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). After passing the exam, the graduate should consult the licensing board of the state in which they intend to practice for legal (credentialing) and practice information.

CURRICULUM FORMAT
- Onsite
- Full-time (~6 terms) or Part-time (varies)
- 55 credits (includes 780 clinical hours)
- Curriculum Plans: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu) / Part-time (individualized with program coordinator)
- Fall Term admission

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
- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- Equivalent of 2 years full time (within last 5 years) practice experience as a registered nurse caring for critically ill newborns, infants and children in critical care inpatient settings, preferably Level III NICU.
  - The practice experience is required before beginning the neonatal clinical courses which begin in Fall Term, Year 2 of Full-Time curriculum.
- ≥ 3.0 GPA in BSN from ACEN, NLN, ACICS, or CCNE accredited program
- Official GRE scores (may be waived if undergraduate GPA ≥ 3.5)
- Prerequisite statistics course (within 10 years) with grade of B- or higher
- RN Options-Early Admission to MSN available for graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs

(rev. 6-13-17)
APPLICATION

- Online application: nursing.pitt.edu
- International applicants: nursing.pitt.edu & 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**
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for a telephone interview)

**Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) Option**

- Prospective applicants may enroll in a maximum of 12 core, non-clinical graduate credits before beginning the program
- Submit an application to the **Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) option** at nursing.pitt.edu
  - Application fee waived if previous applicant within one year
- After receipt of the application, an academic advisor will contact student regarding course selection/enrollment

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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