

**MORAVIAN
UNIVERSITY**

**Helen S. Breidegam
School of Nursing**

**MSN Handbook Supplement
Nurse Practitioner Program**

2025-2026

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Section I: Program Introduction

The Nurse Practitioner Program student learning outcomes are aligned with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties' (NONPF) Nurse Practitioner Role Core Competencies and population-specific competencies and address the following content areas: knowledge of practice, person-centered care, population health, practice scholarship and translational science, quality and safety, interprofessional collaboration in practice, health systems, technology and information literacy, professional acumen, and personal and professional leadership.

Program outcomes for the MSN program are found on the School of Nursing website: [MSN Program Outcomes](#).

Upon completion of the Family Nurse Practitioner program, students will have met the following program outcomes:

1. Use evidence-based interdisciplinary best practices for primary care when assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients across the lifespan.
2. Meet the diverse and complex needs of families across the lifespan through fostering interpersonal, intra-professional, and collaborative relationships aimed at affecting therapeutic outcomes of primary care.
3. Provide leadership in the education of all ages, patients, caregivers, and other professionals to promote quality and safety in primary care.
4. Adhere to professional standards for ethical decision-making, interprofessional and intraprofessional collaboration, and engagement in strategic initiatives in primary care that promote optimal care for patients of all ages.
5. Monitor one's own practice competency and initiate approaches that improve the quality of primary care delivered to patients of all ages.
6. Apply principles of leadership and direct care management for cost-effective use of clinical therapies and resources in providing direct primary care services for patients of all ages.
7. Provide direct primary care health services that respect individual cultural and spiritual beliefs and their impact on health behavior and the use of health resources.

Upon completion of the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program, students will have met the following program outcomes:

1. Use evidence-based interdisciplinary best practice for acute care when assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients, including young adults, adults, and older adults.
2. Meet the diverse and complex needs of adults across the adult lifespan through fostering interpersonal, intra-professional, and collaborative relationships aimed at affecting therapeutic outcomes of acute care.
3. Provide leadership in the education of adults, adult patients, caregivers, and other professionals to promote quality and safety in acute care.
4. Adhere to professional standards for ethical decision-making, interprofessional and intraprofessional collaboration, and engagement in strategic initiatives in acute care that promote optimal care for adult patients.
5. Monitor one's own practice competency and initiate approaches that improve the quality of acute care delivered to adults of all ages.
6. Apply principles of leadership and direct care management for cost-effective use of clinical therapies and resources in providing direct acute care services for adults of all ages.
7. Provide direct acute care health services that respect individual cultural and spiritual beliefs and their impact on health behavior and the use of health resources.

Upon completion of the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program, students will have met the following program outcomes:

1. Use evidence-based interdisciplinary best practice for primary care when assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients, including young adults, adults, and older adults.
2. Meet the diverse and complex needs of adults across the lifespan through fostering interpersonal, intra-professional, and collaborative relationships aimed at affecting therapeutic outcomes of primary care.
3. Provide leadership in the education of all ages, patients, caregivers, and other professionals to promote quality and safety in primary care.
4. Adhere to professional standards for ethical decision-making, interprofessional and intraprofessional collaboration, and engagement in strategic initiatives in primary care that promote optimal care to adult patients.
5. Monitor one's own practice competency and initiate approaches that improve the quality of primary care delivered to adults of all ages.
6. Apply principles of leadership and direct care management for cost-effective use of clinical therapies and resources in providing direct primary care services for adults of all ages.
7. Provide direct primary care health services that respect individual cultural and spiritual beliefs and their impact on health behavior and the use of health resources.

Section II: General Guidelines

Welcome to the Nurse Practitioner Program!

Learning throughout the patient care specialty theory and practicum courses requires the students to engage in active interprofessional collaboration among faculty, clinical faculty advisors, and the practicum preceptor. The patient care specialty courses provide theoretical content that is applied during practicum experiences to prepare students for the highest level of advanced practice nursing. Learning activities within the practicum courses contribute to your professional portfolio as evidence of progress in achieving program outcomes.

Students are required to have an RN license in PA and NJ, or a multistate RN license as clinical placements may be in PA or NJ.

Students are not required to identify and formalize preceptors, although it is encouraged to seek out professional relationships to facilitate the process. The practicum site may be in an institution where students are currently employed, but students must function outside of their RN role and outside of their own unit and work as a nurse practitioner student with the NP preceptor. The clinical placement can NOT be in the same department where the student is employed. Before the start of the practicum, students will provide a curriculum vitae or resume, course requirements, and personal learning goals to their preceptor. Students will work with their preceptor to coordinate a schedule for completing the required number of hours for the practicum courses. Students must meet the minimum number of required clinical hours, but can exceed the minimum requirement if the preceptor and site can accommodate. This will NOT be possible in all locations.

