

# Nurse Practitioner (NP) Family (FNP) and Adult-Gerontology (AG-NP)

*The Nurse Practitioner program is designed to prepare current registered nurses to fulfill the role of a competent, caring practitioner responsible for managing the care of families in the primary care setting.*

**Nurse Practitioners (NPs)** are clinical experts who implement a holistic approach to meet the health care needs of patients. **Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP)** care for patients across the lifespan. While **Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioners (AG-NP)** have patients aging from older adolescents to elderly. They utilize evidence-based practice to manage the health needs of patients in primary care settings. The DNP program goes beyond the master's level to provide not only the academic knowledge and clinical skills necessary for health promotion, disease prevention, assessment, and management of common acute and chronic illnesses. It also develops analytical skills that will be used in policy formation and management of healthcare populations incorporating aspects of financial, quality care, safety and outcome evaluations of practice.

The curriculum is guided by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice, 2006* and the Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), 2012). The NP Core Competencies are acquired through mentored patient care experiences with emphasis on independent and interprofessional practice; analytic skills for evaluating and providing evidence-based, patient centered care across settings; and advanced knowledge of the health care delivery system.

**Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies are emphasized in the following areas:**

- ◇ **Scientific Foundation**
- ◇ **Leadership**
- ◇ **Quality**
- ◇ **Practice Inquiry**
- ◇ **Technology and Information Literacy**
- ◇ **Health Policy**
- ◇ **Health Delivery System**
- ◇ **Ethics**
- ◇ **Independent Practice**

