

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF BACCALAUREATE AND GRADUATE NURSING



MSN STUDENT HANDBOOK

2020-2021

## Introduction

This information booklet is for those students entering Eastern Kentucky University's Master of Science in Nursing programs or Post-MSN certificate programs. The booklet is not intended to replace the Graduate Catalog and the University Handbook for Students, but is provided for informational purposes to assist students' entry into the completion of the MSN or Post-MSN programs in nursing. Students should always consult with their Advisor (also referred to as "Assistant Online Coordinator"), Halie Sissle ([Halie.Sissle@eku.edu](mailto:Halie.Sissle@eku.edu)) FNP, Carla Patton ([Carla.Patton@eku.edu](mailto:Carla.Patton@eku.edu)) NAD and DNP, or Lindsey Turner ([Lindsey.Turner@eku.edu](mailto:Lindsey.Turner@eku.edu)) PMHNP, to obtain the latest information, for answers to their particular questions, or clarification on their particular circumstances.

All statements in this handbook are announcements of present policy only and are subject to change without prior notice. Nothing contained in this publication is intended to create nor shall be construed as creating a contract, either expressed or implied, or guarantee for any term or for any specific procedures. The department reserves the right to make changes in its policies, procedures, handbook, academic curricula, informational and printed materials, and all other items whenever needed to fulfill and properly exercise its educational responsibilities and objectives in ensuring a quality educational program.

Revised November 13, 2021

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	i
Preamble .....	1
Philosophy of the Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs .....	2
Mission Statement of the Department of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing .....	5
Advanced Nursing Practice Outcomes.....	5
Professional Standards for MSN Program .....	6
Social Media Policy for DBGN Students.....	7
Admission to the MSN Program.....	7
Graduate School Application Process .....	7
References .....	8
Deadlines for Application Submission .....	9
Selection of Applicants for Admission .....	9
Admission Requirements .....	9
Class Offerings.....	9
Relevant after Admission Information.....	9
Changing Concentrations after Admission .....	9
Delaying Enrollment.....	10
Bookstore Services.....	10
Library Research Assistance & Services .....	10
Information Technology Services.....	10
Contacting the Graduate School and the Department for Information .....	11
Advising and Registration .....	11
Course Descriptions .....	12
Curriculum Plans .....	15
Clinical Practicum Courses .....	22
Required Documentation.....	23
Professional Liability Insurance.....	23
Progression and Completion.....	24
Meeting the Graduate School and Department Requirements .....	24
Grading.....	24
Attendance.....	24
Withdraw from the University .....	25
MSN Progression, Readmission, and Reinstatement Policy .....	26
MSN Program Admission/Progression/Readmission/Reinstatement Committee Assignment .....	27

Student Complaints and Grade Appeals .....	28
Application for Graduation .....	30
Advanced Health Assessment Mastery.....	31
Current Pharmacology .....	31
Evidence-based Projects for APN.....	31
Comprehensive Examination .....	33
Comprehensive Examination Rating for Candidate .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Certification Exam.....	37
Post-MSN Certificate Information .....	38
Application Process.....	38
Deadline for Application Submission .....	38
Application Requirements .....	38
Prerequisites .....	38
Curriculum Plans .....	38
Nursing Administration Post-MSN Certificate Curriculum .....	38
Rural Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Post-MSN Certificate Curriculum.....	40
Rural Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Post-MSN Certificate- Family Curriculum .....	41
Progression Plan for those certified in Adult Psychiatric Mental Health.....	41
Progression Plan for those certified in Child/adolescent Psychiatric Mental Health .....	41
Appendix I .....	44
EKU Academic Integrity Policy .....	44
Appendix II .....	45
Communicable Diseases & Blood-Borne Pathogen Policy.....	45
Latex Sensitivity/Allergy Policy .....	45

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF BACCALAUREATE & GRADUATE NURSING

Preamble

Eastern Kentucky University's Baccalaureate Nursing Program was organized in 1971. In the same year, the Meditation Chapel was dedicated and its influence can be seen in the BSN cap and pin. The program became part of the newly established College of Allied Health and Nursing in 1975. In 1995 the Master of Science in Nursing Program was approved and implemented. In 1999 the college name was changed to the College of Health Sciences.

The beliefs of the faculty and students relevant to nursing and nursing program development are set forth in the statement of philosophy which follows. The philosophy guides the educational program and learning environment, responsibilities and, accountability. The philosophy mandates that faculty, students, and graduates monitor the rapidly changing needs of nursing and society, and adapt philosophically and practically to necessary changes. The precepts to be upheld and expected are communicated through the philosophy.

The Department of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing within the College of Health Sciences functions as an autonomous educational unit deriving the broad outlines of its aims and functions from the statement of purpose of Eastern Kentucky University, which emphasizes its purpose, in order of priority, as teaching, public service, and research. The University accepts its responsibilities to provide intellectual and cultural opportunities, to provide an understanding of humans and their aspirations, to enable effective, efficient communications; and to prepare productive and responsive citizens.<sup>1</sup> The College of Health Sciences philosophy states that identification of human values comes through learning, that each person has the right to define these values and to develop one's capacity to the utmost.<sup>2</sup> The foundations of professional nursing education—the development of intellectual capabilities, the development of interpersonal acumen and understanding and the acquisition of technical skill—are congruent with the responsibilities and purposes of the University and of the College of Health Sciences. Graduate nursing education at the master's level builds on baccalaureate nursing education and reaffirms the philosophies and purposes of Eastern Kentucky University and the College of Health Sciences.

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<sup>1</sup>Eastern Kentucky University Bulletin, Graduate Catalog

<sup>2</sup>Philosophic Statement, College of Health Sciences

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF BACCALAUREATE AND GRADUATE NURSING

Philosophy of the Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs

Consistent with the core value of Eastern Kentucky University and the College of Health Sciences, the faculty of the Department of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing embrace the following beliefs about patients, environment, health, nursing, professional nursing practice, baccalaureate nursing education, and graduate nursing education.

PATIENT

Patients include individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations. Each patient is unique and merits respect, support, and dignity. Patients develop and adapt in recognizable phases and patterns. Patients continually seek meaning and purpose. Through participation in life experiences, patients grow, assume responsibility, and develop across the life span. Patients are holistic beings integrating biological, psychological, socio-cultural, and spiritual dimensions. The term “client” may be used interchangeably with “patient”.

ENVIRONMENT

Environment is the aggregate of all objects, conditions, forces, and ideas that interact with patients. The elements of the environment include the physical, biological, socio-cultural, and organizational systems. A health promoting environment facilitates movement toward wellness.

HEALTH

Health is a dynamic process between the patient and environment. Optimal health includes biological, environmental, psychological, socio-cultural, spiritual, and organizational influences. Health reflects a patient’s ability, willingness, and resources to engage the environment in a manner that maximizes wellness.

NURSING

Nursing is an autonomous and caring profession. Nursing is an art and science that promotes health through patient-centered care. While respecting patients’ rights to self-determination, nursing provides holistic care during health, illness, and death.

## BACCALAUREATE NURSING EDUCATION

Preparation for professional nursing requires the liberal and professional baccalaureate education. Baccalaureate nursing education develops critical thinking, collaboration, and decision-making. Baccalaureate graduates are prepared to function as providers of patient-centered care, designers/managers/coordinators of care, and members of a profession who are proactive in a changing health care system. Baccalaureate graduates must be professional, responsible, and accountable for evidence-based practice.

Baccalaureate nursing education is a transformative process for students and faculty and is a process of reciprocal accountability and responsibility. Teaching is a cooperative, collaborative venture. Students and faculty share responsibility for the integration of experience, knowledge, and skills. Faculty serve as role models and facilitators. Graduates are prepared to pursue lifelong learning, function in a variety of health care settings and delivery models, as well as specialize at the graduate level.

Revision Approved: August 19, 2009

Reviewed & Updated: February 5, 2010

## GRADUATE NURSING EDUCATION

Preparation for advanced nursing roles is obtained through graduate education in nursing. Graduate education in nursing further develops the intellectual skills of critical thinking, analytic inquiry, and problem solving which were initiated in baccalaureate nursing education.

