

School of Nursing, Health, and Exercise Science

SUSAN BAKEWELL-SACHS, DEAN

Mission Statement

The mission of the School of Nursing, Health, and Exercise Science is congruent with that of The College of New Jersey in promoting excellence, valuing diversity, and providing a service to society in a community of learners. The School of Nursing, Health, and Exercise Science serves the people of New Jersey and the nation by preparing professional nurses at the baccalaureate level and advanced practice nurses at the master's level, with all graduates prepared to be successful ethical and visionary leaders in a multicultural, highly technological, and increasingly global world.

Master of Science in Nursing (NURT) (NURV) (NURX) (NURL) and (NURK)

Claire Lindberg, Chair, Division of Advanced Nursing Education and Practice

The Master of Science in Nursing prepares advanced practice nurses to care for individuals and families. The curriculum builds on the nursing and scientific knowledge base of the baccalaureate-prepared nurse and focuses on advanced decision-making and critical-thinking skills. Graduates are prepared to accurately and critically assess the health and illness experiences of individuals and families, to develop health interventions, and to evaluate healthcare outcomes.

The program offers five options. Four nurse practitioner options include: Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult Nurse Practitioner, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, and a variation in the Family Nurse Practitioner option for BSN-prepared nurse midwives and nurse practitioners. An additional MSN option is the Clinical Nurse Leader. The program begins in the fall. Classes are offered in the evening. All MSN options include clinical practicum experiences. Most clinical practicum hours are during the day. Clinical experiences take place under the guidance of experienced advanced practice nurses, physicians, or other advanced nursing personnel. Required practicum hours for each course are listed in the course description. Nurse practitioner options may be completed in two years and one summer of full-time study. Other MSN options may be completed in two years of full-time study. Students may take up to six years of part-time study to complete any of the options. Faculty advisers work closely with each student to plan an appropriate course of study and to ensure progress through the program. There is also a bridge sequence of courses to the MSN for RNs with a non-nursing baccalaureate.

The baccalaureate and master's degree programs of The College of New Jersey School of Nursing, Health, and Exercise Science are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036-1120, 202.887.6791.

Admission Requirements:

Bachelor in Nursing degree from an NLN- or CCNE-accredited program

Graduate Record Exam (GRE) required unless student meets one of the following criteria:

- Graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing from a program accredited by NLN or CCNE with a GPA of 3.2 or better on a 4.0 scale.
- Achieved a grade of B or better on two graduate nursing courses taken, as a non-matriculated student, at TCNJ within the two academic years prior to or concurrent with application for matriculation. For nurse practitioner and clinical nurse leader applicants, one of the two courses must be NURS 504/Advanced Pathophysiology.

Undergraduate statistics course

Undergraduate health assessment course or approved equivalent

Preadmission interview

(Also see page 9)

Additional Requirements:

CPR certification

Health requirements

License to practice as a registered nurse in New Jersey

License to practice in Pennsylvania may be recommended

Family Nurse Practitioner Option (NURT)

Graduation Requirements:

47 credits

Required Courses:

- NURS 506/Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice and Research
- NURS 501/Perspectives in Advanced Practice Nursing
- NURS 503/Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice
- NURS 504/Advanced Human Pathophysiology
- NURS 604/Research and Evidence-Based Nursing for Advanced Nursing Practice
- NURS 603/Individual, Family, and Community Systems
- NURS 633/Advanced Holistic Health Assessment
- NURS 634/Primary Care of Women
- NURS 635/Primary Care of Children
- NURS 636/Primary Care of Adults and Elders I
- NURS 637/Primary Care of Adults and Elders II
- NURS 690/Practicum in the Nurse Practitioner Role
- NURS 705/Capstone Project in Nursing

Family Nurse Practitioner for Certified Nurse Practitioners Option (NURV)

Graduation Requirements:

30-credit minimum

Required Courses:

- NURS 506/Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice and Research
- NURS 501/Perspectives in Advanced Practice Nursing
- NURS 503/Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice
- NURS 504/Advanced Human Pathophysiology
- NURS 604/Research and Evidence-Based Nursing for Advanced Nursing Practice
- NURS 603/Individual, Family, and Community Systems
- NURS 633/Advanced Holistic Health Assessment
- NURS 690/Practicum in the Nurse Practitioner Role

Clinical Courses:*

- NURS 634/Primary Care of Women
- NURS 635/Primary Care of Children
- NURS 636/Primary Care of Adults and Elders I
- NURS 637/Primary Care of Adults and Elders II
- NURS 705/Capstone Project in Nursing

*Required clinical courses based upon area of certification and practice.

