

# Nurse Practitioner Program Evaluation Checklist

## 1. Accreditation

- Is the program accredited by recognized bodies?
  - Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
  - Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
- Where to find this information:
  - Program's official website (typically under "About Us" or "Accreditation")
  - Accrediting bodies' directories:
    - [CCNE Accredited Programs](#)
    - [ACEN Accredited Programs](#)

## 2. Program Curriculum

- Core Courses:
  - Advanced Pharmacology
  - Advanced Health Assessment
  - Advanced Pathophysiology
- Specialization Tracks Offered:
  - Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
  - Adult-Gerontology NP
  - Pediatric NP
  - Psychiatric-Mental Health NP

- Women's Health NP
- Acute Care NP
- Clinical Hours:
  - Minimum of 500 supervised clinical hours
  - Distribution across various settings and populations
- Simulation Labs:
  - Availability of simulation labs for skill development
- Interprofessional Education:
  - Opportunities for collaborative learning with other healthcare disciplines

### **3. Faculty Qualifications**

- Credentials:
  - Faculty members hold relevant NP certifications
  - Active clinical practice experience
- Faculty-to-Student Ratio:
  - Didactic courses: 1:24 or better
  - Clinical supervision: 1:8 or better
- Faculty Support:
  - Availability of academic advisors or mentors

### **4. Clinical Placement Support**

- Assistance Provided:
  - Program assists in securing clinical placements

- Established partnerships with healthcare facilities
- Preceptor Quality:
  - Preceptors are credentialed and experienced
- Diversity of Clinical Sites:
  - Exposure to various healthcare settings (e.g., hospitals, clinics, community health)

## **5. Program Outcomes**

- Certification Exam Pass Rates:
  - First-time pass rates published and above national average
- Graduation Rates:
  - High program completion rates
- Employment Rates:
  - High employment rates within six months of graduation

## **6. Program Flexibility and Format**

- Delivery Methods:
  - On-campus
  - Online
  - Hybrid
- Schedule Options:
  - Full-time
  - Part-time

- Program Length:
  - Timeframe to complete the program (e.g., 2 years full-time)

## **7. Admission Requirements**

- Prerequisites:
  - Bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN)
  - Active RN license
  - Minimum GPA requirement
- Application Materials:
  - Transcripts
  - Letters of recommendation
  - Personal statement or essay
  - Resume or CV
- Application Deadlines:
  - Clearly stated on the program's website

## **8. Admissions Selectivity and RN Experience**

- Selectivity:
  - Does the program have competitive admissions criteria?
  - Are acceptance rates published or available upon request?
  - Does the program avoid open enrollment policies? In the context of NP programs, open enrollment may indicate a lack of rigorous academic standards and insufficient preparation for advanced clinical practice. Selective admissions processes, on the other hand, typically evaluate applicants based on GPA, standardized test scores, letters of recommendation, and relevant clinical experience, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the demands of the

program.

- RN Experience Requirements:
  - Minimum of 1-2 years of full-time RN experience required
    - Many programs require at least one to two years of clinical experience before admission.
  - Preference for applicants with experience in relevant specialties (e.g., pediatrics for Pediatric NP programs, neonatal for NICU...)
    - Some programs recommend specific experience; for example, pediatric NP programs may prefer applicants with 1–3 years of pediatric nursing experience.
- Evaluation of Experience:
  - Does the program assess the quality and relevance of RN experience during admissions?
  - Are there opportunities to discuss professional experience during interviews or in personal statements?

## **9. Tuition and Financial Aid**

- Cost Breakdown:
  - Tuition per credit hour
  - Additional fees (e.g., lab fees, technology fees)
- Financial Support:
  - Scholarships
  - Grants
  - Assistantships
  - Loan forgiveness programs

## **10. Technology and Resources**

- Learning Management System:
  - User-friendly platform for course materials and communication
- Library Access:
  - Online databases and journals
- Technical Support:
  - Availability of IT support for students

## **11. Student Support Services**

- Academic Support:
  - Tutoring services
  - Writing centers
- Career Services:
  - Resume workshops
  - Interview preparation
  - Job placement assistance
- Mental Health Services:
  - Counseling services available to students

## **12. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)**

- Initiatives:
  - Programs promoting DEI within the curriculum
  - Support for underrepresented student populations

- Cultural Competency Training:
  - Courses or workshops focused on cultural sensitivity

### **13. Alumni Network and Reputation**

- Alumni Engagement:
  - Active alumni network
  - Opportunities for mentorship
- Program Reputation:
  - Rankings in national publications
  - Employer recognition and preference

### **14. Mission and Governance**

- Alignment with Institutional Mission:
  - Program's mission aligns with the institution's values and goals
- Faculty Involvement:
  - Faculty participate in governance and decision-making processes
- Quality Assurance:
  - Ongoing self-assessment and planning for program improvement

### **15. Resources**

- Fiscal Resources:
  - Adequate budget allocations for the NP program
- Human Resources:

- Sufficient qualified faculty, preceptors, and staff
- Student Support Services:
  - Access to comprehensive academic and personal support services
- Learning Resources:
  - Availability of necessary learning materials and facilities
- Physical/Technology Resources:
  - Adequate physical infrastructure and technological support