Building upon the foundation laid by baccalaureate education, the faculty recognizes the need for additional knowledge to prepare graduates for specialty practice and for advanced roles. The evaluation of theory and research in nursing and related fields is imperative for graduates to incorporate evidence-based practice into their advanced nursing roles. A higher level of synthesis, analysis, and application of advanced nursing knowledge is essential for performance of advanced nursing roles. The integration of the additional knowledge, theory, and skills is obtained through graduate education in nursing. The graduate develops professional concepts and behaviors in order to function in an advanced role.

Nurses prepared at the graduate level must collaborate with other health disciplines in providing innovative health care delivery. They do so as full partners, sharing the responsibility for delineating society's health goals and developing health care policy. In addition, they function as advocates for the health care consumer who has a right to health care, regardless of social class or ethnic background.

The faculty recognizes the University's rural geographic setting which creates unique health care concerns. The faculty is committed to the education of nurses prepared at the graduate level who will contribute to the general health of the rural population. The educational process at the graduate level is collegial in nature and promotes independent, self-directed learning, and self-evaluation. Students are required to communicate the results of their discovery, analysis, and synthesis of advanced knowledge both orally and in writing to prepare them for their increased responsibility in making contributions to the knowledge base of the discipline of nursing. Graduate education stimulates the learner to a lifetime of personal and professional development. As baccalaureate education serves as the foundation for professional nursing practice and for graduate study in nursing, graduate education in nursing prepares the nurse for more specialized and advanced roles in nursing. Graduate education in nursing prepares nurses to serve as advanced practice nurses, to serve in roles requiring other types of advanced nursing knowledge, and to serve as leaders in the health care system.

Revision Approved 10/23/2009

## Mission Statement of the Department of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing

The mission of the DBGN is congruent with the mission of the college and university: to prepare professional nurses at all levels who work in interprofessional environments to promote health and well-being for diverse populations across the Commonwealth, country and world.

(Revised Spring 2016: approved by Faculty Organization Spring 2016)

## Advanced Nursing Practice Outcomes

Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the synthesis of expert knowledge for advanced nursing practice in diverse populations.
2. Evaluate nursing and interprofessional theory and evidence-based practice for their contributions to advanced nursing practice and professional role development.
3. Provide leadership in the appraisal and improvement of healthcare and healthcare delivery.
4. Use systematic methods to design, implement, and evaluate evidence-based advanced nursing practice.
5. Participate in organizational and political systems to influence healthcare and healthcare delivery.
6. Communicate, collaborate, and consult with clients, nurses, and other professionals to meet healthcare needs of individuals and populations.
7. Actively demonstrate the advanced nursing practice role.
8. Integrate ethical and legal principles into advanced nursing practice.

Revised Fall 2014

## Professional Standards for MSN Program

*The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing*, published in 2011, by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, has been adopted as the professional standard to guide the MSN curriculum content as the three components of master's education in nursing. ECU's MSN program has reviewed the curriculum carefully for consistency with these standards to better ensure a quality master's program. The essential curriculum elements are as follows:

### Graduate Core Curriculum Content

- I. Background for Practice from Sciences and Humanities
- II. Organizational and Systems Leadership
- III. Quality Improvement and Safety
- IV. Translating and Integrating Scholarship and Practice
- V. Informatics and Healthcare Technologies
- VI. Health Policy and Advocacy
- VII. Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient And Population Health Outcome
- VIII. Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving Health
- IX. Master's-Level Nursing Practice

### Advanced Practice Nursing Core Curriculum

- I. Advanced Health/Physical Assessment
- II. Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology
- III. Advanced Pharmacology

### Specialty Curriculum Content

Rural Health Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration: The specialty curriculum content for the FNP concentration uses as its standard *The Criteria for Evaluation of Nursing Practitioner Programs 2016* from the National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education. NONPF's Competencies for Nurse Practitioner Practice and Competencies for the Specialty concentration are used.

Rural Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration: The PMHNP concentration uses as its standard *The Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs 2016* from the National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education. NONPF's Competencies for Nurse Practitioner Practice and Competencies for the Specialty concentrations are used.

**University Of Eastern Kentucky University**  
**College of Health Science**  
**Department of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing**

**Social Media Policy for DBGN Students:**

1. DBGN students must not transmit or place online individually identifiable patient or clinical agency information.
2. DBGN students must observe ethical and professional student-faculty and student-patient boundaries online. Online social media contact with faculty or patients blurs these boundaries, as defined by the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics (2015) and National Council of State Boards of Nursing Social Media Guidelines (2012).
3. DBGN students should understand that patients, colleagues, organizations and employers may view postings.
4. DBGN students must be aware that social networking venues are shared by patients, faculty, colleagues, and the public. Privacy settings should be utilized to separate personal and professional information online.
5. DBGN students should bring content that could harm a patient or student's privacy, rights, or welfare to the attention of appropriate authorities.

**Admission to the MSN Program**

**Graduate School Application Process**

A student seeking admission to the graduate nursing program at Eastern Kentucky University must apply for admission to the Graduate School, <http://gradschool.eku.edu/apply>, indicating the desired concentration. The student is responsible for submitting completed materials to the Graduate School, including the Graduate School Application Form, transcripts of all previous college work (except course work taken at Eastern Kentucky University), and a \$40.00 application fee. Applications for admission to the Graduate School are available from the Graduate School website, <http://gradschool.eku.edu/>.

MSN Professional Statement - A Professional Statement is required for the Department of Baccalaureate & Graduate Nursing **and** the Graduate School. Submit a professional statement that describes the following: (suggested length 500-700 words). The Professional Statement should be submitted to <http://gradschool.eku.edu/apply>. The statement is considered a very important part of your application. Faculty use the statement to evaluate your written communication skills as well as to evaluate the relationship of your career goals to those of the program. In your professional statement, you must describe:

1. the unique role of the advanced practice MSN-prepared nurse in your chosen concentration (PMHNP or FNP).
2. how the specific nursing knowledge and skills you have gained through professional experience will contribute to your success in the MSN program.
3. your reasons or motivations for pursuing an advanced practice degree in your chosen concentration (PMHNP or FNP).
4. your specific plans for life modification in order to successfully meet the class and clinical requirements in a 100% online MSN program.

If you have any questions about the process, contact your Assistant Online Coordinator, Halie Sissle ([Halie.Sissle@eku.edu](mailto:Halie.Sissle@eku.edu)), FNP, ; or Lindsey Turner ([Lindsey.Turner@eku.edu](mailto:Lindsey.Turner@eku.edu)), PMHNP.

### References

Suggestions for references include supervisor/employers, professional contacts such as nurse practitioners, educators, administrators, or public health nurses who are familiar with your professional work experience and whose role is related to your choice of concentration; and faculty members from your most recent academic degree. At least one reference should be from someone in a leadership or supervisory role. References from family members, friends, and social contacts are not considered professional in nature. As part of the application, the email addresses of three references will need to be provided. Upon submission of the application, electronic reference forms will be emailed to the email addresses provided. Please inform individuals submitting references that your application file cannot be completed until these forms are received by the ECU Graduate School.

## Deadlines for Application Submission

Application deadlines are published on the following website, [www.bsn-gn.eku.edu](http://www.bsn-gn.eku.edu) and <http://onlinenursingprograms.eku.edu/>.

## Selection of Applicants for Admission

Attendance in the Graduate School is a privilege, not a right; therefore, an applicant is guaranteed neither admission to nor completion of the program. As a limited number of applicants are accepted for admission, selection will be based on a careful consideration of all admission information and the degree to which each candidate meets the requirements.

## Admission Requirements

Minimum requirements for admission to the program include:

- Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited program
- RN license from an approved state that is free and unencumbered, meaning that it has not been subject to reprimand, revocation, probation, suspension, restriction, limitation, disciplinary action, discretionary review/hearing or encumbrance, nor had any type of complaint filed against it
- MSN-FNP and PMHNP applicants must have a minimum of one year of RN experience by the time their application is submitted
- Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 (4.0 scale) cumulative
- Three-hour graduate or undergraduate course in statistics with a grade of “C” or higher

Admission is competitive and limited to available space. In addition to the above criteria, consideration is also given to the applicant’s professional work experience, the applicant’s goal statement, and three required professional references. Please refer to the Department of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing website at <http://www.onlinenursingprograms.eku.edu> for specific information on the application process for admission and progression plans for study, contact Halie Sissle at 859-622-2517 for the FNP program and Lindsey Turner at 859-622-7927 for PMHNP.

