the student must meet all the eligibility and admission requirements.

#### Conditionally Classified Graduate Standing

An applicant may be admitted as a Conditionally Classified Graduate Student if, in the judgment of the graduate admissions committee, the applicant has a potential for successful completion of all the conditions specified by the faculty for admission as a Classified Graduate Student and potential for successful completion of all the requirements for the graduate program. Upon satisfactory completion of all conditions specified by the faculty, the student's status will be administratively changed to Classified Graduate Student.

#### Advancement to Candidacy

The candidate must:

1. Attain Classified status.
2. Complete 16 units of graduate nursing courses within the approved plan of study with a GPA of 3.0 or better (on a scale of A=4.0).
3. File a petition for Advancement to Candidacy with the Department of Nursing Graduate Program Director and be approved.

#### Requirements for the Master of Science in Nursing Degree Program (44 total units)

1. **Core Courses** (22 units)  
NURS 5200, 5201, 5220, 5230, 5240, 5250, 6260, 6290, 6300, 6310
2. **Required Clinical Preparation Courses: Family Nurse Practitioner Option** (22 units)  
NURS 6320, 6321, 6330, 6331, 6340, 6341, 6351

Students who wish to challenge any of the required courses based on prior course or clinical experience should contact the Graduate Program Director.

**Note:** A credit hour is equivalent to one hour of classroom study or three hours of clinical/laboratory experience and appropriate outside preparation; or a combination of the foregoing, times the number of weeks in the quarter. A semester credit hour is equivalent to 16 hours of classroom contact, 48 hours of clinical/laboratory experience plus appropriate outside preparation; or a combination of the foregoing. Each classroom/clinical laboratory hour is 50 minutes in length.