Clinical placements are finalized with the parent institution in which the preceptor is employed. Once the student placements are finalized, students will be notified of their clinical placement. Changes are not made to the clinical placements once finalized. Students need to prioritize the completion of clinical hours during clinical practicums. Work schedules need to be flexible to accommodate clinical hours. Part-time employment provides the best school-work-life balance.

As part of their practicum requirements, students are responsible for maintaining daily logs of clinical experiences. These logs should include accurate reflections of patient visits, procedures performed and other clinical activities. These logs are maintained using the Typhon NP Student Tracking System which provides a comprehensive overview of practicum experiences and growth. This information is reviewed by faculty and can also serve as a valuable record for future employment opportunities. Please ensure that all patient encounters are documented accurately under the correct course number and patient category in Typhon.

Your performance will be evaluated throughout each practicum course by your preceptors, clinical and course faculty. You will also provide a self-reflection at the end of each clinical practicum course, highlighting the learning that has occurred, your professional growth and areas where improvement is needed.

Section III: Program Guidelines

Program Design

Students in the MSN NP program must successfully complete core courses before starting clinical specialty courses. Each of the clinical specialty courses is only offered once a year. Students will begin clinical placements in the fall term. Please consult the website for the current curriculum requirements.

General Core Courses

- NURS 502 Epidemiology & Bioinformatics
- NURS 504 Policy, Quality & Safety in Health Care
- NURS 506 Nursing Role Theory & Evidence-Based Practice
- NURS 536 Law, Regulations & Ethics in Health Care

Direct Care Core Courses

- NURS 530 Advanced Pathophysiology
- NURS 532 Advanced Pharmacology
- NURS 534 Advanced Health & Physical Assessment
- NURS 507 Nurse Practitioner Roles & Responsibilities

Clinical Specialty Courses: Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

- NURS 710 Care of Younger Adults: Acute Care Theory & Practicum
- NURS 711 Care of Older Adults: Acute Care Theory & Practicum
- NURS 712 Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Seminar & Internship

Clinical Specialty Courses: Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

- NURS 720 Care of Younger Adults: Primary Care Theory & Practicum
- NURS 721 Care of Older Adults: Primary Care Theory & Practicum
- NURS 722 Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Seminar & Internship

**Clinical Specialty Courses: Family/Individual Across the Lifespan
Nurse Practitioner**

NURS 720 Care of Younger Adults: Primary Care Theory & Practicum

NURS 721 Care of Older Adults: Primary Care Theory & Practicum

NURS 732 Care of Women & Children in Primary Care Theory & Practicum

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NURS 735 Primary Care of Children & Childbearing Women Theory

NURS 736 Primary Care of Children & Childbearing Women Practicum

NURS 733 Family Nurse Practitioner Seminar & Internship

Student Eligibility for Practicum Courses

Students entering any of the nurse practitioner pathways must first complete the Master of Science in Nursing general core courses and direct care core courses. Advanced Pathophysiology must be taken before Advanced Health Assessment.

General Core Courses (4 courses, 12 credits)

NURS 502: Epidemiology and Bioinformatics

NURS 504: Policy, Quality, Safety in Healthcare

NURS 506: Nursing Role Theory and Evidence-Based Practice

NURS 536: Law, Regulations, and Ethics in Healthcare

Direct Core Courses (4 courses, 11 credits)

NURS 530: Advanced Pathophysiology

NURS 532: Advanced Pharmacology

NURS 534: Advanced Health Assessment

NURS 507: Nurse Practitioner Role and Responsibilities

Students must have a current license as a Registered Nurse in the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. As requested by the clinical coordinator, submit all necessary documents.

***Note: According to the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, the advanced pharmacology course cannot be completed more than five years prior to applying for prescriptive authority.** Application for prescriptive authority occurs AFTER graduation and successful completion of the national certification examination.