## Class Offerings

Classes are fully online with some synchronous classes utilizing web video conferencing technology. Students are required to have high-speed internet access or be able to travel to a site that does. It is the student’s responsibility to have the following throughout the online program:

- Adequate computer capability and compatibility, including MS Office (2010 or newer)
- High-speed internet connection
- Web camera
- Head set with microphone

## Relevant after Admission Information

### Changing Concentrations after Admission

After admission, should a student desire to change to a different concentration, the student should be aware that admission to one concentration does NOT guarantee admission to the other concentration. The student will need to submit an Application to Change Concentration form. Forms are available from your Advisor. Applications to change concentrations will be reviewed on a competitive basis along with the new applications.

### Delaying Enrollment

Applications for students who do not enroll in the semester for which admission is granted or who withdraw prior to the add/drop date in their first semester course will be held by the Graduate School for one year. After that time students must reapply for admission and submit all new department application material.

### Bookstore Services

Books may be purchased through the “Official” EKU Bookstore in the Keene Johnson Building, Richmond, KY 40475-3102, Telephone: 859-622-2696, Fax: 859-622-2660, Email: [ekubooks@eku.edu](mailto:ekubooks@eku.edu). Website: <http://eku.bncollege.com>

### Library Research Assistance & Services

General library services include: access to over 150 databases, group and individual research assistance, in-person and electronic reference assistant (<http://www.library.eku.edu/ask-us>), discipline-specific subject guides (LibGuides: <http://libguides.eku.edu/nursing>), and assignment-based instruction via classroom or Blackboard.

Upon request, articles, books, and other materials can be delivered to distance students via courier to the regional campuses or mailed to their home, if needed.

**Resnet** offers a variety of information technology resources to support and enrich your personal and academic endeavors. Check out their website at <http://www.resnet.eku.edu/> to get information on purchasing your own computer, getting connected to the EKU network including wireless setup, access to Blackboard (online course materials) and much more.

### Information Technology Services

Every student registered with Eastern Kentucky University has access to a free EKU email address. Students are expected to check their email address on a daily basis as many professors use this resource as a primary contact for online classes. Use this website to activate e-mail account: <https://web4s.eku.edu>. Students complete online course registration using the link as well.

Assistance with account set up and other technology needs is available at the EKU IT Checklist for new students available here: <http://it.eku.edu/support/information-technology-checklist-new-students> .

EKU’s ITDS **Helpdesk**/ serves as the first point of contact for all our computing needs. Call (859) 622-3000 (with phone support 24/7).

## Contacting the Graduate School and the Department for Information

If questions or concerns arise, the Academic Advisor can answer or refer the student to the appropriate person. The telephone number of the Academic Advisor for FNP students is 859-622-2517, Halie Sissle. The telephone number of the Academic Advisor for PMHNP is Lindsey Turner at (859) 622-7927. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm.

If a student needs to contact the Graduate School, the Graduate School staff is available during regular office hours. The telephone number for the Graduate School is (859) 622-1742.

## Advising and Registration

Students register online through the ECU website ([www.ecu.edu](http://www.ecu.edu)). If registration is blocked for any reason, students must contact their Academic Advisor for assistance. A computerized DegreeWorks report is available for graduate students which lists their Academic Advisor. Students must always consult with the Academic Advisor before registering for classes. **In addition, it is very important that students consult with their Academic Advisor if they are planning on deviating from their curriculum progression plan under which they were admitted or if they are experiencing any academic difficulties.**

## Course Descriptions

### NSC = Nursing

**800 Advanced Practice Role.** (1-6) **A.** Advanced practice clinical experience. Students will retake for the minimum number of credit hours required for their specialty concentration.

**830 Advanced Pharmacology.** (3) **A.** Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program or department approval. Application of pharmacotherapeutic principles to the treatment and management of conditions across the life span.

**832 Advanced Health Assessment.** (3) **A.** Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program or department approval. Emphasis is on the advanced skills necessary for Advanced Practice nursing in assessing the health status of clients from across the life span. Diagnostic reasoning and systems approach will be emphasized.

**834 Advanced Pathophysiology.** (3) **A.** Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program or department approval. Application of advanced principles of pathophysiology to the diagnosis and treatment of conditions across the life span.

**838 Topics for Advanced Practice.** (1-6) **A.** Selected topics will be offered as appropriate for enhancement of advanced practice nursing role. May be re-taken under different topics for up to six credit hours.

**840 Theoretical Foundations for EBP.** (3) **A.** Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program or department approval. Provides a basic understanding of the process of theory construction and an appreciation of the role that theory plays in providing a scientific basis for nursing.

**842 Advanced Nursing Practice Issues.** (3) **A.** Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program or department approval. Analysis of professional issues and strategies which can facilitate the development of the nursing profession. Consideration of selected variable influencing the development and resolution of issues.

**870 FNP I.** (3) **A.** Prerequisite: NSC 830, NSC 832, NSC 834, and NSC 840, each with a minimum grade of B. Co-requisite: NSC 800. Course provides theoretical and diagnostic knowledge necessary to confront problems relevant to the health care of individuals across the life span. Emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and management of common health problems.

**872 FNP II.** (3) **A.** Prerequisite: NSC 870, with a minimum grade of B. Co-requisite: NSC 800. Theoretical and diagnostic knowledge necessary to confront problems relevant to the health care of individuals across the life span. Emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and management of common health problems. Builds on NSC 870.

**874 FNP III** (3) **A.** Prerequisite: NSC 872, with a minimum grade of B. Co-requisite: NSC 800. Theoretical and diagnostic knowledge necessary to confront problems relevant to the health care of individuals across the life span. Emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and management of common health problems. Builds on NSC 832.

**876 FNP Internship. (5) A.** Prerequisites: NSC 870, NSC 872, NSC 874, each with a minimum grade of B, and nine hours of NSC 800. Prerequisite/Co-requisite: NSC 842, with a minimum grade of B. Course allows you synthesis of theoretical and diagnostic knowledge in a concentrated rural primary care practicum. Emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and management of common health problems in individuals and families across the life span.

**880 Rural PMHNP I. (2) A.** Prerequisites: NSC 830, NSC 832, NSC 834, and NSC 840 , each with a minimum grade of B. Co-requisite: NSC 800. Prerequisite/Co-requisite: NSC 881, with a minimum grade of B. Theoretical and diagnostic knowledge necessary to diagnose and treat psychiatric disorders across the life span. Competencies in working with individuals are developed.

**881 Applied Psychopharmacology. (2) A.** Prerequisite: NSC 830, NSC 832, and NSC 834, each with a minimum grade of B. Applies theoretical and diagnostic knowledge related to prescribing psychopharmacological treatment of psychiatric disorders across the life span.

**882 Rural PMHNP II. (2) A.** Prerequisite: NSC 880 and 881, each with a minimum grade of B. Co-requisite: NSC 800. Theoretical and diagnostic knowledge used to treat psychiatric disorders across the life span. Competencies in working with families are developed.

**NSC 883 Rural PMHNP Child Adolescent. (3). A.** Prerequisite: NSC 830, NSC 832, NSC 834, and NSC 881. Current certification as an Adult PMHNP/CS. Co-requisite: NSC 800. Applies theoretical and diagnostic knowledge related to treatment of psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents.

**884 Rural PMHNP III. (3) A.** Prerequisite: NSC 882, with a minimum grade of B. Co-requisite: NSC 800. Theoretical and diagnostic knowledge necessary to diagnose and treat psychiatric disorders across the life span. Group skills, community resources and the context of professional practice are examined.

**886 Rural PMHNP Internship. (6) A.** Prerequisite: NSC 884, with a minimum grade of B, and seven hours of NSC 800. Prerequisite/Co-requisite: NSC 842, with a minimum grade of B. Synthesis of theoretical and diagnostic knowledge to promote mental health, maintain mental health, and prevent mental illness across the life span. Systematically examines opportunities for improving PMHNP practice.

