Frequently Asked Questions

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

Q. Is the program accredited?
A. Yes, the ISU Advanced Practice Nursing Program has been ACEN (Formally known as NLNAC) accredited since 1989.

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. NursingCAS (fee charged) must be completed by the application deadline with all required documents. http://www.nursingcas.org/

Q. How long will it take to finish the program?
A. Only part time students are being accepted into the FNP program. It usually takes 3 years to complete the MSN/FNP and 1.5 years to complete the post-master's FNP. The DNP program takes 2 to 4 years to complete.

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

Q. Are there any trips to campus?
A. No campus visits are currently required. There are opportunities to participate in focused pediatrics and an annual Foster Grandparents (adult and geriatric) IPE opportunity.

Q. If I have a family or job related problem, may I skip 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 stop out for a semester must discuss this, in advance, with their advisor. Your academic advisor will revise your plan of study based on when courses are offered. Clinical courses have limited capacity, and students must have a revised plan of study on file to ensure progression.
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 by discussing this with your academic advisor.

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, May, and August.

Q. Do I work at my own pace?
A. The program is structured on a semester basis with assignments due at certain times and you may work at your own pace during the assignment period. Each course is delivered in an asynchronous format allowing for anytime delivery of information. Some courses require synchronous sessions three to five times per semester. These are primarily in the DNP program.

Q. How many courses can I transfer?
A. Master's Degree Transfer Information
Master's programs in 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. All courses for transfer must have syllabi reviewed for equivalency and a “B” or better grade achievement. 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. Students should review their state's Nurse Practice Act for information regarding regulations which govern advanced practice.

Doctoral Degree Transfer Information
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 Courses Work?
A. The BlackBoard system is used for courses. This system is structured for coursework including an announcement page, access to syllabi, modules, web links such as library, a discussion board and quizzes.

Q. Where do I go for clinicals?
A. Clinicals are done in your own geographical area and should be an outpatient, primary care family practice setting with a MD, NP, or PA. Specialty preparation in women’s health, and or nurse mid-wife are also acceptable.
Q. Are there any scholarships I can apply for?
A. There are limited scholarships offered by the APN Department. Students can apply for consideration with the Scholarship Office.

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

Q. Are there any other fees?
A. There is a $50 distance education fee charged for each course and a $500 fee for each clinical course.

Q. How do I apply for financial aid?
A. Information about financial aid can be found at:
   https://catalog.indstate.edu/content.php?catoid=37&navoid=1111
   AND
   http://www.indstate.edu/gradexpress/finaid.htm

   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, others have set times and/or days. You will primarily stay in contact via e-mail.