Adult Nurse Practitioner Option (NURX)

Graduation Requirements:

42 credits

Required Courses:

NURS 506/Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice and Research
 NURS 501/Perspectives in Advanced Practice Nursing
 NURS 503/Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice
 NURS 504/Advanced Human Pathophysiology
 NURS 604/Research and Evidence-Based Nursing for Advanced Nursing Practice
 NURS 603/Individual, Family, and Community Systems
 NURS 633/Advanced Holistic Health Assessment
 NURS 636/Primary Care of Adults and Elders I
 NURS 637/Primary Care of Adults and Elders II
 NURS 638/Primary Care of Adults: Special Populations
 NURS 690/Practicum in the Nurse Practitioner Role
 NURS 705/Capstone Project in Nursing

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Option (NURK)

Graduation Requirements:

37 credits (22 at The College of New Jersey;
 15 at Thomas Jefferson University)

Required Courses:

NURS 506/Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice and Research
 NURS 501/Perspectives in Advanced Practice Nursing
 NURS 504/Advanced Human Pathophysiology
 NURS 604/Research and Evidence-Based Nursing for Advanced Nursing Practice
 NURS 603/Individual, Family, and Community Systems
 NURS 633/Advanced Holistic Health Assessment
 NURS XXX/Practicum in the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Role

Clinical Courses:*

NURS 662/Diagnostic Reasoning and Clinical Decision Making for NNP I
 NURS 663/Diagnostic Reasoning and Clinical Decision Making for NNP II
 NURS 664/Diagnostic Reasoning and Clinical Decision Making for NNP III
 NURS 665/Comprehensive Assessment for Clinical Decision Making of the Mother and Neonate
 NURS 666/Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics for Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
 NURS 705/Capstone Project in Nursing

*Required clinical courses are taken at Thomas Jefferson University. See page 48 for course descriptions.

Clinical Nurse Leader Option (NURL)

Graduation Requirements:

34 credits

Required Courses:

NURS 506/Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice and Research
 NURS 501/Perspectives in Advanced Practice Nursing
 NURS 503/Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice
 NURS 504/Advanced Human Pathophysiology

NURS 604/Research and Evidence-Based Nursing for Advanced Nursing Practice
 NURS 603/Individual, Family, and Community Systems
 NURS 633/Advanced Holistic Health Assessment
 NURS 660/Advanced Nursing Diagnosis and Treatment of Patient Responses to Chronic and Complex Conditions
 NURS 685/Health Promotion for Advanced Nursing Practice
 NURS 695/Practicum in the Clinical Nurse Leader Role
 NURS 705/Capstone Project in Nursing

Bridge to the Master of Science in Nursing for RNs with a Non-Nursing Baccalaureate Degree

Claire Lindberg, Chair, Division of Advanced Nursing Education and Practice

This prerequisite sequence of courses is designed for RNs with a non-nursing baccalaureate degree who wish to enter the MSN program at The College of New Jersey. Up to 16 undergraduate credits are taken prior to MSN course content. In addition, students must meet all the requirements for admission to the MSN programs.

Admission Requirements:

Diploma or associate degree in nursing
 Bachelor's degree from an accredited or approved institution
 Graduate Record Exam (GRE) required unless student meets one of the following criteria:

- A GPA of 3.2 or better in their baccalaureate degree program.
- PLUS a GPA of 3.2 or better from their basic nursing program.
- A grade of B or better on the first three TCNJ undergraduate courses taken as part of the undergraduate bridge program.

Undergraduate course in statistics
 An undergraduate health assessment course or equivalent
 Preadmission interview
 (Also see page 9)

Additional Requirements:

CPR certification
 Health requirements
 License to practice as a registered nurse in New Jersey
 License to practice in Pennsylvania may be recommended

Bridge Requirements: up to 5 undergraduate units (20 credits)

NUR 210/Professional Role I (Learner)
 NUR 310/Professional Role II (Clinician)
 NUR 328/Research
 NUR 440/Caring in Community Health/Science*
 NUR 444/Caring in Community Health/Practice*

*Up to 6 credits of community health (NURS 440 and/or NURS 444) may be waived for applicants with significant community health experience and experience based on a portfolio review by the School of Nursing, Health, and Exercise Science, Health, and Exercise Science faculty.