**890 Synthesizing Evidence for ANP. (3) A.** Prerequisites: NSC 840, with a minimum grade of B. Analysis and critical evaluation of nursing and related research with emphasis on designs and methods appropriate for rural health nursing phenomena.

**892 Evidence-based Project for ANP. (3) A.** Prerequisite: NSC 890, with a minimum grade of B. Completion of a research project in an area of interest related to Rural Health Nursing with culminates in a written report.

**895 Independent Study. (1-6) A.** May be retaken under different subtopics to a cumulative maximum of six hours. Student must have the independent study proposal form approved by faculty supervisor and department chair prior to enrollment.

**MPH 855 Epidemiology & Risk Management.** (3) **A.** Formerly HEA 855. A study of distribution and determinants of disease and injury. Research methodologies for human research, assessment and management of risk disease surveillance techniques will be emphasized.

Curriculum Plans

Eastern Kentucky University  
 Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration  
 Fall Start Plan (Read Plan Left to Right)

Fall A	Fall B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer	
NSC 840 Theoretical Foundations for EBP (3 credit hours)	MPH 855 Epidemiology and Risk Management (3 credit hours)	NSC 842 Advanced Practice Nursing Issues (3 credit hours)	NSC 890 Synthesizing Evidence for ANP (3 credit hours)	NSC 834 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 hours)  NSC 892 Evidence-based Project for ANP (3 credit hours)	
NSC 830 Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 832 Advanced Health Assessment (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 870 Rural Health FNP I (3 credit hours)  NSC 800 (2 credit hours) over 16 weeks	NSC 872 Rural Health FNP II (3 credit hours)	*NSC 800 (3 credit hours) over 12 weeks	
NSC 874 Rural Health FNP III (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 800 (4 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 876 Rural Health FNP Internship (5 credit hours) over 16 weeks			

\*Need total of 9 hours of NSC 800

\*\*Professional Liability Insurance is required for clinical practicum courses.

Eastern Kentucky University  
 Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration  
 Spring Start Plan

Fall A	Fall B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer	
		NSC 840 Theoretical Foundations for EBP (3 credit hours)	NSC 890 Synthesizing Evidence for ANP (3 credit hours)	NSC 834 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)  NSC 892 Evidence-based Project for ANP (3 credit hours) (8 weeks)	
NSC 830 Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 832 Advanced Health Assessment (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 870 Rural Health FNP I (3 credit hours hours)  NSC 800 (2 credit hours) over 16 weeks	NSC 872 Rural Health FNP II (3 credit hours)	*NSC 800 (3 credit hours) over 12 weeks  MPH 855 Epidemiology and Risk Management (3 credit hours)	
NSC 874 Rural Health FNP III (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 800 (4 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 842 Advanced Practice Nursing Issues (3 credit hours)  NSC 876 Rural Health FNP Internship (5 credit hours) over 16 weeks			

\*Need total of 9 hours of NSC 800

\*\*Professional Liability Insurance is required for clinical practicum courses.

Eastern Kentucky University  
 Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration  
 Summer Start Plan

Fall A	Fall B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer	
				NSC 834 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)	
NSC 840 Theoretical Foundations for EBP (3 credit hours)	MPH 855 Epidemiology and Risk Management (3 credit hours)	NSC 842 Advanced Practice Nursing Issues (3 credit hours)	NSC 890 Synthesizing Evidence for ANP (3 credit hours)	NSC 892 Evidence-based Project for ANP (3 credit hours) over 8 weeks	
NSC 830 Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 832 Advanced Health Assessment (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 870 Rural Health FNP I (3 credit hours)  NSC 800 (2 credit hours) over 16 weeks	NSC 872 Rural Health FNP II (3 credit hours)	*NSC 800 (3 credit hours) over 12 weeks	
NSC 874 Rural Health FNP III (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  *NSC 800 (4 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 876 Rural Health FNP Internship (5 credit hours) over 16 weeks			

\*Need total of 9 hours of NSC 800

\*\*Professional Liability Insurance is required for clinical practicum courses.

Eastern Kentucky University  
 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Curriculum Plan  
 Fall Start Plan (Read Plan Left to Right)

Fall A	Fall B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer
NSC 840- Theoretical Foundations for EBP (3 credit hours)	MPH 855- Epidemiology and Risk Management (3 credit hours)	NSC 842- Advanced Practice Nursing Issues (3 credit hours)	NSC 890 Synthesizing Evidence for ANP (3 credit hours)	NSC 834- Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)  NSC 892- Evidence- based Project for ANP (3 credit hours)
NSC 830- Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 832 Advanced Health Assessment (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 880- Rural PMHNP I (2 credit hours)  NSC 800- Advanced Practice ( 2 credit hours) over 16 weeks	NSC 881- Applied Psychopharmacology (2 credit hours)	NSC 882- Rural PMHNP II (2 credit hours)  NSC 800- Advanced Practice (2 credit hours)
NSC 884- Rural PMHNP III (3 credit hours)  NSC 800- Advanced Practice (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 886- Rural PMHNP Internship (6 credit hours) over 16 weeks		

\*\*Professional Liability Insurance is required for clinical practicum courses.

Eastern Kentucky University  
 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Curriculum Plan  
 Spring Start Plan (Read Plan Left to Right)

Fall A	Fall B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer
		NSC 840- Theoretical Foundations for EBP (3 credit hours)	NSC 890- Synthesizing Evidence for ANP (3 credit hours)	NSC 834- Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)  NSC 892- Evidence-based Project for ANP (3 credit hours)
NSC 830- Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 832 Advanced Health Assessment (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 880- Rural PMHNP I (2 credit hours)  NSC 800 Advanced Practice ( 2 credit hours) over 16 weeks	NSC 881- Applied Psychopharmacology (2 credit hours)	NSC 882- Rural PMHNP II (2 credit hours)  NSC 800- Advanced Practice (2 credit hours)
NSC 884- Rural PMHNP III (3 credit hours)  NSC 800- Advanced Practice (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI	MPH 855- Epidemiology and Risk Management (3 credit hours)	NSC 886- Rural PMHNP Internship (6 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 842 - Advanced Practice Nursing Issues (3 credit hours)		

\*\*Professional Liability Insurance is required for clinical practicum courses.

Eastern Kentucky University  
 Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Curriculum Plan  
 Summer Start Plan (Read Plan Left to Right)

Fall A	Fall B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer
				NSC 834- Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NSC 840- Theoretical Foundations for EBP (3 credit hours)	MPH 855- Epidemiology and Risk Management (3 credit hours)	NSC 842- Advanced Practice Nursing Issues (3 credit hours)	NSC 890- Synthesizing Evidence for ANP (3 credit hours)	NSC 892- Evidence-based Project for ANP (3 credit hours)
NSC 830- Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 832 Advanced Health Assessment (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 880- Rural PMHNP I (2 credit hours)  NSC 800- Advanced Practice ( 2 credit hours) over 16 weeks	NSC 881- Applied Psychopharmacology (2 credit hours)	NSC 882- Rural PMHNP II (2 credit hours)  NSC 800- Advanced Practice ( 2 credit hours)
NSC 884- Rural PMHNP III (3 credit hours)  NSC 800- Advanced Practice (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 886- Rural PMHNP Internship (6 credit hours) over 16 weeks		

\*\*Professional Liability Insurance is required for clinical practicum courses

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

**CORE REQUIRED OF ALL STUDENTS**

NSC 840 –Theoretical Foundations for EBP	3 hours
NSC 842 – Advanced Nursing Practice Issues	3 hours
*NSC 890 – Synthesizing Evidence for ANP	3 hours
NSC 892 – Evidence-based Project for ANP	3 hours
MPH 855 – Epidemiology and Risk Management	<u>3 hours</u>
	<b>15 hours</b>

**PLUS**

**RURAL HEALTH FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER CONCENTRATION**

NSC 830 – Advanced Pharmacology	3 hours
NSC 832 – Advanced Health Assessment	3 hours
NSC 834 – Advanced Pathophysiology	<u>3 hours</u>
	<b>9 hours</b>

Practicum Courses

NSC 870 – Rural Health FNP I	3 hours
NSC 872 – Rural Health FNP II	3 hours
NSC 874 – Rural Health FNP III	3 hours
NSC 876 – Rural Health FNP Internship	<u>5 hours</u>

