

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER & WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER STUDENTS

Clinical TDY/TAD/PCS Information

The FNP/WHNP Program selects the best clinical sites to meet the objective of the course. Sites in the National Capital Region are limited. The program has MOUs with 90 CONUS, OCONUS, PHS and civilian sites. The first 12 months of the program are focused on core advanced practice nursing sciences, research, and program-specific courses, and students spend the majority of their time in the classroom setting. At the end of the Fall and again at the end of the Spring semesters, all students complete a 2 week clinical rotation, often at a distant TDY/TAD location.

Beginning in the summer of the 2nd year, didactic sessions are shorter, and there is a 6 week clinical rotation in the late summer and a 10 week clinical rotation in the spring, often at a distant TDY/TAD location.

Students move (Permanent Change of Station - PCS) to their Phase II site for a one-year clinical residency to complete the remainder of the didactic and clinical courses in their 3rd and final year of the 3-year program.

Additional FAQs

1. What science courses are recommended to fulfill the “within 5 years” prerequisite?

Graduate-level courses (generally 500 and above) are preferred, as they would better prepare you for the rigor of our program (especially our hands-on anatomy lab). However, we understand the barriers many active duty members face, which is why we also accept 200-400 level courses. Anatomy & Physiology (with cadaver lab), Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology are the classes our students tend to struggle with the most, especially after being out of school for a number of years, so finding a course in an area you think you might find most challenging would be ideal.

2. May I apply for the program if my prerequisite science course is still in progress at the time of the application deadline?

Yes, it is possible to be granted “conditional” admission to the program, pending completion of the science requirement. Applicants are responsible for submitting this information on their application and for ensuring official transcripts are submitted by the specified deadline.

3. Is the GRE required or recommended?

Previously, USU's Graduate School of Nursing required completion of the GRE for nurse practitioner applicants whose cumulative GPA fell below 3.5. However, this policy is being revised to better align with the military Services' priorities, remove perceived barriers to graduate education, and reflect national trends in graduate admissions.

Therefore, the GRE is not currently required as part of your USU application package. However, if you choose to take the GRE, a high score could still improve the strength of your overall package, thereby increasing your chances of admission.

4. When does the program start and end?

If selected, orientation would begin in April of the calendar year following the application deadline. Graduation would be held in May (Armed Forces Day), 3 years later.

5. If I already have a Masters' degree and/or am already a FNP, may I transfer credits?

While we do accept transfer credits, in order to receive a DNP degree from USUHS, students must complete all courses required within their given program here. Our curriculum offers perspectives unique to the military and federal services with a key focus on operational components, so requiring all graduates to complete our program here helps to ensure a consistent level of preparation for our future military/uniformed F/WHNPs.

6. If I am selected by USUHS but not by my Service, would I need to submit a new application the following year?

Yes, we recommend completing an entirely new application package. Each applicant pool is rated independently from previous pools--every application package and interview is scored by a panel of faculty, and admission to the program is based on whether you fall above or below the cut line for that year's applicant pool. Another year of experience may boost your package score if personal and professional growth are reflected (in your CV, writing sample, new letters of rec, interview, etc). If an applicant resubmits everything (with no updates) from their prior package, it is possible that they'd fall below the cut line (due to the increasing number of applications we're receiving), when in reality their package could be strengthened by documenting the extra year of experience.

We do maintain your submitted transcripts, so those can all be maintained with your new application without the need to resubmit.

7. I am a United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Officer. Am I eligible for your program?

Yes, if you are sponsored by a USPHS agency. Each Service has their own funding program for long-term education--the Army has LTHET, the Navy has DUINS, and the Air Force has AFIT. For USPHS officers, agency sponsorship requires: (1) The officer must be released to our program for 3 full years; (2) The agency must pay tuition to USU (currently \$16,000 per year).