

University of Colorado, College of Nursing  
 Graduate Course Syllabus

<b>Course Number</b> NURS 6450	<b>Course Name</b> Advanced Pediatric Physical Assessment			
			<b>Didactic:</b>	<b>Clinical</b>
<b>Term:</b>	Fall 2025	<b>Course Credits:</b>	1	0

<b>Instructor(s):</b>	[REDACTED]			
	[REDACTED]			
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment only			

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

**Welcome:**

Welcome to Advanced Pediatric Assessment. This course is designed to prepare the pediatric nurse practitioner student for working with patients in the clinical setting. Content and skills in this course build on the skills accomplished during your advanced assessment course. Using your communication skills and physical examination techniques, you will be challenged to consider the differences between adult and pediatric patients. We look forward to working with you and helping to prepare you for success in your clinical experiences.

**University Course Catalog Description:**

This course builds on previously learned physical assessment skills to prepare the pediatric nurse practitioner to conduct comprehensive and focused assessments. Critical thinking is emphasized as a primary means for collecting and analyzing data obtained from history and physical examination.

**Course Overview:**

Pediatric nurse practitioner students will build on examination techniques accomplished in Advanced Assessment. During this course, readings, didactic presentations, case studies, assessment evaluations, and skill demonstrations will be used. Skill demonstrations may be completed in conjunction with clinical courses.

At the completion of this course, the PNP student will be able to elicit a health history, conduct both comprehensive and focused physical examinations, and analyze subjective and objective data to recognize normal, variations of normal, and abnormal findings.

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### Content Outline

Module 1: Pediatric Health Assessment Overview

Module 2: Obtaining a Pediatric Health History

Module 3: Growth and Development

Module 4: Assessment of the Head and Neonate

Module 5: Assessment of the Face, Nose, Throat and Lymphatic Systems

Module 6: Assessment of Ears

Module 7: Assessment of Eyes

*\*Comprehensive Evaluation: Video Assignment 1*

Module 8: Assessment of Pulmonary System

Module 9: Assessment of Cardiovascular System

Module 10: Assessment of GI System

Module 11: Assessment of Musculoskeletal System

*\*Comprehensive Evaluation: Video Assignment 2*

Module 12: Assessment of Neurological System

Module 13: Assessment of GU System

Module 14: Assessment of the Integumentary System

Module 15: Synthesizing the Pediatric Health Assessment: Critical Thinking and Decision Making

*\*Final: Comprehensive write-up*

### Course Outcomes:

1. Perform age appropriate comprehensive and problem focused physical and developmental assessments.
2. Synthesize subjective data, objective data, evidence-based research, and practice guidelines to plan pediatric patient care.
3. Discuss the importance of pediatric nurse practitioners providing a professional, ethical, caring, and culturally sensitive approach when assessing patients.

### Course Prerequisites:

Advanced Physical Assessment: NURS 6761

Advanced Pathophysiology: NURS 6243

Advanced Pharmacology: NURS 6222

This course may be taken concurrently with NURS 6478, NURS 5911, and/or NURS 6772.

### Required Texts and Materials:

- Chiocca, E. (2019). Advanced Pediatric Assessment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. New York: Springer Publishing. ISBN: 978-0826150110
- Duderstadt, K. (2018). Pediatric Physical Examination: An illustrated handbook. 3rd Edition Mosby/Elsevier. ISBN: 978-1610020220
- Examination Tools: Ophthalmoscope and Otoscope

### Supplementary (optional) Texts and Materials:

- Burns, C., Garzon-Maaks, D., Dunn, A., Brady, M., Starr, N., & Blosser, C. (2019). Pediatric Primary Care (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Saunders/Elsevier. ISBN: 978-0323581967

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**Course Schedule: See Detailed Week-to-Week Schedule in Canvas**

**Evaluation**

**I. Assignments**

This course is offered in an online format. See assignments below; see assignment specifics in Canvas.

**II. Basis for Final Grade**

<b>Assignments</b>
Discussions [3 x 50pts each] (20%)
End of Module Trivia [10 x 30pts each] (40%)
Assessment Videos [2 – 100pts, 125pts] (30%)
Final Assignment: Write-up [1 – 75pts] (10%)

**I. Grading Scale**

Letter Grade:	Points:	Percent:
A		94 – 100%
A-		90 – 93%
B+		87 – 89%
B		84 – 86%
B-		80 – 83%
C+		77 – 79%
C		74 – 76%
C-		70 – 73%
D+		67 – 69%
D		64 – 66%
D-		60 – 63%
F		0 – 59%

**XIII. Grade Dissemination**

All grading for this course will take place through Canvas. Grades will be updated within 7-14 days after the assignment due date and faculty may make an announcement in Canvas when grades for a specific assignment are posted. Students will get feedback on their submitted assignments in this course via the Canvas course shell. Grades can be accessed at any time within the Canvas

**Policies**

Please refer to the University of Colorado, College of Nursing student handbook for detailed information about college policies and expectations.

