

## ADVANCED PRACTICE COMPLETION FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Subject:** Advanced Practice Completion for Post-Graduate Students

**Effective Date:** 2/2022

**Scope:** All Faculty, Staff, and Students of the Graduate Department

**Date Reviewed/Revised:** 12/2025

**Next Scheduled Review Date:** 12/2027

**Responsible Office:** Department of Graduate Studies

**Responsible Executive:** Dean, Cizik School of Nursing

### I. POLICY AND GENERAL STATEMENT

Post-graduate advanced practice students have completed nursing master's or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) coursework that includes both didactic and clinical experiences. Admission, progression, and completion requirements for post-graduate students may be individualized based on the student's prior graduate coursework and clinical preparation.

All post-graduate completion pathways must meet national certification eligibility requirements, state board of nursing regulations, and institutional requirements, consistent with those applied to degree-seeking students. Post-graduate students may obtain equivalency credit for previously completed advanced practice core courses leading to preparation as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) in a population-focused area.

### II. DEFINITIONS

**Post-Graduate Advanced Practice Student:** A licensed registered nurse with a completed MSN or DNP who is enrolled in a post-graduate completion program to obtain preparation in an additional population focus or advanced practice role.

**Equivalency Credit:** Credit granted for graduate-level coursework completed at another institution that is determined to be equivalent in content, rigor, and outcomes to required coursework at the Cizik School of Nursing.

**Gap Analysis:** A formal faculty review process used to evaluate prior coursework and clinical experiences to determine unmet competencies, required coursework, and clinical hour requirements.

**Advanced Practice Core Courses:** Foundational graduate-level courses required for APRN preparation, including advanced role development, pathophysiology, pharmacology, and physical assessment.

Population-Focused Area: A nurse practitioner specialty aligned with national certification (e.g., Family, Psychiatric/Mental Health, Adult/Gerontology Acute Care).

### **III. PROCEDURE**

#### **A. Admission**

1. Post-graduate APRN students must complete the required Advanced Practice Core courses listed below or obtain approved equivalency credit.
2. Equivalency credit must be reviewed and approved by the Track Coordinator.
3. To grant equivalency credit, the Track Coordinator will evaluate the student's official transcripts to determine whether prior coursework meets equivalency criteria for required Cizik School of Nursing courses.
4. If transcript review is insufficient to determine equivalency, the Track Coordinator may request course syllabi for review.

Required Advanced Practice Core Courses:

- N7305W: Advanced Practice Role in Population Health
  - N6804W: Advanced Pathophysiology
  - N6901W: Advanced Pharmacology
  - N7307: Advanced Physical Examination and Differential Diagnosis
5. Evaluation of prior advanced practice clinical experience must follow Policy D8080, Validation of Clinical Experiences for Post-Graduate Advanced Practice Completion Students.

#### **B. Progression**

1. Students must enroll in all required courses or have documented evidence of approved equivalency credit.
2. Students must adhere to all Cizik School of Nursing policies governing graduate student progression and completion.
3. All track-specific didactic, clinical, and preceptorship courses must be completed at the Cizik School of Nursing.
4. The Track Coordinator will use the approved degree plan to advise post-graduate students and monitor academic and clinical progression.

#### **C. Completion Requirements**

Completion is awarded for preparation as a Nurse Practitioner in a population-focused area. Post-graduate students must meet all course and clinical hour requirements through coursework, approved equivalency credit, or validated competencies via gap analysis.

##### **1. Required Advanced Practice Core Courses**

All students must complete the Advanced Practice Core courses listed above or provide written approval and official verification of equivalent coursework completed in another graduate program (MSN or DNP).

2. Students with an MSN or DNP in a Population Focus but a Different APRN Role (e.g., CNS to NP)

Students must complete:

1. Advanced Practice Core Courses (or approved equivalency credit)
2. Clinical Sequence:
  - o Population-Specific Practitioner I (Didactic and Clinical): 240 clinical hours
  - o Population-Specific Practitioner II (Didactic and Clinical): 240 clinical hours
  - o Population-Specific Practitioner III (Didactic and Clinical): 180- 240 clinical hours
  - o Population-Specific Preceptorship (Clinical): 360 clinical hours

Minimum total clinical hours for the new role: 1020-1080

3. Students with an MSN or DNP in a Non-APRN Specialty and a Different Role (e.g., Leadership, Informatics).

Students must complete:

1. Advanced Practice Core Courses (or approved equivalency credit)
2. Clinical Sequence:
  - o Population-Specific Practitioner I (Didactic and Clinical): 240 clinical hours
  - o Population-Specific Practitioner II (Didactic and Clinical): 240 clinical hours
  - o Population-Specific Practitioner Specialty Care III (Didactic and Clinical): 180- 240 clinical hours
  - o Population-Specific Preceptorship (Clinical): 360 clinical hours

Minimum total clinical hours for the new role: 1020- 1080

4. Students with an MSN or DNP in Another Population but in the NP Role (e.g., FNP to PMHNP)

Students must complete:

1. Advanced Practice Core Courses (or approved equivalency credit)
2. Clinical Sequence:
  - o Population-Specific Practitioner I (Didactic and Clinical): 240 clinical hours
  - o Population-Specific Practitioner II (Didactic and Clinical): 240 clinical hours
  - o Population-Specific Practitioner III (Didactic and Clinical): 180- 240 clinical hours
  - o Population-Specific Preceptorship (Clinical): 120- 360 clinical hours

Minimum total clinical hours for the new population: 780

#### D. Certification and Regulatory Documentation

1. Required forms for the Texas Board of Nursing must be reviewed and approved by the Office of Student Affairs.
2. Certification examination applications, as applicable, will be reviewed and processed by the Track Coordinator.

## IV. CONTACTS

Contact	Telephone	Email/Web Address
DNP Program Director		<a href="https://nursing.uth.edu/about/administration">https://nursing.uth.edu/about/administration</a>