



Nurse Practitioner Training Programme: The Facts

Nurse Practitioner (NP) Training Programme: The Facts

Whilst a great many nurses in New Zealand have completed the required preparation for a clinical Master's degree, relatively few have progressed to NP registration. To address this situation, The University of Auckland and Massey University have been awarded funding for the Nurse Practitioner Training Programme by Health Workforce New Zealand to be continued for 2018. This training programme seeks to increase coordination between potential NPs, their employers, tertiary education providers, and New Zealand Nursing Council. The aim is to align and promote NP preparation, registration and employment into a seamless pathway.

MN pathway for NP applicants

- This NP pathway is embedded in the MN programme already approved by CUAP and the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ).
- The entry point to the final step of the pathway is the relevant pre-requisite study and grades (see entry criteria) and the completion point is a Master of Nursing (MN).
- This pathway will be delivered over 1 year part-time.

Objectives

- Prepare advanced practice nurses for NP roles and NP registration
- Provide a pathway within the approved MN programme that is specifically designed for prospective NPs
- Support 500 hours of closely supervised supernumerary clinical time to practice the advanced nursing skills needed for NP registration, such as prescribing
- Align New Zealand Nursing Council NP registration processes with NP education and subsequent employment
- Employer commitment to hire NP once registered following successful completion of training programme

Entry criteria

Nurses entering into the final NP MN year will have completed at least a Postgraduate Diploma and will undergo a formal application and acceptance process for training positions.

Entry criteria:

- Four years' clinical practice in a specific area of practice
- Clinical nursing postgraduate diploma qualification with B average or higher (including any required grades for specific papers)
- Written confirmation from employer indicating support for the student to enroll in the NP training programme, release for clinical supervision time and a commitment to hire the nurse upon NP registration
- Written agreement from a prescribing health professional such as a Nurse Practitioner or Medical Provider to provide one to one clinical supervision. Note that you are required to have access to two areas of clinical practice in which to develop the advanced skills and knowledge required for nurse practitioner practice. One area should be relevant to your intended area of practice and the other area should broaden your clinical practice. At least one experience must be with a clinical mentor who is also a nurse practitioner.

Prerequisites

The final nurse practitioner practicum paper(s) have three pre-requisite papers which must be completed prior to enrolling in the final NP MN year:

- Advanced Assessment and Clinical Reasoning
- Advanced Pathophysiology
- Advanced Pharmacology

Curriculum

The NP pathway is embedded in the postgraduate nursing courses that already exist within those delivered in University of Auckland and Massey Schools of Nursing. Therefore, the pathway is constructed from courses already developed and successfully taught and in a sequence that systematically builds the competencies required for NPs by the Nursing Council of New Zealand (2017).

The requirements for the entire MN are made up of three consecutive qualifications:

Postgraduate Certificate → **Postgraduate Diploma** → **Master of Nursing**

- Students should complete the postgraduate certificate and postgraduate diploma (which includes advanced assessment, advanced pathophysiology and, advanced pharmacology).
- They apply for acceptance in the Master of Nursing NP Training course. This programme includes two days a week of clinical practice for 10 months (500 hours of practice) within two areas of clinical practice, one of which has committed to hiring the NP upon registration.
- To successfully complete the NP training programme, the student is required to complete a NP portfolio and submit it New Zealand Nursing Council for NP registration
- Nurses may transfer credits from another university either at a *completed* post-graduate Certificate or Diploma level.
- Students on the NP pathway will complete a maximum of 120 points to complete the final step – the MN. However, preference will be given to students who have only the practica to complete (60 credits).
- Individual academic advice is essential for these nurses using transfer credit to ensure they receive case-by-case guidance for enrolment into the appropriate courses to meet equivalent learning outcomes of the courses named above.

Courses within each step NP Pathway (or variation depending on University regulations)

Nurses on the NP pathway must have already completed the following course content:

- Advanced Assessment and Clinical Reasoning
- Advanced Pathophysiology
- Advanced Pharmacology
- Evidence Based Practice & Implementation (or variation)
- Clinical Project (or two elective courses)

University of Auckland: Plus **two clinical practicums** - taken in the final year of study consecutively

- Advanced Nursing Practicum – advanced diagnostic reasoning and treatment planning (250 hours clinical practicum component) – 30 points
- Prescribing in Advanced Nursing Practice (250 hours clinical practicum component) – 30 points

Massey University: Plus **one 60 credit practicum**

- Prescribing for Nurse Practitioner practice (500 hours clinical practicum component) - 60 points

Clinical practice requirements

- Students enrolled in the training programme must have commitment from employers to support them during the programme and also commit to hiring them at the conclusion of the programme. This can either be through the student's existing workplace, or through other employers indicating an identified need for an NP position.
- Each student will be required to commit to supervised (by a current prescriber) clinical practice time of a minimum of 16 hours per week (500 hours total) over the year. This time must be outside (supernumerary) of the student's non-prescribing work hours.
- The employer who has committed to hire the student upon NP registration is reimbursed through Health Workforce New Zealand to fund the NP training student's clinical time.

Access to supervised clinical time must be negotiated by the student with their employer before acceptance into the pathway and written agreement from their current employer must be provided. The pathway coordinator will assist students to organise this with their employers.

Clinical supervision

- Each student will be supervised in the practicum papers by an appropriately qualified prescribing health professional. At least one experience must be with a clinical mentor who is also a nurse practitioner.
- The appointment of a clinical supervisor must be negotiated with partner NP employers prior to enrolment in the practicum.
- The student must negotiate with their current employer prior to acceptance in the pathway with the support of the NP pathway coordinator.

For more information on the NP Training Programme, please contact the following representatives:

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