Handbooks are located at: <https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/student-life/student-handbooks>

**Course Procedures**

**I. Course Policies: Grades**

**a. Rounding of Final Course Grades**

- i. Final Course letter grades are calculated and submitted to the registrar based on whole numbers. A minimum standard of rounding in all courses is necessary to provide consistency and transparency to students. Only the final course grade that represents the completion of all coursework will be used for rounding purposes. The calculated final course grade will be rounded using the number in

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the tenth position after the decimal of the final grade calculations. Final course grades of 0.5 and higher will be rounded up to the next whole number. When the number at the tenth decimal place is less than 0.5 the grade is rounded down to the next whole number. For example, a final course grade of 87.52% will be rounded up to 88%. A final course grade of 87.49% will result in a final grade of 87%.

**b. Attendance Policy:**

- i. Class attendance and participation is a professional expectation.
  1. Take responsibility for keeping up with the readings and assignments for each scheduled class or content area.
  2. Class participation and completion of all learning activities is required for successful completion of this course.
  3. Participate in discussions (in class or online) to define, interpret, summarize, give examples, make conclusions, etc. about the concepts discussed and about what your classmates have discussed.

UC Denver Student Attendance and Absences Policy:

[http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty\\_staff/employees/policies/Policies%20Library/7XXX%20Student%20Affairs/7030%20-%20Student%20Attendance%20and%20Absences.pdf](http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty_staff/employees/policies/Policies%20Library/7XXX%20Student%20Affairs/7030%20-%20Student%20Attendance%20and%20Absences.pdf)

**c. Late Work Policy:**

- i. Due dates for assignments are clearly posted on the syllabus. It is your responsibility to submit these assignments on time and according to their defined critical elements. Late assignments turned in 24 hours after a posted deadline will not be graded and the student will receive a zero for that assignment unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor.

**d. Late work is defined as:**

**e. The consequence for late assignments is:**

**f. Make-up Exam Policy:**

**g. Extra Credit Policy:**

**h. Grades of Incomplete Policy:**

- i. The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on

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whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the “I” will automatically be recorded as an “F” on your transcript.

**i. Rewrite/Resubmit Policy:**

**j. Group Work Policy:**

**II. Course Policies: Technology**

**a. E-Mail Policy:**

- i. Students and faculty must use University of Colorado assigned email addresses or Canvas for all email correspondence. The College of Nursing has the right to send communications to students via e-mail and the right to expect that those communications will be received and read in a timely fashion. Not reading e-mail does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with communication sent to his or her official e-mail address.

CU CON Online Communication Policy:

<https://www1.ucdenver.edu/docs/librariesprovider2/student-resources/student-handbooks/all-student-handbook.pdf#page=27>

**b. Canvas Policy:**

- i. Canvas will be the primary tool used to access class notes, announcements and track your grade for this course. It is your responsibility to access Canvas frequently for announcements and class materials, as well as information about your clinical assignments. Any questions about access or utilities on Canvas should first be directed to Canvas help site.

**c. Laptop and Mobile Device Usage Policy:**

- i. Laptops are allowed in class during all class lectures, but must be turned off and stored during exams. Turn off or mute cell phones and pagers during class time. NO cell phone conversations or text messaging is permitted during class or exam time.

**d. Classroom Devices Policy:**

- i. A basic calculator for medication calculation exercises is allowed in class and during examinations. Please ask the specific lecturers regarding recording of their lectures.

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**e. Classroom Response Clickers:**

- i. Responseware technology will be used throughout the course for interactive participation in class.

**III. Course Policies: Student Expectations**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and are responsible for all content and class work assigned and/or covered in class or online.

- CU CON Policy Statement Professional Role Behaviors:  
<https://www1.ucdenver.edu/docs/librariesprovider2/student-resources/student-handbooks/all-student-handbook.pdf#page=18>
  
- a. Professional Role Behavior and Honor Code:**
  - i. Students are expected to engage in conduct that a) is consistent with designated policies and procedures of the course and college and b) demonstrates professional behaviors. Students are expected to have read and abide by the **CU-CON Policy Statement for Professional Role Behaviors and the Student Honor and Conduct code**: “*The health professions are based on a high degree of trust by the individuals they serve. Students entering the health professions have a particular obligation, therefore, to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity and respect for others*” (Student Handbook).
  