Progression

Please see the Academic Requirements and Progression section of the Graduate Nursing Student Handbook: [Click here](#)

For NP clinical specialty courses:

Students must pass both the clinical and didactic components of the clinical specialty practicum courses. A passing grade is a grade of B- (80.00) or higher. A grade of C+ or lower is considered an unsatisfactory grade in a clinical specialty course. The student will not be permitted to progress in the program with an unsatisfactory grade, which is a grade of C+ or lower, in either theory or practicum components of clinical specialty courses. A student who achieves a C+ in a clinical specialty course may be considered for remediation only once during the program. If approved, the course with the C+ must be repeated with an earned grade of B- or higher. The C+ will remain on the student's transcript and be used in the cumulative grade point average. Graduate students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher for satisfactory academic standing.

Attendance

Classroom attendance is necessary to promote the learning of the theoretical component of the curriculum and to enrich and expand the application of the clinical learning process. Students are expected to attend all classroom activities. An instructor may lower a student's grade because of a class absence. If absences occur, it is the student's responsibility to make up whatever work has been missed.

Students will follow current guidelines for COVID-19 or other public health concerns.

Clinical attendance is mandatory for the student to consistently demonstrate the ability to meet course objectives. It is the student's responsibility to notify the preceptor if they are unable to attend clinical experiences. Such notification is to occur up to two hours before the scheduled clinical experience. If a student is absent from class/clinical activity due to illness, a healthcare provider's statement verifying the illness and certifying that the student is able to resume class or clinical activity may be required. Students who request time off from clinical due to events beyond their control (e.g., serious illness, death of a family member) will contact the preceptor, clinical faculty, course faculty, Clinical Coordinator, and Program Director.

Strategies for Implementing Title IX Protections in Practicum Settings

In the event of a change in health status, such as pregnancy, surgery, COVID, etc., requiring multiple missed clinical days, the student, clinical faculty, and the Program Director will meet to discuss possible scheduling alternatives and develop an individual education plan. If a student is on a health-related leave from work, they may also require a medical leave for school.

The following link is to Moravian's policy on student rights and accommodations for pregnancy and birth-related conditions: [Pregnancy and Parenting Student Policy](#). Title IX regulations, enforced by the Office of Civil Rights (U.S. Department of Education), protect the rights of and require support for pregnant and parenting members of our campus community. Learn more about resources or request accommodations or additional support by contacting the Equal Opportunity and Title Coordinator at pregnancy@moravian.edu.

Nurse Practitioner Program Plan of Study Interruptions

Please see the Leave of Absence section of the Graduate Nursing Student Handbook ([Click here](#))

Students enrolled in the Master of Science Nurse Practitioner program track are required to follow the study plan established by the Program Director. The Program Director must be notified of any study interruptions or anticipated changes to the plan of study. The student and Program Director will discuss study interruptions and how they will impact progression into the clinical year.

Interruptions in the plan of study may result in forfeiture of enrollment in the assigned clinical cohort. Students will be considered for a future clinical cohort based on enrollment availability and at the discretion of the Program Director.

Program Track Changes

Requests to transfer from one MSN program to the Nurse Practitioner program must be accompanied by a meeting with the Program Director and the completion of appropriate paperwork. Students may need to reapply to the SON. Students who want to change specialty tracks in the Nurse Practitioner program must meet with the Program Director before the start of the practicum year. Students may need to enter a different cohort for clinical placement, based on availability.

Clinical Practice

Students enrolled in the nurse practitioner program must be licensed Registered Nurses in good standing.

Students enrolled in the Nurse Practitioner program are required to have a minimum of one year of recent experience as a Registered Nurse before entering the clinical year.

Both a Pennsylvania and a New Jersey license are required to enter the practicum.

Students must abide by the institutional and departmental policies of clinical affiliates and the University while in clinical placement settings.

Standards of Conduct

Students must possess the necessary behavioral, physical, intellectual, interpersonal, and communication skills to provide nursing care that is safe for patients, for themselves, and other healthcare providers. Students must be able to meet these performance standards to qualify for and remain in the nurse practitioner program. Reasonable accommodations will be made according to University Policy.

Specific standards of nursing conduct are found in the Pennsylvania Code: State Board of Nursing (chapter 21) website: Click here: [PA SBON Standards of Conduct Link](#)

Specific policy on academic code of conduct can be found in the University catalog: Click here: [Academic Code of Conduct](#).

Technology Requirements

Students are expected to have access to a working device with word processing software, video conferencing capabilities, and the ability to connect to the internet.

Examinations will use online platforms, and the student's device must be able to access the platform and remain connected for the duration of the examination.

Section IV Practicum Guidelines

Mandatory Clinical Requirements for Nurse Practitioner Students

In compliance with federal and state mandates, all students must meet the following requirements **before starting clinical practice**. These regulations ensure eligibility to practice in healthcare settings, particularly those serving children. Failure to meet these requirements by the stated deadlines will result in removal from clinically-based courses.

