

Frequently Asked Questions

Master of Nursing Pathway for Nurse Practitioners



Who should enrol in the Master of Nursing?

Experienced Registered Nurses (RNs) wishing to apply to the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) for registration as a Nurse Practitioner (NP).

What is a Nurse Practitioner?

A NP is an expert clinician who holds a clinical master's degree and is registered by the NCNZ to practise in a scope beyond the level of a RN. A NP works autonomously and collaboratively in a team combining advanced nursing knowledge and skills with diagnostic reasoning and therapeutic knowledge. As a clinical leader a NP works across healthcare settings and influences health service delivery and the wider profession.

Please refer to the NCNZ website regarding the features of the work environment and support necessary for students wishing to become a NP.

Use [this link](#) for NP scope of practice guidelines for applicants

What are the entry requirements for the Master of Nursing?

- Hold a current practising certificate
- Have three years equivalent full time practice in the last five years
- Have employer support
- Have the support of a collaborative interprofessional health care team including a prescribing mentor.

Academic entry to the NP Practicum is via completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Practice (RN Prescribing) and 60 credits in the Master of Nursing with a B grade average.

or
contact us to discuss your situation.

What are the requirements of the NP practicum?

The NP practicum must consist of a minimum of 300 supervised hours. If the nurse has already completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Practice (RN prescribing) these 150 hours may be credited as part of the 300 hours.

The NP student must complete their 300 practicum hours in two different areas of practice.

Who is eligible to be my clinical mentor?

The NP clinical mentor must be either an experienced NP or a Doctor. In one of the two practice experiences the mentor must be a NP.

What are the required courses in the Master of Nursing?

PART TIME STUDY
Courses are offered in both semesters

Courses for PG Diploma in Health Practice (RN Prescribing)

Year 1	PGHL850 Advanced Practice: Pathophysiology	PGHL851 Advanced Practice: Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning
Year 2	PGHL852 Advanced Practice: Pharmacotherapeutics	PGHL853 Registered Nurse Prescribing Practicum
Remaining courses for Master of Nursing		
Year 3	PGHL870 Evidence for Health Practice	PGHL854 Influences on Complex Health Care
Year 4	PGHL903 Nurse Practitioner Practicum	

Am I required to be onsite?

Most of the programme is delivered online including MTeams meetings with lecturers and other students. The only courses with compulsory onsite days are:

PGHL851 Advanced Practice: Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning (2 blocks of 2 days = total of 4 days)

and

PGHL853 Registered Nurse Prescribing Practicum (1- 2 days)

and

PGHL903 Nurse Practitioner Practicum.

How long will it take to complete the Master of Nursing degree?

Most students complete the Master of Nursing degree part time over four years. This can be reduced to three years with a combination of part-time and full-time study.

How many hours per week do I need to plan to study?

You should expect to spend approximately 15-17 hours per week.

If you are interested in this qualification please contact:

Please contact us at: deptofhealthpractice@ara.ac.nz for details.