

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (MSN) Program

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- **Master of Science in Nursing**
- **Post-Master's Certificate***
- **Post-Certificate Master of Science in Nursing**

*A Post-Master's Certificate may be earned for any NP or CNS option.

[Admission Guidelines](#)

The Role

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) program prepares graduates to obtain certification and function as pediatric nurse practitioners. The central focus is on clinical practice where students develop knowledge and skills in the behavioral and biological disciplines and apply their learning to the care of children from infancy through young adulthood with the spectrum of health from promotion of wellness to management of acute and chronic illness. Emphasis is placed on the development of practitioners who will be prepared to function in a variety of settings.

The Program

The MSN program is designed for part-time study and may be completed in 2-3 years. For flexibility, the majority of courses are offered both live and online. Students must have at least one year of recent inpatient pediatric experience before advancing to the specialty curriculum.

The Post-Master's Certificate is designed for nurses who have completed a master's degree in clinical nursing and are interested in acquiring PNP skills. For students who have had the prerequisite graduate coursework, the program may be completed part-time in one year. The Post-Certificate MSN is an innovative distance learning program designed for the certified PNP who wants to complete a master's degree.

The Faculty

Rush College of Nursing faculty are highly experienced practitioner-teachers with doctoral and master's degrees and certification in their specialties. The Practitioner-Teacher model at Rush University allows faculty to maintain and enhance their clinical expertise and apply it to research and academic programs. Faculty are nationally known in their various areas of expertise and are actively involved in professional organizations. Faculty are also well published and frequently speak at regional, national, and international professional meetings.

Faculty Contact for PNP Programs of Study and frequently asked questions:

Arlene Sperhac, PhD, CPNP, RN, FAAN
Coordinator PNP Program
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E-mail: Arlene_Sperhac@rush.edu

Clinical Sites

Clinical experiences are offered in a wide variety of settings, from pediatric clinics to subspecialty hospital practices. The experiences are individualized based on the student's learning needs and desired practice sites. Negotiations with appropriate preceptors and clinical sites are done by a faculty member.

Career Opportunities

Career prospects are quite diverse. PNPs provide care in large health care organizations and in the community. They function independently and collaboratively with health care team members to provide comprehensive health care that will maximize care outcomes.

Certification and Accreditation

Completion of the program provides eligibility for certification as a pediatric nurse practitioner by the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board and by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Graduates are also eligible for state licensure/certification where available.

To apply or for further information contact:

College Admission Services
600 S. Paulina - Suite 440
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: (312) 942-7100
Fax: (312) 942-2219
E-mail: Rush_Admissions@rush.edu

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Please note: All programs of study are subject to change.

The Post-Certificate Master of Science in Nursing for the practicing PNP is an innovative distance learning program.

The program allows you and your advisor to assess your strengths and areas needing development and then to design a program to meet your unique needs. PNP students will work closely with a PNP faculty advisor to facilitate learning and the accomplishment of program objectives.