Background Checks & Clearances

- Required by federal and Pennsylvania state law for all healthcare providers working with children or in healthcare facilities.
- Must be completed before starting clinical practice.
- **Clearances required:**
 - **Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Record**
 - **FBI Background Check**
 - **Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance**
- If you have any potential reportable offenses (e.g., murder, theft, sexual abuse of children, drug delivery resulting in death, kidnapping, forgery), you must alert the Program Director immediately.

Deadlines

- All clinical requirements must be completed **by June 15** before the clinical year.
- **Updated records** must be submitted **by July 1** each year before starting the practicum.
- All NP documents must be uploaded to (**moravian.studenthealthportal.com**)
- Records must remain valid through the entire practicum year (no mid-year expirations).

Required Documentation

Students are responsible for maintaining **current** records in their electronic student file.

Documentation must be accessible and up-to-date at all times.

1. CPR Certification

Must be current and from **either**

- American Heart Association: *Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers*
 - American Red Cross: *CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and Health Care Providers*
- No CPR classes are offered at Moravian University.

2. Tuberculosis Screening

- Two-step TST, two TSTs within a year, or Quantiferon Gold test required.
- Positive TB history → chest X-ray and/or BAMT test, documented negative by licensed provider.
- Annual follow-up required.
- May submit TB results from current employer if within the valid timeframe.

3. Substance Abuse / Drug & Alcohol Screening

- Required before the first clinical course.
- Random testing may occur throughout the program.

4. Physical Examination / Health Assessment

- Must state the student is “fit for duty/clinical.”
- Update the program on any significant change in health status.

5. Immunization Records

- **MMR** – 2 doses or immunity by titer.
- **Varicella** – 2 doses or immunity by titer.
- Tdap** – Required before clinical.
- Hepatitis B** – 3 doses or immunity by titer (declination allowed with documentation).
- Influenza** – Annual vaccine in October.
 - Exemptions allowed for medical or religious reasons with documentation. Exempt students must complete additional paperwork and wear a mask in clinical areas.

6. Health Insurance

- Must provide proof of active coverage.

7. Orientation Requirements

- All required forms, online modules, and in-person orientation activities must be completed as directed by the School of Nursing and affiliating clinical agencies.

Important:

Students are solely responsible for initiating, completing, and maintaining all required records. Incomplete or expired documentation will prevent participation in clinical placements and may delay program progression.

Practicum Site Selection and Criteria

If a student has identified a potential site and/or preceptor, forward the name, specialty, and email to the clinical coordinator and Program Director at least 60 days before starting the clinical course. This provides ample time for all practicum sites and/or preceptors to be approved by Moravian University and the affiliated institution. Identification of a potential preceptor who agrees to precept a student does not guarantee a placement.

All practicum sites are reviewed to ensure alignment with program requirements. Please refrain from contacting institutions and practice personnel directly. The clinical coordinator will notify the student when clinical sites and preceptors are approved and finalized. Once placements are finalized, changes cannot be made except in a situation where there are extenuating circumstances, such as if the preceptor is no longer available.

Criteria for Site Selection: Family/Individual Across the Lifespan Nurse Practitioner

Course Name

: Practicum Site Facilities

NURS 720: Care of the Younger Adult, Primary Care Theory and Practicum (200 hours)	Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Primary Care, Urgent Care, Retail Clinics, General Medical Clinic, College Health, Federally Qualified Health Center, Women's Health, Occupational Health
NURS 721: Care of the Older Adult, Primary Care Theory and Practicum (200 hours)	Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Primary Care, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long-term Care, Personal Care, Assisted living, Geriatric Medicine, Primary Care at Home, Federally Qualified Health Center, Urgent Care
NURS 736: Care of Women and Children in Primary Care Practicum (150 hours)	Family Medicine, Women's Health, Urgent Care, Retail Clinics, Pediatric Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Center
NURS 733: Family Nurse Practitioner Seminar, and Internship (100 hours)	Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Primary Care, Urgent Care, Retail Clinics, College Health, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Federally Qualified Health Centers

***Note: With the Program Director's approval, requests for clinical experiences in the ER, inpatient hospital, and other specialty practices (cardiology, palliative care, dermatology, pulmonology, trauma, etc.) may be granted for 100 hours during the internship.**

Criteria for Site Selection: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