Following completion of the above bridge requirements, the student completes the requirements for either the 47-credit Family Nurse Practitioner Program, the 42-credit Adult Nurse Practitioner Program, or the 34-credit Clinical Nurse Leader Program.

Post-Master's Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program (NURU) (NURX) and (NURV)

Claire Lindberg, Chair, Division of Advanced Nursing Education and Practice

This program is designed for registered nurses, with a master's degree in nursing, who wish to become family or adult nurse practitioners. The program begins in the spring. Students may take up to six years of part-time study to complete either option.

Admission Requirements:

Master of Science in Nursing from an NLN- or CCNE-accredited program
 An undergraduate health assessment course or equivalent
 Preadmission interview
 (Also see page 9)

Additional Requirements:

CPR certification
 Health requirements
 License to practice as a registered nurse in New Jersey
 License to practice in Pennsylvania may be recommended

Family Nurse Practitioner Option (NURU)**Program Requirements:**

38 credits

Required Courses:

NURS 503/Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice
 NURS 504/Advanced Human Pathophysiology
 NURS 603/Individual, Family, and Community Systems
 NURS 633/Advanced Holistic Health Assessment
 NURS 634/Primary Care of Women
 NURS 635/Primary Care of Children
 NURS 636/Primary Care of Adults and Elders I
 NURS 637/Primary Care of Adults and Elders II
 NURS 690/Practicum in the Nurse Practitioner Role

Adult Nurse Practitioner Option (NURX)**Program Requirements:**

33 credits

Required Courses:

NURS 503/Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice
 NURS 504/Advanced Human Pathophysiology
 NURS 603/Individual, Family, and Community Systems
 or approved elective
 NURS 633/Advanced Holistic Health Assessment
 NURS 636/Primary Care of Adults and Elders I
 NURS 637/Primary Care of Adults and Elders II
 NURS 638/Primary Care of Adults: Special Populations
 NURS 690/Practicum in the Nurse Practitioner Role

Family Nurse Practitioner Option for Specialist NPs (NURV-SCT)**up to 18 cr.**

This program is designed for nurse practitioners who have graduated from a master's degree program that prepares specialty nurse practitioners and who want to expand their scope of practice to include the entire family. Programs of study are available for adult, geriatric, pediatrics, and women's health nurse practitioners. Students may begin in the fall or in the spring, depending on their prior area of specialization. This program may be completed in three to five semesters of part-time study.

Admission Requirements:

Master of Science in Nursing from an NLN- or CCNE-accredited program with a nurse practitioner specialty
 At least 500 documented clinical practicum hours in MSN program
 A graduate health assessment course that includes all ages and both genders
 A graduate-level general pharmacology course
 A graduate-level general pathophysiology course
 (Also see page 9)

Additional Requirements:

CPR certification
 Health requirements
 License to practice as a registered nurse in New Jersey
 License to practice in Pennsylvania may be recommended

Required Courses:

NURS 603/Individual, Family, and Community Systems
 Plus, two to three of the following courses based on prior area of specialty preparation:

Adult Nurse Practitioners:

NURS 634/Primary Care of Women
 NURS 635/Primary Care of Children

Women's Health Nurse Practitioners:

NURS 635/Primary Care of Children
 NURS 636/Primary Care of Adults and Elders I
 NURS 637/Primary Care of Adults and Elders II

Pediatric Nurse Practitioners:

NURS 634/Primary Care of Women
 NURS 636/Primary Care of Adults and Elders I
 NURS 637/Primary Care of Adults and Elders II

Policy Statement on Minimum Grade in Clinical Courses for NURT, NURU, NURV, and NURX:

Clinical courses include theoretical learning in the classroom as well as practice in a clinical course. Clinical courses in the FNP options include NURS 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, and 690. Graduate students in these clinical courses must achieve a grade of B- or higher in order to continue in the sequence of clinical courses. A student who receives a C or F in a clinical course will be dismissed from the program. A student who receives a C or C+ may repeat the course once, the next time the course is offered. A student who repeats the course and does not achieve a grade of B- or higher will also be dismissed from the program.

