

Graduate Nursing Program News

SPRING 2025

About your program...

Colorado Mesa University is ranked by Edu Med as one of the most affordable online graduate nursing programs with the best student to faculty ratio in the country. Our graduate NPs in both AGNP and FNP have a 100% pass rate for certification for the **past 7 years**. All our students submit for publication and presentations at peer reviewed national conferences. The program is rigorous, but small, lending to one-to-one faculty input. Applications are submitted centrally through Nursing CAS affording CMU more visibility.

Congratulations to our students for making your program a success!

Breaking News: Loss of our Founding Mother....

On Jan. 22, the world lost a health care pioneer, an internationally acclaimed nurse and the co-founder of the nurse practitioner (NP) role with the passing of **Loretta C. "Lee" Ford, EdD, RN, PNP, FAAN, FAANP**. The American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP) and NPs worldwide grieve the tremendous loss of this trailblazer, friend and mentor to the nursing community. Ford died at the age of 104 at her home in Florida.



Dr. Ford's contributions to health care will be remembered and cherished always. She was truly one of the legends of nursing.”

Advising

Please contact your assigned advisor should you vary from your Course Progression Sheet. Dr. Urban will advise all MSN FNP students. Dr. Hall will continue to advise all AGNP (& NE) students. Dr. Marshall will advise DNP students.

Clinical Placement Coordinator News - Mr. Steven Cruse

Mr. Cruse continues to be our clinical placement coordinator. Please reach out to him a year before your clinical course begins to ensure a contract is in place.

Steven is working with CMU graduate medical programs to expand clinical affiliations with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in the Denver Metro area. CMU has fully executed an affiliation agreement with Optum Medical which has locations in 21 states in the US. Watch for information to be shared as progress is made. The growth of CMU graduate medical programs is exciting and our graduates become valuable members of their communities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OSCES & GPS for students in clinical courses 577, 610, & 630 will be held in week 14 on **April 28, 29, & 30th**. Mark your calendars!

APRIL

What to expect:

- Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCEs) will be conducted for students in clinical practicums.
- Inservice content will be integrated throughout both days. We have great guest speakers with additional content.

Spring Faculty Meetings You are all welcome to attend all or part of a meeting!

Fall dates are: (meeting times: 3-4:30 pm MST) (Tuesdays)
Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4, April 1, and May 13, 2025



Meetings are one of the rooms and

held in person in DHS conference there is an option to join via Zoom. RSVP to Mr. Steven Cruse if you wish to attend in person or want to receive a Zoom invite. scruse@coloradomesa.edu

Students on the Move:

Of the five students who graduated with the MSN degrees in December 2024, we have had one student, **Doran Tregarthen**, who has already passed his FNP board exam! Congratulations Doran. We are proud of your success and expect the others to be equally as successful.

Rachel Evans, who is graduating with her MSN AGNP degree in spring 2025 has had her abstract accepted for presentation at the 2025 National Nurse Practitioner Symposium. The title of her presentation is Strategies to Improve Vaccination Uptake Among Uninsured Adults. Congratulations Rachel! We know you will do a great job presenting your work at the conference.

What is Up with the Current Faculty?

Dr. Lane Eyre is currently in his first semester teaching NURS 526 Advanced Pharmacology for Nursing. Aside from teaching this course, he is the pharmacy director at Family Health West and just helped the organization switch to a new electronic health record and new medication dispensing devices, which was quite an undertaking at the same time!

Dr. Kathleen Hall has authored four book chapters in the upcoming edition of *Nursing for Wellness in Older Adults*. This edition should be published in 2025. She also authored a chapter with Dr. Marshall for Dr. Stanley's new edition of the textbook, *Community and Public Health Nursing: Promoting the Public's Health*. Dr. Hall and Dr. Stanley will be presenting a poster at the Western Institute of Nursing's annual conference in Spokane, WA in April on their Theory of Teaching in Complex Systems. This is based on their previously published scoping review on the utilization Stanley and Dougherty's (2010) Nursing Education Model. Dr. Hall has two other manuscripts in submission. One manuscript focuses on the nonpharmacological options for the treatment of patients with schizophrenia. The other manuscript provides an update on the use of tabletop exercises in graduate nursing education to improve geriatric nursing leadership skills.

