

FNP Admission Essay Guidelines

Mercy University educates family nurse practitioners (FNPs) to deliver primary care to diverse populations residing in diverse economic communities. In addition, FNPs need to be cognizant of factors that contribute to the health status of their patients. These factors are social determinants of health (SDH).

In 500 words (**place the word count at the top of the essay under your name**), respond to the following (be as specific as possible):

Family Nurse Practitioners (FNPs) are vital to the delivery of primary care. In this essay, discuss the role of the FNP in providing comprehensive, patient-centered primary care across the lifespan. Explain how social determinants of health impact the FNP's ability to deliver effective care and promote health equity.

Describe how your education at Mercy University will prepare you to address these challenges and enhance your clinical practice. Finally, outline your professional goals after graduation and how you plan to contribute to improving primary care outcomes in your community or chosen population.

Presentation is an important component of this essay. We consider the ability to answer the essay questions, use graduate level writing, correct grammar, correct spelling, appropriate word choices, appropriate tenses, and adherence to directions as indicators of your ability to communicate effectively and professionally.

The rubric below details how nursing faculty will evaluate admission essays.

Category	Excellent (4 pts)	Good (3 pts)	Satisfactory (2 pts)	Needs Improvement (1 pt)
Understanding the Role of the FNP	Demonstrates a comprehensive and insightful understanding of the FNP's role in primary care, including scope, responsibilities, and impact on patient outcomes.	Shows a clear understanding of the FNP's role with minor gaps in depth or clarity.	Demonstrates a basic understanding of the FNP's role; lacks detail or depth.	Provides a limited or inaccurate description of the FNP's role; lacks clarity or relevance.

Category	Excellent (4 pts)	Good (3 pts)	Satisfactory (2 pts)	Needs Improvement (1 pt)
Essay Organization	Essay is exceptionally well-structured with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Ideas flow logically with strong transitions.	Essay is well-organized with a clear structure and mostly logical flow. Transitions are generally effective.	Organization is present but may lack clarity or smooth transitions. Some ideas may be out of place.	Essay lacks clear structure; ideas are disorganized or difficult to follow.
Critical Thinking	Demonstrates strong critical thinking with deep analysis of social determinants of health, education at Mercy, and future goals. Makes meaningful connections between concepts.	Shows thoughtful analysis with some depth. Connections between ideas are present but may not be fully developed.	Basic analysis is present but lacks depth or insight. Connections are weak or underdeveloped.	Lacks analysis or critical reflection. Ideas are presented without meaningful connections or depth.
Academic Writing	Writing is clear, concise, and professional. Free of grammatical or spelling errors. Tone and style are appropriate for academic work.	Minor grammatical or spelling errors. Writing is mostly clear and professional.	Noticeable errors in grammar or spelling. Tone may be inconsistent or informal.	Frequent errors that interfere with readability. Tone is inappropriate or unprofessional.

Category	Excellent (4 pts)	Good (3 pts)	Satisfactory (2 pts)	Needs Improvement (1 pt)
Follows Directions	Word count listed at the top of the essay. Essay is 500 words, slightly more (500 - 510) and slightly less (490 – 500). <i>This category is worth 2-points.</i>			

Maximum Essay Points: 18