The following are courses offered by Thomas Jefferson University that are required for students in the TCNJ Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program (NURK):

NURS 662/Diagnostic Reasoning and Clinical Decision Making for Neonatal Nurse Practitioner I 3 cr.

Prerequisites: Graduate Pathophysiology Course; NU 665; NU 666
 This is the first of three clinical courses required for the NNP student. It provides an introduction for the neonatal nurse practitioner, advanced practice nurse student to the conceptual basis for meeting the health promotion and maintenance needs of the normal pregnant mother and the normal neonate. This course will prepare the student to assume the role of a care provider, and to contribute and support the collaborative responsibility of other health-care members in meeting the health needs of the pregnant mother with prenatal care and the neonates at birth. Concepts, theories, and research related to health promotion, health maintenance, and prevention of illness and injury of epidemiological significant problems are included. Integration of core and support course content as well as use of critical-thinking and diagnostic reasoning skills will allow for an in-depth focus on assessment, diagnosis, and management of primary health-care needs. Sixteen hours per week of clinical practicum with a preceptor is required (224 clinical hours).

NURS 663/Diagnostic Reasoning and Clinical Decision Making for Neonatal Nurse Practitioner II 3 cr.

Prerequisites: Graduate Pathophysiology Course; NU 665; NU 666; NU662
 This is the second of three clinical courses required for the NNP student. This course addresses the conceptual basis for meeting the health promotion and maintenance needs of the normal pregnant mother and the normal neonate. Common variations in pregnancy and neonates are

presented. This course will prepare the student to assume the role of a care provider, and to contribute and support the collaborative responsibility of other healthcare members in meeting the health needs of the pregnant mother with prenatal care and the neonates at birth. Concepts, theories, and research related to health promotion, health maintenance, and prevention of illness and injury of epidemiological significant problems are included. Integration of core and support course content as well as use of critical-thinking and diagnostic reasoning skills will allow for an in-depth focus on assessment, diagnosis, and management of primary healthcare needs. Sixteen hours per week of clinical practicum with a preceptor is required (224 clinical hours).

**NURS 664/Diagnostic Reasoning and Clinical Decision Making
for Neonatal Nurse Practitioner III 3 cr.**

Prerequisites: Graduate Pathophysiology Course; NU 665; NU 666;
NU662; NU663

This is the third of three clinical courses required for the NNP student. This course focuses on the management of the high-risk neonate. This course will prepare the student to assume the role of a care provider, and to contribute and support the collaborative responsibility of other healthcare members in meeting the health needs of the high-risk neonate and family. Concepts, theories, and research related to management of care and prevention of complications, as well as health promotion, health maintenance, and prevention of illness and injury of epidemiological significant problems are included. Integration of core and support course content as well as use of critical-thinking and diagnostic reasoning skills will allow for an in-depth focus on assessment, diagnosis, and management of healthcare needs. Sixteen hours per week of clinical practicum with a preceptor is required (224 clinical hours).

**NURS 665/Comprehensive Assessment for Clinical Decision Making
for the Mother and the Neonate 3 cr.**

This course is designed to refine and expand upon prior health assessment skills, including comprehensive history taking, developmental and psychosocial assessment, and recognition of pathological changes as well as variations of normal. The course stresses the development of clinical decision-making skills, taking into consideration life circumstances and economic, cultural, and developmental variations. Emphasis is placed on taking a detailed problem-based history of the mother, physical assessment of the neonate, and the development of case presentation skills and charting. Students will learn to differentiate, interpret, and document normal and abnormal findings.

**NURS 666/Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics for Neonatal
Nurse Practitioners 3 cr.**

This course is designed to meet the needs of nurses in advanced practice who are eligible for prescriptive privileges. It consists of a comprehensive and clinically pertinent analysis of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of selected agents. Emphasis is placed upon the pharmacotherapeutic agents commonly used in the intensive care nursery, delivery room, and in high-risk follow-up of the neonate. Medication for the pregnant woman with a preexisting condition prior to pregnancy or during pregnancy will also be discussed. Mechanisms of action, bioavailability, adverse effects, toxicities, and cultural, social, and economic aspects of pharmacodynamics will be critically analyzed and used as a foundation for clinical decision-making.