FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About the Program
At Indiana State University, graduate nursing study can be focused in Nursing Education or Family Nurse Practitioner; post-graduate nursing study can be focused in Nursing Education, Family Nurse Practitioner, or Doctor of Nursing Practice.

Q: Is the program accredited?
A: Yes, the ISU Advanced Practice Nursing Master’s program is accredited by ACEN (formerly NLNAC) since 1989. The ACEN’s Board of Commissioners granted the clinical doctorate nursing program (DNP) initial accreditation in March of 2013 for a full five years.

Q: Do all states approve distance learning programs?
A: Each of the states has its own approval processes for out-of-state institutions offering online degrees. While Indiana State University endeavors to offer all of its programs to as wide an audience as possible, all ISU online programs may not be available in all states. Currently, online programs are not offered in the state of Massachusetts. To check the status of programs available in a particular state, visit program availability. For additional information contact the Department of Advance Practice Nursing. If you are currently enrolled, it is best to check with the Department of Advanced Practice Nursing prior to moving. Relocation to an unapproved state will likely result in an inability to progress in your program.

Q: How do I apply?
A: There are two applications to complete:

1. College of Graduate and Professional Studies (fee charged)
   http://www.indstate.edu/graduate/apply.htm
2. Advanced Practice Nursing Program Application (found under specific concentration) (and supporting documents found on the Application Checklists)
   https://www.indstate.edu/health/department/apn

Q: How do I decide which concentration to take?
A: The concentration or track you select is based upon the type of career you wish to pursue.

Q: How long will I take to finish the program?
A: The Nursing Education concentrations can be completed in approximately 2-3 years, depending on how your plan of study is set up. The Family Nurse Practitioner concentration is currently only being offered on a part-time basis and typically takes between 2½ - 3 years to complete depending on how your plan of study is set up. The Doctor of Nursing program can be done on either or part-time or full-time basis and takes approximately 2½-3 years to complete.

Q: Is the program totally online?
A: Yes, all work is completed online and on a semester-based schedule.

Q: Are there any requirements to visit campus?
A: At this time, there are no visits to campus currently required.

Updated 5-14-14; 3-30-2015; 10/13/2015; 7/28/2017
Q: May I sit out a semester, or do I have to be readmitted?
A: Students may skip semesters and return to classes (within a 2 year timeframe) without reapplying. Students who sit out a semester must discuss this, in advance, with their advisor and complete a stop-out form that can be downloaded from the website. Your advisor will revise your plan of study based on when courses are available. Clinical courses have limited capacity, and students must have a revised plan of study on file to ensure completion. Students who stop out while in FNP clinical courses may be required to update their clinical skills prior to re-entry and decision to stop out should be discussed with their advisor and the Director of the FNP program. The stop out form can be found at: https://www.indstate.edu/health/sites/health.indstate.edu/files/apn-stop-out-form.docx

Q: How will I know which courses to take?
A: A plan of study will be prepared for you upon admission. You may change the plan of study by discussing this with your advisor. A signed plan of study must be on file for students to register for courses.

Q: May I register for another course as soon as I finish one?
A: No, courses are taught on a semester basis and follow a curriculum sequence.

Q: What is the timeframe for offering courses?
A: Semesters begin in January (Spring), May (Summer), and August (Fall). All program admission deadlines are February 1st and September 1st with program semester starts in Spring and Fall.

Q: Do I work at my own pace in the courses?
A: The program is structured on a semester basis with assignments due on specific dates. You may work at your own pace within that assignment period. Each course is delivered in an asynchronous format allowing for anytime delivery of information. Some courses may require a teleconference, collaborate session, or other synchronized meeting. The dates for synchronized meetings are known in advance.

Q: How many courses may I transfer?
A: For Master’s programs, the College of Graduate and Professional Studies will accept transfers of a maximum of nine credit hours for programs that require less than 40 hours, 12 credit hours for programs that require 40-49 hours, and 15 credit hours for programs that require more than 49 hours. Students pursuing a second master’s degree are directed to the appropriate department chairperson or program director who may accept up to 30 percent of the minimum hours required from the student’s first master’s degree program as transfer credit. Hours applied from the previous master’s degree must be less than seven years old for consideration and have a grade of B or better. Students should review their state’s Nurse Practice Act for information regarding regulations which govern advanced practice and prescriptive authority. For Doctoral degrees, there is no specific rule regulates the number of hours of graduate credit that are transferable from other institutions approved by the appropriate regional accrediting agency to offer graduate work leading to an advanced degree beyond the master’s degree. Graduate work which has been completed previously will be evaluated by the student’s committee to determine what credits are applicable to the student’s program. Graduate credits earned more than seven years prior to admission to the program will not count toward fulfilling the minimum credit requirements for the doctoral degree.

Q: How do online courses work?
A: Online courses are delivered via Blackboard. The system is structured for coursework including an announcement page, access to syllabi, modules, web links such as the ISU Library, discussion boards, and quizzes. Distance education information at ISU can also be found at ISU Online: http://www.indstate.edu/online/

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Q: Where do I go for FNP clinicals?
A: Clinical hours are arranged by the student and are done in your own geographical area and should be an outpatient, primary care setting with an MD or DO, PA, or NP. Some states will not allow FNP students to be precepted by PAs or CNSs. It is important for students to review the Distance Education rules and regulations for their Board of Nursing.

Q: Are there scholarships available?
A: There are limited scholarships by the APN Department. Students can apply for consideration at: http://www.indstate.edu/scholarships/

Q: What is the tuition?
A: Tuition information can be found at: https://www.indstate.edu/costs-aid/ tuition-graduate

Q: Are there any other fees?
A: Each course will have a $50 distance education fee and clinical courses will have an additional $500 fee.

Q: How do I apply for Financial Aid?
A: Information regarding Financial Aid can be found at:

   Please note: Federal Financial Aid is NOT available to students seeking a Post-Master’s Certificate.

Q: How do I communicate with my instructor?
A: All instructors will advise you of their schedule – some are online nearly all day, and others have set times and/or days. You will primarily stay in contact via email.

Q: I’m an international student; can I apply to your programs?
A: No, programs offered in an all online learning format are not permitted to admit international students on an F-1 or J-1 visa.