- b. Graduate Program Policies and Procedures:**
  - i. Please refer to the Student Handbook, which can be found online at the main College of Nursing webpage.  
<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/student-life/student-handbooks>
  
- c. Students Called for Military Duty:**
  - i. Please contact the course coordinator if you are called for military duty. Plans will be made according to the length of military service and class or clinical time missed.
  
- d. Course Ethics:**
  - i. Merriam-Webster's online dictionary (2005) defines plagiarizing as: *To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source...to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.* (Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary, <http://www.m-w.com>, accessed 08/26/07).
  - ii. The CU College of Nursing Student Honor and Conduct Code policy requires that course professors and fellow students who suspect plagiarism or other violations of the honor code must immediately report the incident to the Student Honor and

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Conduct Committee. This committee evaluates the situation and determines the appropriate consequences. Potential consequences include termination of the student's enrollment in the College of Nursing. If you are caught violating the honor code, faculty will recommend your dismissal to this committee and to the Dean.

- iii. Your personal integrity is something that takes you a lifetime to build, but only seconds to destroy. Faculty will expect that all work submitted by you is authentic; and that all online testing answers are your individual work, without any assistance from any other person, the Internet, or any other sources, unless I have stipulated that you may use a specific source to complete the assignment.

**e. Professional Behavior:**

- i. The expected outcomes of the student's ability to conduct oneself in a professional manner, and to lead and to engage in effective group interaction will be demonstrated by the student's professional behaviors in the classroom and to their peers. Successful achievement of these outcomes is based on the following critical elements: The student will:
  1. Adhere to the CON Guidelines for Professional Role Behaviors and the UCD Student Honor and Conduct Code.
  2. Be considerate of your classmates and faculty and help promote an effective learning atmosphere.
  3. Communicate to faculty and peers in a professional and respectful manner at all times.
  4. Email: Professional communication is expected in all emails sent to faculty or other students. Use of professional titles, appropriate subject lines, and proper written communication structure.
  5. Turn off or mute pagers and cell phones during class time. NO cell phone conversations or text messaging is permitted during class or exam time.
  6. Take responsibility for keeping up with the readings and assignments for each scheduled class or content area.
  7. Class participation and completion of all learning activities is required for successful completion of this course. Participate in discussions (in class or online) to define, interpret, summarize, give examples, make conclusions, etc. about the concepts discussed and about what your other classmates have discussed.
  8. Children are not allowed in classrooms. Students must find alternative childcare during class time.
- **Professional Behavior:** refer to the CU CON Policy Statement Professional Role Behaviors:  
<https://www1.ucdenver.edu/docs/librariesprovider2/student-resources/student-handbooks/all-student-handbook.pdf#page=18>

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- CU CON Children in the Workplace and/or Classroom Policy: <https://www1.ucdenver.edu/docs/librariesprovider2/student-resources/student-handbooks/all-student-handbook.pdf#page=33>

**f. Civility:**

- i. Our commitment is to create a climate for learning characterized by respect for each other and the contributions each person makes to class. We ask that you make a similar commitment.

**g. Inclement Weather Policy:**

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/anschutz/studentresources/student-assistance/organizations/senate/Documents/Inclement%20Weather%20Procedure-1.pdf>

UC Denver Emergency Weather: (877) 463-6070 or [www.ucdenver.edu/alert](http://www.ucdenver.edu/alert)

CU CON Inclement Weather Policy (refer to the policy for Anschutz, AMC and South): <https://www1.ucdenver.edu/docs/librariesprovider2/student-resources/student-handbooks/all-student-handbook.pdf#page=34>

**h. Campus Assessment, Response & Evaluation (CARE):**

- i. The purpose of the team is to assess whether individuals pose a risk to themselves or others and to intervene when necessary and, more generally, to identify and provide assistance to those in need. The team takes a preventive approach to risk assessment by offering resources, referrals, and support to both the concerning individual and those impacted by their behavior. Additional information regarding this resource may be found at: <http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/CARE/Pages/default.aspx>

**i. Writing Center:**

- i. Writing assistance is available through the Writing Center. Additional information regarding this resource may be accessed at: <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/writing-center/locations/writing-center-cu-anschutz>

**j. Religious Observances:**

- i. The University of Colorado Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus has a legal obligation to accommodate students who must be absent from an educational activity in order to observe religious holidays or other observances. Students should speak to the faculty member to request accommodations for religious observances in advance during the first week of class. