Graduate Entry Program in Nursing

For Students who have a Degree in a Field Other than Nursing and Do Not have an RN License

The Graduate Entry Program in Nursing (GEPN) offers post-baccalaureate entry to the Master’s in Advanced Population Health Nursing (APHN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and PhD in Nursing programs. The DNP Degree provides graduates with the skills and knowledge for advanced nursing practice. The PhD Degree prepares graduates with the knowledge and skills to conduct research and generate new knowledge.

Program Description

GEPN is designed for adult learners:

- Who have not attended an RN educational program
- Who have a baccalaureate degree in field other than nursing
- Who are leadership bound and seeking a career in advanced nursing

The program consists of an intensive pre-licensure year of study that is delivered across three continuous semesters. Upon completion of the first year, the students transition into their graduate nursing degree track and begin courses for their advanced degree. At the time of application, the student will select a specialty area and graduate degree (i.e., MS, DNP, PhD). Once admitted, transfer from one specialty area to another is not encouraged. Transfer into or between the FNP or AGPCNP specialties is not permitted.
Students will obtain one of the following degrees at the completion of their program:

- **Master of Science**: prepares the nurse for an advanced role
  - Advanced Population Health Nursing

- **Doctor of Nursing Practice**: provides the terminal degree in nursing
  - Family Nurse
  - Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse
  - Organizational Leadership

- **PhD in Nursing**: prepares the nurse for a career in research

Emphasis is placed on health promotion and disease prevention as well as the care of the healthy, sick, and dying from a local, national and global perspective. A substantial amount of the curriculum is clinical practicum in community and hospital/health care settings where students are actively engaged in nursing care under the supervision and guidance of faculty. Threaded throughout the curriculum are research, patient safety, community nursing health, and cultural diversity as well as the various contexts (i.e., historical & social) of nursing, nursing roles, and the core values of the profession.

**Fast Facts**

- Enables qualified nurse professionals to enter the workforce in a shorter period of time increasing the pool of nurses prepared to assume leadership roles in practice, education and research.
- The first year of intensive study is offered in a tri-semester format of 16 -18 credits per semester. Due to the rigor and scheduling, students are advised not to be employed during this year.
- Students should plan on being physically present on the
island of Oahu during the entire month of August.
  • The New Student Orientation is typically conducted the first week of August.
  • One of the fall semester courses is offered during the two weeks prior to the official start of the UH semester.

Program Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the GEPN pre-licensure year, the student is eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination – Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN). Upon passing the NCLEX-RN exam, students apply for and obtain a license as a registered nurse.

Following successful completion of the pre-licensure year, students immediately transition into their chosen graduate degree track. GEPN students must complete the pre-licensure year and obtain the RN license by the end of the first semester of the specialty track coursework.

Resource for Prospective Graduate Students

  • See the school calendar for GEPN Informational Session dates
  • American Association of Colleges of Nursing: Guide to Graduate Nursing Programs

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Contact for the Graduate Entry Program in Nursing (GEPN) applicants and enrolled students.

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