PEDIATRIC ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER: ACUTE/CHRONIC, MSN

Graduates of this program are prepared to provide collaborative, comprehensive care to children and adolescents with a variety of complex critical, acute and chronic conditions, and emerge as clinical and professional leaders who are expert in physical assessment and clinical decision making, managing multifaceted disorders, culturally sensitive family focused care, community engagement, transitional care and integrating health care policy. Our approach, across all health care settings, is based on a thorough assessment and integration of the social determinants of health.

We uniquely offer three concentrations of study all housed within the Pediatric Acute Care Program. This allows for students to approach their Graduate level education with a specific clinical focus while still receiving a broad based education in Pediatric Acute Care. Our graduates from all concentrations are able to pursue career options in any area of Pediatric Acute Care. Our Acute and Chronic Care concentration is focused on the care of children with acute and chronic conditions. It is distinctive as it offers an emphasis and commitment to following children and families throughout chronic childhood illness. We structure the program and clinical experiences to foster an understanding and management of families in the continuum of illness. Clinical experiences are located in diverse settings such as pediatric acute care inpatient units, step-down units, emergency departments, community sites and ambulatory, rehabilitative, and specialty-based clinics.

For more information: https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/pediatric/pediatric-acute-care-nurse-practitioner/

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2026 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

Curriculum

Code	Title	Course Units
Research Requirement		
NURS 6370	Introduction to Research Methods and Design [1]	1
or NURS 5470	Scientific Inquiry for Evidence-based Practice	
Core Requirements		
Science Courses		
NURS 6850	Advanced Developmental Physiology and Pathophysiology	1
NURS 6080	Advanced Pharmacology and Therapeutics for Nursing Practice	1
Other Core Courses		
NURS 5090	The Child with Special Healthcare Needs	1
Theory Courses		
NURS 7200	Nursing of Children Theory I: Child and Family Development	1
NURS 7340	Intermediate Principles of Pediatric Acute Care	1
NURS 7360	Advanced Principles of Pediatric Acute Care	1
Clinical Courses		
NURS 7210	Advanced Physical Assessment Across the Life Span and Clinical Decision Making: Nursing of Children	1
NURS 7350	Pediatric Acute Care NP: Professional Role and Intermediate Clinical Practice	1
NURS 7370	Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner: Professional Role and Advanced Clinica	1
NURS 7410	Mgmnt of Chldrn with Acute and Chronic Conditions: Nursing of Children in the Community Adv Clinical	1
Electives		
Select 1 NURS graduate level elective		1
Total Course Units		**12**

Plans of study are available for both full-time (https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/pediatric-acute-care-nurse-practitioner/) and part-time (https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/pediatric-acute-care-nurse-practitioner/) students.

[1] The alternate course, NURS 5470, is a graduate-level research methods course approved for Penn BSN students only.

Post-Graduate APRN Certification

Penn's MSN programs include a Post-Graduate APRN Certificate option. These programs can be pursued at any time post-degree. Current Master's students are also welcome to add complementary minors to their studies: https://catalog.upenn.edu/graduate/nursing/programs/

The Post-Graduate APRN Certificate curriculum is determined after a gap analysis is made by the Program Director. Prospective students should reach out to the Admissions Office for more information about post-masters and certificate options and to request a review of the student's previous MSN transcript. The length of each program depends on the course units required and course offerings per semester. For more information: https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/admissions/msn-and-post-masters/post-masters/.

Full Time Plan of Study

Fall		Course Units
NURS 6850	Advanced Developmental Physiology and Pathophysiology	1
NURS 7200	Nursing of Children Theory I: Child and Family Developmen	1

NURS 7210	Advanced Physical Assessment Across the Life Span and Clinical Decision Making: Nursing of Children	1
NURS XXXX Graduate Nursing Elective		1
	Course Units	**4.00**
Spring		
NURS 6080	Advanced Pharmacolo and Therapeutics for Nursing Practice	1
NURS 6370	Introduction to Research Methods and Design	1
NURS 7340	Intermediate Principles of Pediatric Acute Care	1
NURS 7350	Pediatric Acute Care NP: Professional Role and Intermediate Clinical Practice	1
	Course Units	**4.00**
Summer		
NURS 7360	Advanced Principles of Pediatric Acute Care	1
NURS 7370	Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner: Professional Role and Advanced Clinica	1
NURS 5090	The Child with Special Healthcare Needs	1
NURS 7410	Mgmnt of Chldrn with Acute and Chronic Conditions: Nursing of Children in the Community Adv Clinical	1
	Course Units	**4.00**
	Total Course Units	**12.00**

Part Time Plan of Study

First Year		
Fall		**Course Units**
NURS 6850	Advanced Developmental Physiology and Pathophysiology	1
NURS XXXX Graduate Nursing Elective		1
	Course Units	**2.00**
Spring		
NURS 6080	Advanced Pharmacolo and Therapeutics for Nursing Practice	1
NURS 6370	Introduction to Research Methods and Design	1
	Course Units	**2.00**
Summer		
NURS 5090	The Child with Special Healthcare Needs	1
	Course Units	**1.00**
Second Year		
Fall		
NURS 7200	Nursing of Children Theory I: Child and Family Development	1
NURS 7210	Advanced Physical Assessment Across the Life Span and Clinical Decision Making: Nursing of Children	1
	Course Units	**2.00**
Spring		
NURS 7340	Intermediate Principles of Pediatric Acute Care	1
NURS 7350	Pediatric Acute Care NP: Professional Role and Intermediate Clinical Practice	1
	Course Units	**2.00**

Summer		
NURS 7360	Advanced Principles of Pediatric Acute Care	1
NURS 7370	Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner: Professional Role and Advanced Clinica	1
NURS 7410	Mgmnt of Chldrn with Acute and Chronic Conditions: Nursing of Children in the Community Adv Clinical	1
	Course Units	**3.00**
	Total Course Units	**12.00**