In addition, must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours of NSC 800 (section for FNP) to meet clinical clock hour requirement **14 hours**

**Total Hours** **38 hours**

**Plus 9 hours of NSC 800**

**OR**

**RURAL PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER CONCENTRATION**

NSC 830 – Advanced Pharmacology	3 hours
NSC 832 – Advanced Health Assessment	3 hours
NSC 834 – Advanced Pathophysiology	<u>3 hours</u>
	<b>9 hours</b>

Practicum Courses

NSC 880 – Rural PMHNP I	2 hours
NSC 881 – Applied Psychopharmacology	2 hours
NSC 882 – Rural PMHNP II	2 hours
NSC 884 – Rural PMHNP III	3 hours
NSC 886 – Rural PMHNP Internship	<u>6 hours</u>

In addition, must complete a minimum of 7 hours of NSC 800 (section of PMHNP) to meet clinical clock hour requirement **15 hours**

**Total Hours** **39 hours**

**Plus 7 hours of NSC 800**

**NOTE: \*Three hours of graduate or undergraduate statistics is an admission requirement and is a prerequisite to NSC 890.**

## Clinical Practicum Courses

The didactic courses for the Rural Health Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration are NSC 870, NSC 872, and NSC 874 and have a total of nine credit hours of NSC 800. The clinical practicum FNP Internship course, NSC 876, provides the remainder of the clinical hours in a clinical internship experience.

The didactic courses for the Rural Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration are NSC 880, NSC 881, NSC 882, and NSC 884 and have a total of 7 credit hours of NSC 800. The clinical practicum PMHNP Internship course, NSC 886, provides the remainder of the clinical hours in an intensive clinical internship experience.

For the practitioner concentrations, students should be aware that extensive clinical practice hours are required for completion of the program and preparation for the certification examination. Students should carefully consider the number of clinical practice hours as well as the credit hours when requesting concentrations. Students should also consider these issues when making decisions or employment status. Students should note that the required documentation (please refer to that section for details) must be presented each semester of enrollment before students can participate in clinical practice experiences.

## Required Documentation

Students are required to provide consent and their information for enrollment in Nursys® e-Notify (license monitoring system) upon admission. Student must keep current, the documentation listed below when enrolling in the following courses: Rural Health Family Nurse Practitioner students: NSC 800, NSC 876; Rural Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner students: NSC 800, NSC 886; Nursing Administration students: NSC 802, NSC 860, NSC 862.

1. Current and unencumbered Registered Nurse license for all states in which student is licensed.
2. Professional Liability Insurance purchased through Eastern Kentucky University.
3. Other documentation and/or requirements as specific to the clinical site.
4. Clinical contract and preceptor information form.
5. Clinical Waiver form
6. Telehealth Checklist for Rural Health Family Nurse Practitioner students enrolled in NSC 800 and NSC 876.

If, at any point, any license is subject to reprimand, revocation, probation, suspension, restriction, limitation, disciplinary action, discretionary review/hearing or encumbrance or has any type of complaint filed against the license, student are required to immediately notify their academic advisor and Clinical Coordinator.

## Professional Liability Insurance

Professional Liability insurance for all concentrations must be purchased through Eastern Kentucky University. The time period for coverage is August 15-August 14; no pro-rating for partial year coverage is possible. The liability insurance purchased through the University is paid for with the tuition and fees; a copy of the receipt must be shown to faculty before students can participate in clinical experiences. The student must register for the liability insurance, using the appropriate CRN number, only one time for the August 15-August 14 period; the student will then be covered for the entire period. The insurance covers only clinical experiences which are part of scheduled classes, and the insurance will no longer be in effect if the student withdraws from school or graduates.

**NOTE: ADDRESS ALL QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW TO SUBMIT REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TO YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR.**

## Progression and Completion

### Time Limit on Completion

The Graduate School has policies regarding the total length of time a student may take from the first to the last class. See the *Graduate Catalog* for specific details. The department may place other restrictions on the time limit for program completion to promote currency and competency of graduate nursing students who are sitting for national certification examinations. Please refer to the MSN Program Progression, Readmission, and Reinstatement Policy section for more complete information.

## Meeting the Graduate School and Department Requirements

Advisors in the department will work closely with students to facilitate meeting of requirements by both the department and the Graduate School. However, it is the student's responsibility to be knowledgeable of policies and deadlines and to ensure that they are in compliance.

Students should note carefully the required dates for submitting and filing materials, or their progression and graduation from the program may be delayed. The required dates and materials are published in the *Graduate Catalog*. Students should become familiar with the requirements and discuss them with their advisors.

## Grading

The grading scale is given in each MSN required course syllabus. A minimum of a B is required in all of these courses. Please refer to course syllabi and the *Graduate Catalog* for information on grading. The Department of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing's policy prohibits grades from being rounded up.

## Attendance

Evidence supports students who regularly participate in class are more likely to succeed. Regular class, clinical, and lab attendance is expected of all students in order to meet the objectives of the program and legal requirements for licensure. The Attendance Policy of the Department of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing is consistent with Eastern Kentucky University Regulation 4.1.6R. Please refer to this Regulation for examples of excusable reasons for absence and for more complete information on compliance with this regulation ([http://policies.eku.edu/sites/policies.eku.edu/files/policies/4.1.6\\_student\\_absence\\_adopted\\_12.1.14.pdf](http://policies.eku.edu/sites/policies.eku.edu/files/policies/4.1.6_student_absence_adopted_12.1.14.pdf)).

Consistent with this regulation, students should be prepared to provide appropriate verification of any absence. Students who are unable to resolve an absence issue with the instructor may appeal to the Department Chair. The Department Chair's decision is final.

Online students must proactively demonstrate connection, communication, and/or some other tangible participation during the first week of classes— per the course syllabus. If a student does not perform the required participation during the 1st week of class - that student will be dropped from the class.

Synchronous Video Conferencing Course Session attendance is expected of all students. The student should also refer to the course syllabus for more specific requirements.

Regular attendance for scheduled clinical practicum experiences is required of all students. If it is necessary to be absent for adequate reasons (see definition above), the clinical instructor (preceptor) and clinical faculty must be notified no later than one hour before the clinical experience is scheduled. Failure to do so could result in failure of the clinical component of the course. Students missing more than two clinical experiences will be subject to failure at the discretion of the individual clinical instructor. Tardiness to the clinical area is also unacceptable. A pattern of tardiness could result in failure in the clinical component.

### Withdraw from the University

A withdrawal is granted only through midpoint of a course. See the [Colonel's Compass](#) for the exact date. Students who withdraw after the designated time will receive a "W" on their transcript. A student who leaves the University without officially withdrawing is subject to receive a grade of F. A graduate student who must withdraw after the above stated time period and is the victim of EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES may petition for administrative withdrawal from the University. See the Graduate Catalog for specific deadlines and directions for this procedure. Students who withdraw from the program are not guaranteed a place in the program at a later time. Please refer to the *MSN Progression, Readmission, and Reinstatement Policy* for more information.

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF BACCALAUREATE & GRADUATE NURSING

MSN Progression, Readmission, and Reinstatement Policy

**MSN Course Progression**

To progress in the program, MSN students must achieve a grade of B or higher in all MSN required courses and a satisfactory grade in all practicum or internship courses.

A student who achieves less than a B or an Unsatisfactory will be immediately dismissed from all MSN required courses and the MSN program.