<i>Course Name</i>	<i>Practicum Site Facilities</i>
NURS 710: Care of the Younger Adult, Acute Care Theory and Practicum (200 hours)	Hospital Medicine
NURS 711: Care of the Older Adult, Medicine, Acute Care Theory and Practicum (200 hours)	Critical Care
NURS 712: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Seminar, and Internship (250 hours)	Hospital Medicine, Critical Care Medicine Internal Medicine, Specialty Practices (cardiology, pulmonology, nephrology, infectious disease, trauma)

Criteria for Site Selection: Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

<i>Course Name</i>	<i>: Practicum Site Facilities</i>
NURS 720: Care of the Younger Adult, Primary Care Theory and Practicum (200 hours)	Internal Medicine, Primary Care, Medical Clinic, Urgent Care, Retail Clinics, College Health, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Occupational Health, Women's Health
NURS 721: Care of the Older Adult, Primary Care Theory and Practicum (200 hours)	Internal Medicine, Primary Care Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long-term Care, Assisted living, Geriatric Medicine, Federally Qualified Health Center, Primary Care at Home, Urgent Care
NURS 722: Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Seminar, and Internship Care, (250 hours)	Internal Medicine, Skilled Nursing Facilities Long-term Care, Assisted Living, Primary Geriatric Medicine, Women's Health, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Urgent Care

***Note: Requests for clinical experiences in the ER, inpatient hospital, and other specialty practices such as cardiology, palliative care, dermatology, pulmonology, or trauma may be granted for up to 100 hours during the internship only.**

Preceptor Qualifications

Preceptor Qualifications

- Master's Degree in Nursing at the minimum
- National board certification as a nurse practitioner
- Active, unencumbered advanced practice license
- At least one year of clinical practice
- Acceptable health professions: Medical Doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) with an active medical license.

Practicum Log

The student maintains the practicum logs through a clinical log software program, Typhon Group. Practicum logs are submitted daily during each practicum course, and an overview is included in your professional portfolio. Practicum log documentation must demonstrate activities related to course outcomes and specialty competencies.

All practicum hours are entered in Typhon Group. Travel time to and from the clinical site and time spent entering practicum logs shall not be included in the practicum hours. Clinical hours include time spent providing direct patient care at the clinical site and time reviewing plans of care with the preceptor.

The assigned clinical faculty advisor will review and approve all practicum hours and logs.

Portfolio

Throughout the practicum courses, students will collect selected achievements and compile them within the professional portfolio to demonstrate professional growth and expertise. The final portfolio will be assessed against the MSN NP's Program Outcomes.

Professional Dress Code

Students are representatives of the nursing profession and program. Students are required to honor the professional dress code for the particular agency where the student is officially placed for clinical practice. A laboratory coat with your name and a University patch should be worn over professional attire when in healthcare agencies.

Section V Roles and Responsibilities

Program Director

- Approves clinical placements before finalization and student notification.
- Approves student requests for specialty placement (pending availability) for internship and seminar courses.
- Assigns students to clinical faculty for each rotation.
- Orients new clinical adjunct faculty.
- Maintains oversight over all clinical faculty.

Clinical Faculty

- Assigned to each student to serve as a coach, role model, and mentor during clinical rotations.
- Communicates with preceptors regarding student expectations and clinical progress.
- Completes a mid-point and final evaluation.
- Provides midterm warning to students who are not on track to meet the required clinical hours
- Conducts at least one site visit (may be in person or virtual) during the semester. Additional visits or preceptor interaction may be warranted.
- Monitors and provides feedback to students concerning clinical documentation.

Preceptor

- Collaborate with Moravian faculty to promote student success in the practicum courses.
- Identify learning opportunities that align with course outcomes.
- Serve as a mentor for students in professional development.
- Provide supervision of the student's clinical practice and constructive feedback about his/her performance in the practicum.

Student

- Be familiar with all policies and procedures related to practicum experiences.
- Meet deadline dates for all assignments and learning activities.
- Conduct oneself in a professional manner during each clinical rotation.
- Maintain communication with the course faculty and preceptor
- Maintain practicum log.

Clinical Coordinator

- Works with the Program Director to determine appropriate clinical site placements and to resolve issues with the student and/or site.
- Facilitates clinical placements between students and agencies.
- Confirms clinical placements with students.
 - Works with the Program Director to discuss sites. The director is also involved in communication with the students about sites. If a student has a site issue, both the director and coordinator need to discuss it promptly to come up with the best solution.

Clinical Education Specialist

- Facilitates student enrollment in the Typhon Group clinical tracking application.
- Arranges evaluations between students and preceptors via Typhon.