

Educational pathway for Nurse Practitioner

Nurse Practitioners are highly skilled autonomous health practitioners with masters-level educational preparation and advanced clinical skills. Nurse Practitioners are registered as such with Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa | the Nursing Council of New Zealand and have the legal authority to practice in the Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice.

Preparation for Nurse Practitioner

- Successfully completed prerequisite courses.
- Masters level qualification.
- Nurses must be practising clinically at an advanced level as they complete the Nurse Practitioner pathway.
- It is important to have the support of your employer to develop towards the Nurse Practitioner role as you complete your postgraduate studies.
- Completed the one-year Nurse Practitioner Training Programme.

Educational preparation

Early postgraduate study

The following courses are prerequisites for the Nurse Practitioner Training Programme and should be included in the PGCertHSc and PGDipHSc.

- One of the following assessment courses:
 - » NURSING 773 Advanced Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (30 points)
 - » NURSING 770 Clinical Practice Development (30 points, if completed after 2014)
 - » NURSPRAC 720* Advanced Mental Health Assessment
- NURSING 742 Biological Science for Practice (30 points)
- One 30-point course of the students choice. Preference for a course that relates to the students clinical specialisation.
- Both NURSING 785* Clinical Reasoning in Pharmacotherapeutics (30 points, mandatory) and NURSING 746 Evidence-based Practice and Implementation (30 points, recommended) need to be completed before applying for the Nurse Practitioner Training Programme. One of these courses should be included in the PGDipHSc, and the other MUST be left until the MNurs in order to meet regulatory requirements. Please note NURSING 773 (or NURSING 770, or NURSPRAC 720) and NURSING 742 are prerequisite courses for NURSING 785.

Strong clinical expertise is necessary for Nurse Practitioner practice. Nurses must be able to demonstrate advanced health assessment and clinical exam skills with clinical reasoning and knowledge of pathophysiology and pharmacology before proceeding to the final master's stage of the pathway.

Students must successfully complete the PGCertHSc and PGDipHSc, meeting the GPA criteria to proceed to MNurs. If a student has completed previous postgraduate study or completed a programme such as the MNSc prior to their nursing registration, they should connect with the School of Nursing to discuss their options.

Masters level study

The Master of Nursing (MNurs) is a 120-point programme (see page 8, MNurs (taught)); courses that can be included in your 120-point master's for the Nurse Practitioner pathway include:

- NURSING 746 Evidence-based Practice and Implementation (30 points, if not completed in the PGDip)
- NURSING 701* Research Project (30 points) (Must be completed as a requirement of the taught masters).

- NURSING 785* Clinical Reasoning in Pharmacotherapeutics (30 points, if not completed in the PGDip)

All students are required to contact the Nurse Practitioner Pathway Coordinator prior to enrolment into the MNurs for course advice.

Nurse Practitioner Practicum Year

The final practicum year is part of the Nurse Practitioner Training Programme. This is an application-based programme, and details are available at: <https://nurseworkforce.blogs.auckland.ac.nz/nptp/> Academically, the practicum year consists of two courses, NURSING 743 and NURSING 740.

- NURSING 743 Nurse Practitioner Advanced* Practicum (30 points, Semester One)
 - » Prerequisite: Approval of the Course Director
- NURSING 740 Nurse Practitioner Prescribing Practicum* (30 points, Semester Two)
 - » Prerequisite: Approval of the Course Director

NURSING 743 and NURSING 740 are designed to refine advanced clinical decision-making skills for nurses preparing for the Nurse Practitioner scope of practice. Nurse Practitioners provide primary and specialty care and need expertise in clinical decision-making. Nurse Practitioners utilise advanced assessment skills along with disease management models to develop evidence-based clinical decisions needed for prescribing pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatment plans.

It may be possible to include one or both of these courses within your taught master's. However, if you complete your master's programme before you are admitted to the Nurse Practitioner Training Programme, it is possible to complete these final courses as part of another qualification, such as a second PGCert (criteria applies), for example. If this situation is relevant to you, please contact the School of Nursing.

Eligibility for the Nurse Practitioner Practicum Year:

- Have completed a minimum of three years of full-time practice within the last five years, with at least one of the three years in full-time practice (0.8 FTE or higher) in Aotearoa-New Zealand. This experience should be in the area of practice that the Nurse Practitioner will be practising once registered.
- A solid foundation of clinical skills and knowledge is required to be able to practice at an advanced level.
- Have identified a clinical supervisor (senior Nurse Practitioner or senior doctor) who is willing to mentor the attainment of the advanced skills and competencies required for Nurse Practitioner practice.
- Written agreement from your employer must be provided with the application to confirm a minimum of 500 hours of supernumerary clinical release time, clinical supervisor availability, and release to attend university study days.