**Process for MSN Readmission or Reinstatement**

- A. Students who fail to achieve the required grade in a MSN required course must apply in writing to the MSN Admission/Progression/Readmission/Reinstatement Committee by filing the *MSN Application for Readmission/Reinstatement* before taking any more MSN-required courses. It is the student's responsibility to file a readmission application at the end of the course in which an unsatisfactory grade is achieved. The application should be filed 60 days prior to the start of the term/semester in which the student is seeking readmission. Readmission is not guaranteed; the decision regarding readmission and progression in the program is based on the recommendation of the MSN Admission/Progression/Readmission/Reinstatement Committee. Based on the individual's curriculum plan there may be up to a year delay before they may re-enroll in a class. The department may place other restrictions on course progression for program completion to promote current knowledge and competency of graduate nursing students who are sitting for national certification examinations. The semester to which a student is readmitted must be within two years of the student's last enrollment.
- B. **Withdrawal from the MSN Program**  
Students who withdraw from a MSN course are considered to be withdrawn from the MSN program and must reapply for admission by filing the *MSN Application for Readmission/Reinstatement*. Students must apply 60 days prior to the semester starting in which they want to attend. The decision to readmit or reinstate the student will be based on factors such as the circumstances surrounding the withdrawal from the program, the student's standing at the time of withdrawal, the time period from the withdrawal until return to the program is requested, and spaces available in the program at the time the student would re-enter the program.
- C. **Time limit on readmission to the MSN program**  
The Graduate School requires that the master's degree must be completed within 7 years. If a student who has been taking courses in the program and withdraws or fails, they may apply to the MSN program if they will complete the program within the 7 year time frame. However, a student who cannot be readmitted and complete the program within the 7 year time limit will have to reapply to the Graduate School and the MSN program as a new applicant.
- D. **Reinstatement after Removal for Unsafe Practice or Unprofessional Conduct:**  
Unsafe practice is defined as any circumstance or set of circumstances which could potentially cause harm to the client served. Unprofessional conduct is defined as conduct that violates the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses. Students deemed unsafe or unprofessional in the clinical setting and removed from the clinical areas will receive an

unsatisfactory grade in the clinical course and will be immediately dismissed from all MSN required courses and the MSN program.

Students seeking reinstatement into the program must apply in writing to the MSN Admission/Progression/Readmission/Reinstatement Committee by filing the *MSN Application for Readmission/Reinstatement*. Students must apply 60 days prior to the semester starting in which they want to attend.

The decision regarding reinstatement after receiving an unsafe or unprofessional practice practice evaluation is based on the recommendation of the MSN Admission/Progression/Readmission/Reinstatement Committee.

### MSN Program Admission/Progression/Readmission/Reinstatement Committee Assignment

#### A. Purpose

The purpose of the MSN Admission/Progression/Readmission/Reinstatement Committee is to promote quality of the program, to ensure safety of clients, and to assist the student with entry into and progression within the MSN program.

#### B. Committee Composition

The committee will be appointed by the Department Chair and will be composed of members of the department's Graduate Committee representing all program concentrations.

#### C. Meeting of Committee

When an application for readmission or progression is received within the dates specified in the policy, the committee will meet before the start of classes for the next term.

#### D. When students will be notified

Students applying for readmission or reinstatement will be notified within ten (10) business days following the meeting. Notification will be sent to the student's EKU student email address

#### E. Appeal of Decision

If a student elects to appeal the decision regarding progression, readmission, or reinstatement, the appeal must be made **in writing** in the following sequence:

1. Chair, MSN Admission/Progression/Readmission/Reinstatement Committee
2. Chair, Department of Baccalaureate & Graduate Nursing
3. Dean, College of Health Sciences
4. Graduate School

Approved by Graduate Committee of the Department of Baccalaureate & Graduate Nursing.

March 3, 2000; revision approved February 6, 2004.

Approved by the College of Health Sciences Admission/Readmission Committee, April 6, 2000; revision approved March 18, 2004.

Approved by the Graduate Council April 2, 2000; revision approved by Graduate Council April 14, 2004.

Approved by the Council on Academic Affairs May 20, 2004. (Minor curriculum information completed March 2006).

Curriculum changes approved by Council of Academic Affairs Spring 2009 and editorial changes completed to reflect curriculum changes.

Revision approved by the Graduate Committee of the Department of Baccalaureate & Graduate Nursing, December 3, 2015.

## Student Complaints and Grade Appeals

Students who believe they have not been treated appropriately by any university official may file a complaint or grievance following the procedures listed in the *EKU Student Handbook*. **Please note that grade appeal and readmission appeals follow a separate policy and process.** If the complaint involves an academic affairs area, it is noted in the *EKU Student Handbook* as follows:

### “Academic Affairs Area

Complaints involving a particular class or instructor should be communicated to the instructor or faculty member directly involved. If a resolution is not reached, a complaint or grievance should be filed, in writing, with the Department Chair of the class where you are having a problem. If you are not satisfied with the Department Chair’s explanation, the final appeal of the complaint or grievance procedure should be made in writing to the Provost or Vice President for Academic Affairs, Coates Room 108.”

Complaints involving other areas than Academic Affairs should follow the procedures in the *EKU Student Handbook*. Any concerns involving discrimination or harassment should be directed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Jones Building, Room 106. Complete information is given in the *EKU Student Handbook*.

If the concern is related to a **grade appeal**, those policies should be followed specifically. The policy for appeal of a grade is given the ECU Policy 4.1.15P and in the *EKU Student Handbook* as follows, for additional information specific to the Department of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing see:

[http://policies.eku.edu/sites/policies.eku.edu/files/policies/4.1.15\\_grade\\_appeals1.pdf](http://policies.eku.edu/sites/policies.eku.edu/files/policies/4.1.15_grade_appeals1.pdf)

### “Grade Appeal

If a student wishes to appeal a course grade, the procedure below should be followed:

- The student should consult with the instructor, seeking a satisfactory explanation. **\*In the Department of Baccalaureate & Graduate Nursing, if the instructor is not the coordinator of the course, the student should also consult with the course coordinator.**
- If, after consulting with the instructor, the student believes that a grievance exists, the student may present a complaint in writing outlining the basis of the grievance to the department chair within 30 days after the beginning of the next semester, exclusive of summer session.
- The department chair shall consider the matter in consultation with the instructor and the student and exercise influence towards mediation.
- If the grievance remains unsettled, the department chair shall as soon as practicable refer the matter to the departmental committee on academic practices composed of the department chair, two members of the department elected by the faculty thereof (with one alternate member to serve in the event that one of the regular members is the person against whom the

complaint has been lodged), and one student member chosen by the department chair. All members of the committee shall have voting privileges.

- Meetings of the departmental academic practices committee shall be scheduled at a mutually agreed upon time, when all relevant parties can reasonably be expected to participate. A student who has agreed to a time for a meeting of the departmental academic practices committee and who does not appear at that meeting may forfeit the right to present evidence beyond that furnished in the original letter of appeal.
- After considering the evidence and any rebuttals submitted by the student and/or the instructor, the committee shall make a decision which shall be binding. All parties shall be informed of this decision within ten working days.
- Appeals from the committee's decision may be made on procedural grounds only and must be made within 20 days following notification of the departmental committee decision. Such an appeal should be made to the dean of the college in which the course is offered and, if necessary, then to the Provost and the Vice-President for Academic Affairs."

As noted above, appeals to the committee's decision can be made on procedural grounds only. Procedural violations would be a deviation from the above listed procedures. An example would be if the meeting was not scheduled at a mutually agreed upon time when all relevant parties could reasonably be expected to participate.

## Application for Graduation

The Graduate School will send directions regarding applying for graduation. Applications are available online. If the student applies for graduation and then does not complete requirements by the anticipated date, the date can be changed by contacting the Graduate School. A student planning to graduate in May should apply at the beginning of the preceding fall semester and pay applicable fees.

To be considered a candidate for graduation, students must have an overall and a program GPA of 3.0 or higher at the beginning of the semester in which they are to graduate.

## Advanced Health Assessment Mastery

Rural Health Family Nurse Practitioner and Rural Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner MSN students, regardless of academic status, must achieve mastery of advanced health assessment and diagnostic reasoning in the semester immediately prior to enrolling or re-enrolling in the first clinical course of the curriculum (NSC 800). For post-MSN certificate students, the need for demonstration of mastery of health assessment and diagnostic reasoning competency will be evaluated on an individual basis.

It is the responsibility of readmitted students and identified post-MSN certificate students to meet this requirement in the Fall semester before the first clinical course. If a readmitted MSN or post-MSN certificate student is required to but does not successfully demonstrate mastery of advanced health assessment and diagnostic reasoning, remediation will be required. Following remediation, a second attempt will be offered. If a student is unable to demonstrate mastery after remediation, the student may not enter or re-enter the first clinical course and if applicable, will be immediately dismissed from all MSN required courses and the MSN program.

