

School of Nursing

*5th in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research dollars awarded
7th in U.S. News & World Reports "America's Best Graduate Schools"
Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)*

OVERVIEW

The Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) is prepared as a clinician who manages the health care of high-risk infants within families and children up to 2 years of age. This expanded role is performed in collaboration with neonatologists and other pediatric clinicians. NNPs are primarily employed in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) and are involved in coordinating and managing care for infants with chronic health problems and providing continuity for these children from hospital to home.

The NNP MSN curriculum includes course work and clinical experiences focusing on the care and management of critically ill and convalescent premature and full-term infants. Neonatal specialty courses focus on the developmental, diagnostic and physiological differences among high-risk neonates and children up to 2 years of age. Culminating role and clinical practice are in the final term of study and are synthesizing experiences that prepare graduates for immediate employment as NNPs.

Graduates assume leadership roles in a variety of clinical settings including intensive care nurseries of various levels, newborn nurseries and high-risk follow-up clinics. They select and perform diagnostic and therapeutic invasive procedures on newborns in the intensive care setting.

Graduates are eligible to take the NNP certification examination offered by the National Certification Corporation (NCC) and apply for legal certification as a NNP and prescriptive privileges through the State Board of Nursing of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other states.

CURRICULUM FORMAT

- Admit annually Fall Term only
- Onsite / Full-time (~ 6 terms) or Part-time
- 55 credits (includes 780 clinical hours)
- Curriculum
 - ✓ Full-time curriculum: available at www.nursing.pitt.edu
 - ✓ Part-time curriculum: planned individually with program coordinator

OBJECTIVES

Graduates of the NNP MSN are prepared to:

- Assume responsibility for promoting, maintaining, and restoring health to infants from the newborn period up to 2 years of age
- Identify health risks, promote wellness, and diagnosis and manage acute and chronic illness
- Participate in research and provide leadership in mobilizing health care resources in the community

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Valid registered nurse license in Pennsylvania or state/ U.S. territory where clinical experiences will be completed
- Equivalent of two years full time (within the last five years) practice experience as a registered nurse caring for children in acute care inpatient settings before enrolling in clinical courses. Students may enroll in pre-clinical courses while obtaining the practice experience.
- 3.0 or higher GPA in BSN (from CCNE, NLN, ACICS or ACEN accredited program)

ADMISSION CRITERIA (cont.)

- RN Options-Early Admission to MSN or DNP: available for graduates of associate degree or Diploma nursing programs
- Official GRE scores (may be waived if GPA \geq 3.5)
- Prerequisite statistics course
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for a telephone interview)
- Complete online application: www.nursing.pitt.edu
- *International applicants: see www.nursing.pitt.edu and www.ois.pitt.edu*
- **Deadlines:** **February 15** or **May 1** (*international applicants are advised to apply by Feb. 15*)
Complete applications received by **Feb. 15** - admission decision expected by **June 1**
Complete applications received by **May 1** - admission decision expected by **June 30**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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