

# School of Nursing

*9<sup>th</sup> in DNP & 12<sup>th</sup> in MSN, U.S. News & World Report's 2020 Best Nursing Grad Schools*  
*4<sup>th</sup> in NIH funding (2018) among schools of nursing*  
*Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)*

## OVERVIEW

The **Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) Certificate** is designed for graduate-prepared Nurse Practitioners who are seeking to expand their roles via nurse practitioner certification in neonatal critical care. The NNP is prepared to manage the health care of high-risk infants, their 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 curriculum includes course work and clinical experiences focusing on the care and management of critically ill and convalescent premature and full-term infants. The sequence of courses provides a logical building of clinical decision making skills necessary to function as a NNP. Clinical experiences may be in a variety of settings including newborn nurseries, Level III NICUs, and out-patient clinics.

Graduates are prepared to perform acts of medical diagnosis and prescribe medical therapeutics and corrective measures. In addition, the NNP selects and performs clinically advanced 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 or Part-time (length depends on prior academic preparation)
- 25 minimum credits (includes minimum 600 clinical hours)
- Fall, Spring, & Summer Term Admission

## ADMISSION CRITERIA

- MSN or DNP preparation as a nurse practitioner
- BSN from ACEN, NLN, ACICS, or CCNE accredited program
- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete practicum requirements
- Equivalent of 2 years full-time, recent (within past 5 years) practice experience as a RN in the care of critically ill newborns, infants or children in acute care inpatient settings, primarily in Level III NICU. Applicants must have acquired this experience or be currently employed in the indicated setting.
- Competitive GPA from graduate nursing degree
- Official GRE scores (may be waived if graduate nurse degree GPA  $\geq 3.5$ )
- Prerequisite statistics course (within 10 years) with grade of B- or higher
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for a telephone interview)
- Online application: [nursing.pitt.edu](http://nursing.pitt.edu)
- Application Deadlines: August 1 (Fall Term) December 1 (Spring Term) April 1 (Summer Term)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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