## Current Pharmacology

For Post-MSN Certification students who have current NP certification in another population focus or have taken another pharmacology course, the decision to repeat the pharmacology course will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

## Evidence-based Projects for APN

NSC 892 is a 3 credit hour scholarly endeavor that is reflective of the process of identifying, analyzing, developing and providing an evidenced-based solution to a rural health nursing problem appropriate for the concentration in which the student is enrolled. Graduate nursing students must select a project for NSC 892 that synthesizes evidence from existing literature into a logically structured intervention addressing a rural health problem. The goal of this class is to provide graduate students with the opportunity to use a reflective/critical process of thinking, integrate multiple ways of knowing, and demonstrate scholarly inquiry grounded in nursing practice.

NSC 892 is the second course in the evidence-based practice series of the MSN program. The first course, NSC 890, presents the theoretical foundation for research and use of research in practice. NSC 892 provides for development of an approved and implementable evidence-based practice project and establishes the bridge to integrate research into practice. Ideas for projects evolve from the practice of nursing and are clearly grounded in nursing knowledge. The project must include use of information systems to retrieve scholarly literature, a critical analysis of the literature, and incorporate a relevant conceptual framework. The critical analysis of literature must culminate in a proposed project and include implications for nursing practice, education, research, and suggestions for further research. Students are encouraged to build upon a topic initiated in NSC 890, but must show separate and substantial work for the NSC 892 course.

Each student works closely with an assigned faculty member to develop an intervention project implementable in a specified clinical setting. The project plan outcome will be decided upon by the course faculty and student in collaboration with faculty of the concentration in which the student is enrolled (FNP, Nursing Admin, PMHNP). At the end of the project, a completed proposal is graded by the

course faculty. All student intervention projects are unique; however, time lines are designated within the course for completion of each phase of the project. Students are expected to adhere to the course timeline and submit the project proposal by the established due date.

## Comprehensive Examination

All MSN candidates for graduation must perform satisfactorily on the oral examination on the contents of their program of studies. Comprehensive examinations are scheduled after registration for comprehensive exams, and evidence exists the student should complete degree requirements. The comprehensive exams for the Nursing Administration students are given during NSC 860 or at the beginning of NSC 862, depending upon how much of the curriculum has been completed. For Nurse Practitioner students, the comprehensive examinations are usually given in the semester in which they are enrolled in the third clinical practicum NSC 800 III. The student's committee will administer the oral comprehensive examination. The committee chair must certify the results of the completion of the comprehensive examination to the Graduate School no later than ten days in advance of commencement.

If a student fails a comprehensive examination, a review period of not less than 60 days and not more than one year is required before a retake can be attempted. A remediation plan will be developed between the committee chair and the student which addresses all academic deficiencies identified in the exam. Committee changes are not usually approved between the time an examination is failed and the retake. Comprehensive examinations may **not be** retaken more than once. *Please refer to the Graduate Catalog for the complete policy on Comprehensive Examinations.*

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY  
 COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
 DEPARTMENT OF BACCALAUREATE & GRADUATE NURSING  
 COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION RATING FOR CANDIDATE  
 Committee Summary Rating

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the extent to which the candidate showed evidence of the ability to:	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Unsatisfactory
1. Demonstrate the synthesis of expert knowledge for advanced nursing practice in diverse populations	3	2	1	0
2. Evaluate nursing and interprofessional theory and evidence-based practice for their contributions to advanced nursing practice and professional role development.	3	2	1	0
3. Provide leadership in the appraisal and improvement of healthcare and healthcare delivery.	3	2	1	0
4. Use systematic methods to design, implement, and evaluate evidence-based advanced nursing practice.	3	2	1	0
5. Participate in organizational and political systems to influence healthcare and healthcare delivery.	3	2	1	0
6. Communicate, collaborate, and consult with clients, nurses, other professionals to meet healthcare needs of individuals and populations.	3	2	1	0
7. Actively demonstrate the advance nursing practice role.	3	2	1	0
8. Integrate ethical and legal principles into advanced nursing practice	3	2	1	0

STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES OBSERVED:

COMMENTS:

Candidate's Rating (Average Overall Score on the Eight Items):  
Scale 24 to 8

\_\_\_\_ Excellent (20-24) \_\_\_\_\_ Above Average (15-19) \_\_\_\_ Average (8-14) \_\_\_\_\_ Unsatisfactory/failed (<8.0)

If candidate failed, state committee recommendations:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member signature

## DETERMINANTS OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAM RATINGS

### 3) Excellent:

- Student's response is comprehensive, as evidenced by:
  - Synthesizes previously learned material by integrating practice examples, references, theory, and evidence-based practice to the advanced practice nursing role.
  - Elaboration does not require faculty prompting.

### 2) Above Average:

- Student's response is thorough, as evidenced by:
  - Translation of previously learned material through application of practice examples, references, theory, and evidence-based practice includes a more limited analysis.
  - Elaboration may require minimal faculty prompting.

### 1) Average:

- Student's response is knowledge based, as evidenced by:
  - Exhibits previously learned material by recalling facts, terms, basic concepts and answers.
  - Responses offer minimal support with practice examples, appropriate references, theory, and evidence-based practice for the advanced practice nursing role.
  - Elaboration requires faculty prompting.

### 0) Unsatisfactory:

- Student's response is below average, as evidenced by:
  - Response includes minimal critical elements or is inaccurate.
  - Demonstrates limited recall of facts, terms, and basic concepts.
  - Examples and support are vague or inaccurately applied.
  - Provides inadequate support for responses with appropriate practice examples, references, theory, or evidence-based practice for the advanced practice nursing role.
  - Elaboration requires extensive faculty prompting.

ONE UNSATISFACTORY RATING ON THE EIGHT DETERMINANTS WILL CONSTITUTE FAILURE OF THE EXAM!

## Certification Exam

Graduates who successfully complete the requirements for the Master of Science in Nursing degree or Post-MSN Certificate may apply to sit for the national certification examination for their Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Practitioner (APRN) specialty area of preparation. A graduate who is successful on an approved certification examination and who meets their Board of Nursing requirements may also apply for registration as an APRN. Specific requirements for the certification examinations are listed in the information and application booklets provided by the agencies and on the agencies' websites. Students should visit the Board of Nursing's web site for their state or call the Board of Nursing for specific information on licensure and registration.

## Post-MSN Certificate Information

The University offers a Post-Master's Certificate in a second nursing specialty or role for nurses who have completed a master of sciences in nursing degree. Students applying to or enrolled in the Post-MSN Certificate will plan to comply with all the policies of the Master's program with the following modifications:

### Application Process

Individuals desiring a Post-MSN Certificate complete the same application process as listed above for MSN students, with the following exceptions: on the Graduate School application, <http://gradschool.eku.edu/apply>, the prospective student should check certification rather than indicating intention to enroll in a degree program.

### Deadline for Application Submission

Dates are published on the following website, ECU's online website, <http://ekuonline.eku.edu/>.

### Application Requirements

Minimum requirements for application to the Post-MSN Certificate program include but are not limited to: 1) a master of science in nursing degree from a nationally accredited program, 2) RN license from an approved state that is current and unencumbered, meaning that it has not been subject to reprimand, revocation, probation, suspension, restriction, limitation, disciplinary action, discretionary review/hearing or encumbrance nor had any type of complaint filed against it. 3) MSN-FNP and PMHNP applicants must have a minimum of one year of RN experience by the time their application is submitted. 4) If applicable, APRN license from an approved state that is free and encumbered, meaning that it has not been subject to reprimand, revocation, probation, suspension, restriction, limitation, disciplinary action, discretionary review/hearing or encumbrance nor had any type of complaint filed against it. Post-MSN Certificate applicants must also submit the above listed application materials listed for MSN Application.

### Prerequisites

Prior to beginning the nurse practitioner clinical and core courses, students must complete the following courses with a minimum grade of a B: NSC 830 (Advanced Pharmacology), NSC 832 (Advanced Health Assessment), and NSC 834 (Advanced Pathophysiology) or equivalent courses.

Contact the Graduate Program Coordinators about equivalency of courses taken elsewhere or about enrollment in the courses at Eastern Kentucky. Additionally, all nurse practitioner students are required to demonstrate mastery of advanced physical assessment and diagnostic reasoning in the semester immediately prior to enrolling in the nurse practitioner course and clinical sequence (NSC 870, NSC 880, and NSC 800).