Dr. Bridget Marshall received a \$115,000 telehealth grant for the purpose of improving workforce needs in the underserved regions throughout Colorado by expanding direct care clinical training for online NP students. Dr. Marshall obtained telehealth certification from the Center for Telehealth Innovation, Education, and Research (C-TIER) this past summer. Dr. Marshall is continuing training to use the telehealth equipment. Implementation of the mobile kit will be completed this spring in NURS 610 and NURS 630. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Dr. Ona Ridgway DNP, PMHNP, FNP is a committed Advanced Practice Nurse with a focus on advancing nursing standards and healthcare practices. In May 2024, she attended the Health Care for Homeless Conference in Phoenix, engaging with experts on comprehensive healthcare solutions for underserved populations. Dr. Ridgway's dedication to nursing has been recognized with several honors. In 2024, she received The Nightingale Award for Nurse Led Teams and Exceptional Achievement in Nursing from the regional chapter. She was also named a Luminary for the state of Colorado, reflecting her significant contributions to the field. Currently, Dr. Ridgway serves on the Colorado Nurses Association Board as the Region 6 Director, where she continues to advocate for nursing excellence and leadership. Her work remains centered on healthcare innovation and quality patient care, making her an influential figure within the nursing community.

Dr. Mary Jo Stanley is teaching NUR 540 Teaching Strategies in the spring. She is co-author of the nursing textbook *Rector's Community and Public Health Nursing: Promoting the Public's Health* 11th edition published by Wolters Kluwer; the book will be available in February 2025. Dr. Stanley also teaches population health nursing and evidence-based practice to undergraduate BSN students. Dr. Stanley has a recent publication with Health Science colleagues: Graham, L, Stanley, M., Donovan, E., & Tost, J. (2025). Using data to drive programmatic change: Recalculating NCLEX-RN success. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 56, 6-11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.profnurs.2024.11.003> Additionally, she and Dr. Katheen Hall have been accepted to present at the Western Institute of Nursing on their education model. Dr. Stanley has a speaking engagement at the Oregon Consortium for Nurse Educators and recently received Tenure at CMU. Congratulations Dr. Stanley!

Dr. Karen Urban will advise all MSN FNPs currently in the program. Dr. Urban recently attended the 2024 ACG Postgraduate Course and GI Pharmacology course in Philadelphia, PA., the 2024 ACG Functional GI & Motility Disorders School and the Regional Postgraduate Course in Williamsburg, VA. and looks forward to sharing updates that are important for primary care. She also completed the Duquesne University Genomic Competencies for Nurses course. She looks forward to sharing insights about patients' genetic makeup and how this can influence their health, risk for diseases, and how they respond to treatments.

Highlights to look for in 2025:

- Overall, 2025 promises to be an exciting year for NP students with more career opportunities, advancements in technology, and a growing need for skilled providers across various healthcare settings.
- **Telehealth** is expected to remain a critical part of healthcare delivery in 2025. NP students will likely have greater opportunities to learn and work in telehealth environments, whether in primary care or specialty areas. As more healthcare systems and policies adapt to virtual care, this could lead to increased demand for NPs with expertise in telehealth, offering students new career pathways.
- The aging population and the ongoing shortage of healthcare providers are anticipated to increase the demand for NPs in various settings, including primary care, mental health, and geriatrics. This means that NP students can expect strong job prospects upon graduation, especially if they pursue specialties in high-demand areas like family medicine, psychiatry, and geriatrics.
- The role of the NP as a leader in healthcare teams will continue to grow, with NPs taking on more **leadership and management roles**. Students will benefit from increasingly collaborative healthcare environments, where NPs work closely with physicians, specialists, and other healthcare providers.

Have a great spring semester!

Mr. Cruse and Drs. Eyre, Hall, Marshall, Ridgway, Stanley, & Urban