

## **Philosophy of the Family Nurse Practitioner Focus Area of Study**

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) faculty believes that nurse practitioners are integral members of interdisciplinary interdependent health care teams whose aims are to provide holistic primary care to culturally diverse families, individuals and children in order to maintain and promote health, prevent illness and promote or restore functional integrity of families. Nurse Practitioners provide culturally sensitive, person and family centered care, within the goals and capabilities of the person and/or family unit.

The foundation of a Family Nurse Practitioner practice consists of basic nursing, advanced nursing education including theoretical, empirical and practical knowledge, clinical practice, and the physical and behavioral sciences which provide a broad basis for understanding the human experience. Key components of the FNP, Doctor of Nursing Practice are advanced decision making and management, communication with peers and patients, anticipatory guidance, counseling, teaching, group dynamics, community resource utilization, legislative health care policy involvement, clinical quality improvement, translation of clinical research into practice, and the advancement of nursing.

## **Purpose of the Family Nurse Practitioner area of Study**

The purpose of the family nurse practitioner area of study is to prepare an advanced practice primary health care provider who: (a) has a sound foundation in theory and practice for providing health care across the lifespan; (b) is able to care for individuals and families experiencing minor acute and stable chronic illnesses; and (c) provides guidance and education concerning the effects of those disruptions as it relates to the integrity and functional abilities of the child, person and family unit.

The advanced educational preparation of nurses as nurse practitioners enables graduates to serve as primary health care providers who coordinate a comprehensive approach to promote health throughout the life span, reduce health disparities among diverse populations and promote access to health care by these populations. Graduates of the program will be able to assume leadership roles; institute changes in health care delivery, and initiate new programs of care. The curricula provides a broad-based, scientific and theoretical foundation.

Additionally, the FNP area of study serves four specific purposes: (1) To prepare primary care nurse practitioners who can respond to regional and state health care needs in a variety of settings. (2) To collaborate with other health care professionals and consumers in the promotion and maintenance of health, identification of risk factors and prevention of illness and disabilities of children, individual family members and family units. (3) To contribute to the advancement of family health by participating in research, educational planning and evaluation, and (4) To meet the educational needs of registered nurses seeking specialization in family primary care at the graduate level.

Upon successful completion of programs, students will earn a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and will be qualified to take the national certification examination for Family Nurse Practitioners.

### **Objectives of the Family Nurse Practitioner Area of Study**

Upon completion of the University of Minnesota, School of Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner area of study, the graduate as a Doctor of Nursing Practice, will be able to:

1. Assume responsibility for primary care management of individuals and families across the lifespan.
2. Function interdependently with other members of the health care team in providing an evaluating health care.
3. Function collaboratively with physicians in the care of patients with acute and stable chronic conditions.
4. Assume the role and responsibilities of the professional family nurse practitioner which include:
  - a. understanding the role of a primary care change agent;
  - b. understanding elements essential to the provision of patient-centered primary care services;
  - c. articulating the historical development of the nurse practitioner role in primary care;
  - d. evaluating and improving practice through the use of research findings;
  - e. promoting and guiding professional advanced nursing practice;
  - f. integrating the provision of ethical principles into advanced nursing practice;
  - g. participating in peer review;
  - h. evaluating how current health policy decisions, organizational structure, and care impact access to and delivery of health care;
  - i. influencing legislative trends affecting the primary health care of individuals and families of diverse populations;
  - j. facilitating the development of health care systems that address the needs of culturally diverse populations, providers, and stakeholders;
  - k. integrating appropriate technologies for knowledge management to improve health care;