

Professional Standards & Graduate Core Curriculum

The *Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Nursing Practice*, published in 1996 by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, has been adopted as the professional standard to guide the graduate curriculum. This document specifies a graduate nursing core, an advanced practice nursing core, and specialty curriculum content as the three components of master's education in nursing. EKU's MSN program has reviewed the curriculum carefully for consistency with these standards to better ensure a quality master's program. The essential curriculum elements are as follows:

Graduate Core Curriculum Content

- I. Research
- II. Policy, Organization, and Financing of Health Care
 - A. Health Care Policy
 - B. Organization of the Health Care Delivery System
 - C. Health Care Financing
- III. Ethics
- IV. Professional Role Development
- V. Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice
- VI. Human Diversity and Social Issues
- VII. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Advanced Practice Nursing Core Curriculum

- I. Advanced Health/Physical Assessment
- II. Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology
- III. Advanced Pharmacology

Specialty Curriculum Content

Rural Health Family Nurse Practitioner Option: The specialty curriculum content for the FNP option uses as its standard *The Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs 2002* from the National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education. The *Domains and Competencies of Nurse Practitioner Practice*, which was adapted for NONPF's (Nurses' Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty) Curriculum Guidelines and Program Standards for Nurse Practitioner Education (1995), serve as an appendix to the *Essentials of Master's Education* document.

Rural Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Option: In addition to the *American Psychiatric Nurses Association* practice guidelines, the PMHNP option uses as its standard *The Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs 2002* from the National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education. The *Domains and Competencies of Nurse Practitioner Practice*, which was adapted for NONPF's (Nurses' Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty) Curriculum Guidelines and Program Standards for Nurse Practitioner Education (1995), serve as an appendix to the *Essentials of Master's Education* document.

Advanced Practice Rural Public Health Nursing option: The specialty curriculum content for the community option uses as its standard the October 2003 document, *Essentials of Master's Tenth Nursing Education for Advanced Community/Public Health Nursing Practice*, published by the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators.