Graduate Entry Program in Nursing

Notice 12/12/2021
The UH Manoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing received an unprecedented number of qualified applications for the class entering in August 2022. We are continuing to review prospective students with completed applications submitted to the UH Graduate Division and Nursing CAS. However, we are unable to accept any additional applications for the August 2022 class.

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 of Science in Advanced Population Health Nursing (APHN) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs. At the time of application to GEPN, the student selects a specialty area and graduate degree (i.e., MS, DNP). Once admitted to GEPN, a student may not change from the specialty track selected at the time of application. Transfer from one specialty area to another is not permitted. Transfer into or between the FNP or AGPCNP specialties is not permitted. Once enrolled in GEPN, a student may not apply as a new student to another graduate nursing degree program.

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. Emphasis is placed on health promotion and disease prevention as well as the care of the acutely ill person. The AACN Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice (AACN, 2008) provides the framework for the pre-licensure year curriculum for professional nurses. Planning is underway to transition the curriculum to address the 2021 AACN The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education.

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 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.

Upon completion of the first year, the student is eligible and takes the NCLEX-RN, the national licensing exam. The student transitions immediately into their graduate nursing specialty degree track and begins courses for their advanced degree.

**Fast Facts**

• Two-step application process
• 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 and are highly encouraged to not take any other courses.

Students should plan on being physically present on the island of Oahu during the entire month of August and for the remainder of the pre-licensure year course work. The New Student Orientation is typically conducted the first week of August.

**Program Outcomes/Competencies**

The AACN Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice provides the framework for the pre-licensure year curriculum for professional nurses (AACN, 2008). Copies or versions in other languages are available at the AACN Essentials website. Planning is underway to transition the curriculum to address the 2021 AACN The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education.

**Outcomes/Competencies**

A competent nurse:

- Demonstrates professional actions based on core nursing values, professional standards of practice, and the law.
- Develops insight through reflective practice, self-analysis, and self-care.
- Engages in ongoing self-directed learning and provides care based on evidence supported by research.
- Demonstrates leadership in nursing and health care.
- Collaborates as part of a health care team.
- Practices within, utilizes, and contributes to the broader health care system.
- Practices client-centered care.
- Communicates and uses technology effectively.
• Demonstrates clinical judgment/critical thinking in the delivery of care of clients.

At the completion of their program, the student is awarded one of three degrees:

• Master of Science in Advanced Population Health Nursing degree that prepares graduates for practice roles including education, case management, clinical practice, consultation, community outreach, research and management/administration.

• Doctor of Nursing Practice degree that provides graduates with the skills and knowledge for advanced nursing practice and organizational leadership.
  • Family Nurse Practitioner
  • Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

The specific program outcomes/competencies for each degree are found on the degree overview pages.

Informational Sessions

Visit the school event page for upcoming GEPN virtual online informational session dates.

Student Testimonials

“When I entered the GEPN program, I had two small children and many family obligations. Going back to school in a full-time, accelerated program after being out in the working world was daunting to say the least. The program was intense, but I am so glad that I did it. The teachers are amazing – whether in the classroom or in the clinic, they work hard to support their students. The GEPN program gave me the opportunity to learn the art and science of nursing under skilled, knowledgeable, and caring mentors. Hawaii has great need for primary care providers, and becoming a family nurse practitioner will allow me to help address that need, as well
as support my family. I am so grateful to UH for offering this program!” – Karen Rowan, MS, RN, GEPN Cohort 10, DNP-FNP, Class of 2021

“The GEPN program comprehensively and fully prepared me to take the NCLEX-RN exam. I felt confident and prepared for this licensure exam because of the in-person exam preparation review, access to question banks, and additional resources from the school. 100% of my original cohort passed the test on the first try! After completing the GEPN program and becoming an RN, we moved into our advanced nursing degree track. Some of my classmates got jobs in RN roles while going to school, while myself and others opted for tuition waivers working as graduate research assistants with various departments at UH. The ideals, professionalism, and collegiate atmosphere fostered between students during GEPN trained us to be knowledgeable, compassionate, hardworking, flexible and collaborative health care professionals. I truly feel like the GEPN program allowed me to enter the nursing profession with a strong foundation to build on as I further my studies.” – Michelle Quensell, MPH, BA, RN, GEPN Cohort 10, DNP-FNP, Class of 2021
“The GEPN program was the perfect opportunity for me to move back to Hawaii and pursue a nursing degree. Although the program was extremely rigorous, it enabled me to gain professional and clinical skills that I will use for the rest of my career. Through coursework, simulations, and clinical experiences I was exposed to a variety of scenarios that challenged me to think critically and develop my nursing skill set. The program also fostered a sense of community among my cohort and encouraged genuine connections with my peers and colleagues. I was able to take advantage of the opportunities the school provided to network with local healthcare organizations. Ultimately, the experience allowed me to become a professional registered nurse and prepared me to tackle an advanced degree program to achieve my goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.” – Kal Peterman, BS, RN, GEPN Cohort 10, DNP-AGPCNP, Class of 2021

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Contact

James Cromwell, MEd
Graduate Entry Program in Nursing Coordinator

Contact for applicants and current students in the GEPN Program.

Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing
University of Hawaii at Manoa
2528 McCarthy Mall, Webster Hall 201
Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: 808-956-0445
Fax: 808-956-3257
Email: gepn@hawaii.edu

Schedule an Advising Appointment
via Star Balance

Aeza Hafalia, M.Ed
DNP Program Coordinator & NEXus Campus Staff Coordinator
Applicants, Prospective & Current Students

Contact for applicants and current students in the GEPN and DNP program and the NEXus Program.

Email and appointment scheduling:

- GEPN Program (gepn@hawaii.edu)
  Schedule an advising appointment

Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing
University of Hawaii at Manoa
2528 McCarthy Mall, Webster Hall 201
Honolulu, HI 96822
Ph: 808-956-0445
Fax: 808-956-5977
Email: gepn@hawaii.edu

- DNP Program (dnpnurs@hawaii.edu)
  Schedule an advising appointment

Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing
University of Hawaii at Manoa
2528 McCarthy Mall, Webster Hall 201
Honolulu, HI 96822
Ph: 808-956-8401
Fax: 808-956-5977
Email: dnpnurs@hawaii.edu
Maureen O’Brien, DNP, RN, ACNS-BC, CCRN-K
Graduate Entry Program in Nursing Director & Assistant Professor

Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing
University of Hawaii at Manoa
2528 McCarthy Mall, Webster 216
Honolulu, HI 96822
Office: (808) 956-3883
Email: obrienma@hawaii.edu