

Examining Nursing Specialties

Student Name

Program Name or Degree Name (e.g., Bachelor of Science in Psychology), University

COURSE XXX: Title of Course

Instructor Name

Month XX, 2024

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Choice of Nursing Specialty

After considering all the nursing specialties in the MSN program, I decided on population-focused nurse practitioner (NP). A population-focused NP works in a variety of settings in the healthcare field, including hospitals, academia as nurse educators, and leadership as policymakers and influencers. Clinical expertise, communication skills, and advanced education and training enable NPs to perform effectively in various settings. An NP goes beyond registered nurses (RNs) in terms of education and clinical training by earning a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)-Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) with a specific focus such as pediatrics, family medicine, or gerontology (Population-Focused Competencies Task Force, 2013). While NPs work in various settings and have a wide range of competencies, their primary roles in patient care revolve around disease prevention and health management.

Difficulties in Making the Choice

One of the most challenging decisions to make before beginning an MSN program is the specialty. There are several nursing specialty programs from which to pick, which is a difficult undertaking. Furthermore, although one may be interested in a certain specialization, it is pretty easy to succumb to the pressure and influence of friends, family, and peers who may have conflicting perspectives about a particular nursing specialty. My greatest dilemma, I confess, was the several nursing specializations from which I had to choose one. Also, friends and family expected me to choose a specific path, only to be disappointed by my decision to pursue a different nursing specialization. The fact that a population-focused nurse practitioner specialization focuses on the whole population and allows a nurse to practice in pediatrics, gerontology, or family medicine (Population-Focused Competencies Task Force, 2013) was the

motivation for my choice of the area. As a result, despite the difficulties, I ducked all other influences from family and friends and picked this specialty.

Factors that drove my Decision

This nursing specialty has always piqued my curiosity. Since my first years of practice as an RN, I have encountered a wide range of patients and have been able to address their difficulties. Regardless of the patient's age, whether pediatric or geriatric, I have always carried out my responsibilities with rigor and the necessary skills. Aside from my enthusiasm for the subject, I have an FNP preceptor, and the knowledge and skills I have gained from her have contributed to my interest in population-focused nursing practice. During clinical rotations, I also got to know nursing students pursuing FNP MSN programs, which piqued my interest even further. As I look forward to pursuing a population-focused nurse practitioner-FNP course, my major inspirations are my interest and the impact of prominent persons in the specialty.

Professional Organization Affiliated with the Chosen Specialty and Details of Membership

The International Family Nursing Association (IFNA) is one of the professional organizations with which FNPs are affiliated. IFNA believes in a compassionate family on health, human dignity, social justice, and respect for everyone (IFNA, 2022). The organization's mission is to improve family health by (1) serving as a global unifying force and voice for family nursing, (2) sharing knowledge, skills, and practice to foster family nursing practice, and (3) fostering nursing leadership through education, scholarship, and research (IFNA, 2022). To become a member, a nurse goes to the IFNA website and clicks on the membership icon to select the membership level that best fits them. Level 1A, the Sustaining Active Member, for example, requires a \$225.00 prescription that is valid for one year and has no automatically repeating

payments (IFNA, 2022). However, one must have the requirements, including academic credentials, before applying for membership.

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References

IFNA. (2022, September 25). *Association information*. International Family Nursing

Association. <https://internationalfamilynursing.org/association-information/mission/>

Population-Focused Competencies Task Force. (2013). *Population-focused nurse practitioner competencies*. Ymaws.com.

<https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.nonpf.org/resource/resmgr/Competencies/CompilationPopFocusComps2013.pdf>

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