

**The University of Texas at Arlington**  
**College of Nursing and Health Innovation**  
**N5631 Family Nursing Advanced Practicum**

Welcome to N5631 Family Nursing Advanced Practicum. This particular course is different from all others in this program as it provides a mechanism for you to test your knowledge and supports your efforts to enhance your skills in areas that may need work. The bottom line goal of this course is to prepare you to successfully pass the national certification examination qualifying you to work as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

In this introduction and overview we will cover several items:

- A. National certification expectations and options
- B. Benefit of the APEA predictor examination
- C. Actions that you can do to promote success in the national certification examination

**National certification expectations and options**

There are two major national certification examinations for Family Nurse Practitioners. The American Nursing Credentialing Center (ANCC), a company within the American Nurses Association, and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) both provide certification for advanced practice nursing. Though there may be thoughts on one test to take compared to another, the decision is yours to make, as both are valid and reliable in testing and documenting proficiencies.

Here's the link to the ANCC FNP Certification information page:

<http://nursecredentialing.org/FamilyNP>

Here's the link to the AANP Certification Process page:

<https://www.aanpcert.org/ptistore/control/certs/process>

Both organizations provide a computer-based testing process covering the following areas of testing or domains of expected competence:

- Assessment
- Diagnosis
- Plan
- Evaluation

Knowledge areas include the following:

1. Health promotion and disease prevention
2. Anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology
3. Interviewing concepts and techniques
4. Health history
5. Signs and symptoms
6. Physical examination
7. Laboratory/diagnostic test
8. Clinical decision-making
9. Differential diagnosis
10. Pharmacological therapies
11. Non-pharmacological/complementary/alternative therapies
12. Diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
13. Bio-psychosocial theories

14. Patient and family education and counseling
15. Community resources
16. Healthcare economics and practice management
17. Evidence-based practice
18. Legal and ethical issues
19. Cultural competence
20. Principles of epidemiology

<https://www.aanpcert.org/ptistore/control/certs/domains>

As you can imagine, it is nearly impossible to test all of these areas using individual sections or unique questions for each domain and knowledge area. As a result, test questions may address multiple areas of knowledge and overlap domains. Being successful in these testing processes requires strategy and preparation.

One proven technique that is being incorporated into many NP programs around the country is the testing and review processes provided by companies that specialize in review courses. The company that the University of Texas Arlington has selected is Advanced Practice Education Associates (APEA). For transparency I'll share that I have been a DNP student classmate to the creator and president of this company, Dr. Amelie Hollier. I've had the honor of working with her and appreciate the processes, content, and feedback that her systems have to offer.

### **Benefit of the APEA predictor examination**

The APEA is an educational organization committed to helping nurse practitioners and nurse practitioner students advance professionally and educationally through review courses, continuing education programs, books, and other educational offerings. Please bookmark this link and plan to visit this site often: <http://www.apea.com>

The online diagnostic center at APEA reflects over 17 years of experience. The text bank contains over 1,300 multiple choice question that have proven reliability and validity. All tests are randomly generated.

APEA provides three databases of examination that include:

1. A 150 question predictor examination
2. Comprehensive post predictor examination (also 150 questions)
3. 3P Examination (60 questions)

In this course the predictor and the post predictor examinations will be employed. We will not be accessing the 3P Examination in this course as it is intended for students to complete before starting their clinical courses.

Some of the features of the testing processes in the predictor examinations include the following:

- Accessible from any computer
- No license fee required
- Each examination is unique
- Test taking time is flexible (example: 2 week window to complete any selected examination)
- The predictor examinations are scheduled for a specific date and time (as would be the case with the certification examination)
- Test taking time can and will be made available by UTA. We anticipate a wide window of opportunity in this first week.

Benefits of this system to you as the student:

- The results of each examination provide a snap shot of your knowledge
- The results will isolate your strengths and weaknesses
- These results allow for an individualized study plan. This is the foundation of this N5631 course.
- Test results that are greater or equal to 70% show a high probability of passing either the AANP or the ANCC national certification examinations.
- Test results trigger a need for remediation and review of content that can take place at the student's discretion within the time frame of this course.

**Please note well: Passing the final examination is essential. Your probability of passing the National Board Certification Exam is greatly increased by making a 70% or higher on the post-predictor exam.**

### **Actions that you can do to promote success in the national certification examination**

As you can see from the above information, the APEA testing system is designed to help you help yourself in building your skills and talents with the goal of passing the national certification examination.

By the end of the first week you should pay the \$31.95 fee through this site (insert site here if known), and complete the predictor examination. The scores will be displayed to you immediately after completing the test and the school will have access to this information also.

The QBank of questions will allow you to tap into test questions in several ways. You may wish to complete another 150 comprehensive examination, or select questions on a specific subject. You can also ask to have questions that you have never seen before or focus on questions that you have missed in past efforts. You may also ask the system to provide random questions for a full spectrum of exposure to content at any time.

As a result of this predictor test score, we will work together for you to create a study plan (some call it a remediation plan) in order to focus on the areas of weakness shown as a result of the examination. Each week you will need to invest time in taking the examinations after studying material that is available to you. All textbooks, literature and other resources you may wish to tap into can be used for purposes of improving your test scores. APEA offers study modules specific to each body system that you may wish to purchase online. Study guides in print are also available for your use.

### **Summary**

The purpose of this course is preparation for future success. The tests offered through APEA will assist you in preparing for success, but the real effort is yours. We hope that you see the value in using the APEA testing system as a tool to move forward not only in this program but through national certification testing and success in practice.