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 of Science in Advanced Population Health Nursing (APHN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), and PhD in nursing programs. At the time of application to GEPN, the student selects 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. Once enrolled in GEPN, a student may not apply as a new student to another graduate 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. 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 begin courses for their advanced degree.

**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 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.
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

A competent nurse:

1. demonstrates professional actions based on core nursing values, professional standards of practice, and the law.
2. develops insight through reflective practice, self-analysis, and self care.
3. engages in ongoing self-directed learning and provides care based on evidence supported by research.
4. demonstrates leadership in nursing and health care.
5. collaborates as part of a health care team.
6. practices within, utilizes, and contributes to the broader health care system.
7. practices client-centered care.
8. communicates and uses technology effectively.
9. 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 include 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 PhD degree that prepares graduates with the knowledge and skills to conduct research and generate new knowledge.

Specific program outcomes/competencies for each degree are found on the degree overview pages.
Informational Sessions

The school offers informational sessions in-person and also online via web conferencing. Visit the event page for upcoming GEPN informational session dates.

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