

# Master of Science in Nursing Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (World Wide Web)

## Concentration Description

The neonatal nurse practitioner concentration prepares professional nurses to meet the needs of high-risk infants and their families in tertiary care centers. The 42-semester hour concentration includes core courses, clinical core courses, and concentration courses. All content courses are offered online and the clinical experiences are arranged in a geographically convenient area for the student. Students are required to travel to campus for one multi-day immersion experience.

## Requirements for Admission

Admission to the master of science in nursing program requires the student to meet the minimum admission requirements for graduate study of the university and the following requirements of the College of Nursing:

- A baccalaureate degree in nursing from a regionally accredited nursing program
- A minimum GPA of 2.7 in undergraduate studies and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in nursing major
- Two years of full-time clinical practice experience (within the last 5 years) as a registered nurse (RN) in the care of critically ill neonates or infants in critical care inpatient settings. **Students may enroll in preclinical courses while obtaining the necessary practice experience.**
- A professional resume or CV
- Current non-restricted license to practice as a registered nurse (RN) in North Carolina or in a NCSBN compact state. NNP students must have a license in the state they plan to do their clinical practice.
- Two professional references from an NNP or neonatologist. One reference must be from a health care provider knowledgeable about the applicant's current nursing practice.
- A statement of purpose essay describing the applicant's readiness for graduate school, career goals, and the relationship between readiness/goals and ECU's NNP program.

## Requirements for Clinical Courses

Information regarding clinical requirements can be found in the ECU College of Nursing Student Handbook at: <https://nursing.ecu.edu/student-handbook/>  
Upon admission all graduate students are required to complete a criminal background check. Students will receive specific instructions from the Office of Student Services on how to complete this process.

### Sample Curriculum Plan – Full-Time Summer Semester Start Term

<b>First Year</b>			<b>Second Year</b>		
<b><u>Summer Semester (11-week)</u></b>			<b><u>Summer Semester (11-week)</u></b>		
NURS 6080	Theory for the Practice of Advanced Nursing	3	NURS 6421	Advanced Neonatal Nursing Practicum	3
NURS 6081	Research for the Practice of Advanced Nursing	3	NURS 6422	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research and Theory II	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>
<b><u>Fall Semester</u></b>			<b><u>Fall Semester</u></b>		
NURS 6417	Developmental Physiology for Advanced Practice Nursing Across the Lifespan	3	NURS 6423	Advanced Neonatal Nursing Practicum II	3
NURS 6418	Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Across the Lifespan	3	NURS 6424	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research and Theory III	3
NURS 6082	Influencing Healthcare Quality, Safety, and Policy	3	<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>9</b>			
<b><u>Spring Semester</u></b>			<b><u>Spring Semester</u></b>		
NURS 6083	Healthcare, Finance, and Economics	3	NURS 6425	Advanced Neonatal Nursing Practicum III	5
NURS 6419	Clinical Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice Across the Lifespan	3	NURS 6993	Advanced Nursing Synthesis	1
NURS 6420	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research and Theory I	3	<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>9</b>			
<b>Year Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>Year Total</b>		<b>18</b>
			<b>Cumulative Total</b>		<b>42</b>

**Sample Curriculum Plan – Part-Time**  
**Fall Semester Start Term**

<b>First Year</b>			<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>			<b>Fall Semester</b>		
NURS 6080	Theory for the Practice of Advanced Nursing	3	NURS 6417	Developmental Physiology for Advanced Practice Nursing Across the Lifespan	3
NURS 6081	Research for the Practice of Advanced Nursing	3	NURS 6418	Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Across the Lifespan	3
		<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>Semester Total</b>
		<b>6</b>			<b>6</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>			<b>Spring Semester</b>		
NURS 6082	Influencing Healthcare Quality, Safety, and Policy	3	NURS 6419	Clinical Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice Across the Lifespan	3
NURS 6083	Healthcare, Finance, and Economics	3	NURS 6420	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research and Theory I	3
		<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>Semester Total</b>
		<b>6</b>			<b>6</b>
		<b>Year Total</b>			<b>Year Total</b>
		<b>12</b>			<b>12</b>
<b>Third Year</b>					
<b>Summer Semester (11-week)</b>					
NURS 6421	Advanced Neonatal Nursing Practicum	3	NURS 6422	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research and Theory II	3
		<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>Semester Total</b>
		<b>6</b>			<b>6</b>
<b>Fall Semester</b>					
NURS 6423	Advanced Neonatal Nursing Practicum II	3	NURS 6424	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research and Theory III	3
		<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>Semester Total</b>
		<b>6</b>			<b>6</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>					
NURS 6425	Advanced Neonatal Nursing Practicum III	5	NURS 6993	Advanced Nursing Synthesis	1
		<b>Semester Total</b>			<b>Semester Total</b>
		<b>6</b>			<b>6</b>
		<b>Year Total</b>			<b>Year Total</b>
		<b>18</b>			<b>18</b>
		<b>Cumulative Total</b>			<b>Cumulative Total</b>
		<b>42</b>			<b>42</b>

**Requirements for Graduation**

- All graduate students are required to maintain a grade average of “B” in neonatal courses.
- Graduation application must be submitted at least one semester prior to completing the degree requirements as stated in the graduate catalog.
- Students who do not register for courses for a major (Fall/Spring) semester must complete an electronic readmission form (available at [www.ecu.edu/gradschool/](http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/) and in the Graduate School Office). Readmission is not guaranteed.
- All graduate students complete a comprehensive assessment at the end of their program in NURS 6993.
- MSN students are required to keep graduate program/clinical compliance requirements current throughout their clinical courses.

Graduates are eligible to sit for the NCC national certification examination for NNP candidates.

The master’s program at East Carolina University is accredited by the **Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education**, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 202.887.6791

**The University**

The university is the third largest in the University of North Carolina system (UNC), which consists of the state’s sixteen degree-granting public institutions. ECU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degrees and is designated as an academic health center by the Association of American Health Centers. Governed by its own Board of Trustees, which is responsible to the UNC Board of Governors, ECU offers 80 departmental certificates, 93 baccalaureate degree programs, 76 master’s degree programs, two specialist degree programs, six first professional programs, and 15 doctoral programs in our professional colleges, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Dental Medicine, and the Brody School of Medicine. It confers more than 5,800 degrees annually and it has approximately 160,000 alumni.

**For more information, contact [ECUNursingGradPrgms@ecu.edu](mailto:ECUNursingGradPrgms@ecu.edu)**

East Carolina University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, creed, sexual orientation, or disability.  
 An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, which accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Updated April 17, 2024