For Post-MSN Certificate students who have current NP certification in another population focus, mastery of health assessment and diagnostic reasoning competency and pharmacology will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

### Curriculum Plans

#### Nursing Administration Post-MSN Certificate Curriculum

NSC 854 Management of Health Care	3
NSC 856 Nursing Resource Management	3

NSC 858 Nursing System Quality Management	3
NSC 860 Nursing Administration Practicum	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

**Progression Plan**

<b>Fall A</b>	<b>Fall B</b>	<b>Spring A</b>	<b>Spring B</b>	<b>Summer</b>
	NSC 854 – Management of Health Care (3 credit hours)		NSC 856 – Nursing Resource Management (3 credit hours)	NSC 858 – Nursing System Quality Management (3 credit hours)
NSC 860 – Nursing Administration Practicum (3 credit hours)(16 weeks) **PLI				

\*\*Professional Liability Insurance is required for clinical practicum courses

**Eastern Kentucky University**  
**Rural Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Post-MSN Certificate Curriculum**  
**(Read from left to right)**

<b>Curriculum Prerequisites</b>	<b>Credit hours</b>
NSC 834 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NSC 832 Advanced Health Assessment	3
NSC 830 Advanced Pharmacology	3
<b>PLUS</b>	
NSC 880 PMHNP I	2
NSC 881 Psychopharmacology	2
NSC 882 PMHNP II	2
NSC 884 PMHNP III	3
NSC 886 PMHNP Internship	6
NSC 800 Concurrent enrollment 7	
NSC 880, 882, 884 for total of	
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

Fall A	Fall B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer
				NSC 834-Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
NSC 830-Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 832-Advanced Health Assessment (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 880-Rural PMHNP I (2 credit hours)  NSC 800 Advanced Practice (2 credit hours) over 16 weeks	NSC 881-Applied Psychopharmacology (2 credit hours)	NSC 882-Rural PMHNP II (2 credit hours)  NSC 800-Advanced Practice (2 credit hours)
NSC 884-Rural PMHNP III (3 credit hours) NSC 800-Advanced Practice (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 886-Rural PMHNP Internship (6 credit hours) over 16 weeks		

\*\*Professional Liability Insurance is required for clinical practicum courses

**Rural Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Post-MSN Certificate- Family Curriculum**

Prerequisites: NSC 830, 832, 834 or equivalent and current certification as either an adult psychiatric mental health clinical nurse specialist or adult psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner or current certification as either child/adolescent psychiatric mental health clinical nurse specialist or child/adolescent psychiatric nurse practitioner.

**PLUS**

NSC 881 (2 credit hours) or equivalent (for all)

NSC 800 (3 credit hours) (if certified in adult)

NSC 883(3 credit hours) Rural PMHNP Child Adolescent (if certified in adult)

NSC 880 (2 credit hours) (if certified in child/ adol)

NSC 800 (2 credit hours) (if certified in child/ adol)

NSC 882 (2 credit hours) (if certified in child/ adol)

NSC 800 (2 credit hours) (if certified in child/ adol)

Total Credit Hours 8-10

**Progression Plan for those certified in Adult Psychiatric Mental Health**

<b>Summer Start</b>
NSC 883 +Professional Liability Insurance
NSC 800
NSC 881 (if needed)

**Progression Plan for those certified in Child/adolescent Psychiatric Mental Health**

<b>Spring</b>		<b>Summer</b>
NSC 880 (A term) +Professional Liability Insurance		NSC 882
NSC 800 (over 16 weeks)		NSC 800 (over 8 weeks)
NSC 881 (B term if needed)		

Eastern Kentucky University

Rural Health Family Nurse Practitioner Post-MSN Certificate

If have not had Advanced Pharmacology, Advanced Pathophysiology, and Advanced Physical Assessment

Summer Start

(Read Left to Right)

Fall A	Fall B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer	
				NSC 834 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)	
NSC 830 Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 832 Advanced Health Assessment (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 870 Rural Health FNP I (3 credit hours)  NSC 800 (2 credit hours) over 16 weeks	NSC 872 Rural Health FNP II (3 credit hours)	NSC 800 (3 credit hours) over 12 weeks	
NSC 874 Rural Health FNP III (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 800 (4 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 876 Rural Health FNP Internship (5 credit hours) over 16 weeks			

\*\*Professional Liability Insurance is required for clinical practicum courses

Rural Health Family Health Practitioner Post-MSN Certificate

If **have had** recent Advanced Pharmacology, Advanced Pathophysiology, and Advanced Physical Assessment

Spring Start

(Read Left to Right)

Fall A	Fall B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer	
		NSC 870 Rural Health FNP I (3 credit hours)  NSC 800 (2 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI	NSC 872 Rural Health FNP II (3 credit hours)	NSC 800 (3 credit hours) over 12 weeks	
NSC 874 Rural Health FNP III (3 credit hours) over 16 weeks  NSC 800 (4 credit hours) over 16 weeks  **PLI		NSC 876 Rural Health FNP Internship (5 credit hours) over 16 weeks			

\*\*Professional Liability Insurance is required for clinical practicum courses

## Appendix I

### EKU Academic Integrity Policy

#### **PREAMBLE**

Eastern Kentucky University is a community of shared academic values, foremost of which is a strong Commitment to intellectual, honorable conduct, and respect for others. In order to meet these values, students at Eastern Kentucky University are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. These standards are embodied in the Eastern Kentucky University Academic Integrity Policy, which all students shall pledge to uphold by signing the Eastern Kentucky University Honor Code. By honoring and enforcing this Academic Integrity Policy, the University community affirms that it will not tolerate academic dishonesty.

#### Academic Dishonestly Defined

Students are advised that EKU's Academic Integrity policy will strictly be enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy (Policy 4.1.3P) ([http://policies.eku.edu/sites/policies.eku.edu/files/policies/4.1.3\\_academic\\_integrity\\_policy\\_bor\\_6\\_11\\_2012\\_editorial\\_revision.pdf](http://policies.eku.edu/sites/policies.eku.edu/files/policies/4.1.3_academic_integrity_policy_bor_6_11_2012_editorial_revision.pdf)) is available at the policy website (<https://policies.eku.edu/policies>). Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity.

## Appendix II

### Communicable Diseases & Blood-Borne Pathogen Policy

The Department of Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing recognizes the importance of minimizing the exposure of students and/or patients in a clinical setting to communicable diseases and blood-borne pathogens, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The Department emphasizes this through education regarding Universal Precautions, proper hand hygiene and disinfection/decontamination procedures, and collection of student immunization and health screening records. Students must adhere to the University Exposure Control plan:

[http://ehsrmi.eku.edu/sites/ehsrmi.eku.edu/files/bbp\\_exposure\\_control\\_plan\\_eku\\_updated\\_080514.pdf](http://ehsrmi.eku.edu/sites/ehsrmi.eku.edu/files/bbp_exposure_control_plan_eku_updated_080514.pdf), as well as the Exposure Control Plan of the assigned clinical agency.

In the case of an exposure to a blood-borne pathogen, students are expected to follow the Exposure Control Plan that is established at the clinical site in which the exposure occurred. Students may follow-up at EKU's Student Health Services as needed. All exposure incidents should be reported immediately to the clinical instructor and the Department Chair and following care, appropriate EKU Nursing Program and clinical agency forms should be completed.

### Latex Sensitivity/Allergy Policy

#### Policy

Those persons with known sensitivity to latex shall be treated as if they have a known allergy. Students may be requested to provide documentation from their health care provider.

#### Purpose

To provide general information about latex products and potential types of allergic reactions. Procedure for those persons with sensitivity/allergy to latex.

#### Scope

Pertains to all students and faculty.

#### Responsibility

- Students are responsible for providing accurate allergy history.
- College will provide persons with non-latex gloves upon request in the laboratory setting.
- Students are responsible for preventing and/or limiting their exposure to latex in laboratory/clinical situations.
- If a latex sensitivity/allergy exists, the student understands that 100% prevention of exposure to latex in any laboratory/clinical situation may not be possible and that they may experience a life threatening allergic reaction.
- Thus, if a latex sensitivity/allergy exists at any time during the program of study, the student with their health care provider is responsible for deciding if a health career is possible.