

adult, and families. Classroom and clinical experiences focus on health assessment, health maintenance, and promotion, as well as counseling, client education, and management of selected health problems. Practice in rural settings and with clients from diversified cultural backgrounds.

Graduates meet the requirements for recognition as pediatric, geriatric, or family nurse practitioners in California and may apply for national certification.

The purpose of the Primary Care/Nurse Practitioner Option is to prepare nurses as specialists in primary care and to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of primary care services in the Central San Joaquin Valley.

Policies and Procedures

- Applications are available at the Department Web site www.csufresno.edu/nursing, or you can request an application packet by writing to the following address and enclosing a self-addressed, stamped, legal-size envelope:
California State University, Fresno
Admissions: Graduate Nursing Program
Department of Nursing
2345 E. San Ramon Ave. M/S MH25
Fresno, CA 93740-8031
- Arrange to take the Graduate Record Examination. If in Fresno, contact California State University, Fresno's Division of Graduate Studies.
- Request application from Nursing Department.
- Request official transcripts of previous academic work to be forwarded to Admissions Office.
- Submit Nursing Department application and required credentials.
- Complete and submit Nursing Department graduate program written essay.

Admission to the program is limited to the fall semester; students with deficiencies are encouraged to meet the requirements in the previous spring semester.

Deadline for application for admission to the program is April 1.

Admission Criteria

There are two pathways into the M.S.N. program for individuals with different educational backgrounds: the B.S.N. graduate and the R.N. with a non-nursing baccalaureate degree.

Admission Criteria for B.S.N. Graduates

- Admission to California State University, Fresno, Division of Graduate Studies
- Baccalaureate degree in nursing from an NLN/CCNE accredited program
- Registered nurse license in California (may be waived for nurses licensed in another country)
- Overall GPA of 2.5 with 3.0 in nursing
- Malpractice insurance
- An introductory course in statistics
- An introductory course in research
- A physical assessment course that includes theory and practice; or validation of knowledge and skills for graduates of programs with integrated content
- Current CPR certification

Admission Criteria for Registered Nurses with a Baccalaureate Degree in a Field Other Than Nursing

This program is open only to students eligible for admission to graduate standing at California State University, Fresno, who have completed a nursing program in an accredited school, are registered, or eligible for registration as nurses in the state of California and who hold a bachelor's degree in a related field from an accredited university.

For admission to this program, students are required to meet the following criteria in addition to the regular criteria set for admission to the M.S.N. program:

- Submission of resume of all past educational and employment experience. Resume should emphasize experience in leadership, community health, research, and writing for publication.
- Review of resume by the graduate coordinator of the Nursing Department who establishes nursing courses the student must complete to obtain a background comparable to students graduating with a B.S.N. at California State University, Fresno.
- Satisfactory completion of the individualized program established by the coordinator before enrolling in the regular M.S.N. program.
- Admission to the Nurse Practitioner Program is not guaranteed, and all students must make application to the Nurse Practitioner Program.

Post-Master's Certificates (State-Issued)

At California State University, Fresno, the **post-master's nurse practitioner certificate** is 31 units and the **post-master's clinical nurse specialist/nurse educator certificate** is 32 units. These certificates are issued by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Applicants may receive credit toward the certificates for graduate courses taken previously. Typically, the main courses that are requested for credit are the advanced theories and advanced issues courses. In order to request a course substitution, the applicant must submit a copy of the course description, objectives, and assignments for review by the graduate coordinator. At that time, the course of study will be determined with input from the student and department graduate curriculum committee. Students seeking post-master's certificates are exempt from some coursework and have a shorter program.

Master of Science Degree Requirements

Courses. Under the direction of the graduate coordinator, each student prepares and submits an individually designed program based on the following:

	<i>Units</i>
Core courses in nursing.....	13
NURS 211, 212, 221, 223, 225	
Role specialization courses.....	21-22
(See below.)	
Thesis (NURS 299) or	
Project (NURS 298).....	3
or	
Comprehensive Exam.....	0*
Minimum Total	37-38

Minimum total for Primary Care is 37 units

Minimum total for CNS/Nurse Educator is 38 units

* Additional approved 3-unit elective required for students taking the Comprehensive Exam.

Role Specialization (Options)

- Clinical Nurse Specialist/Nurse Educator*
NURS 210, 229, 230, 240, 241, 242, 250, 251
- Primary Care Nurse Practitioner*
Family: NURS 210, 264, 265, 266, 267, 277, 278
Pediatric: NURS 210, 264, 265, 266, 269, 279, 280
Geriatric: NURS 210, 264, 265, 266, 271, 281, 282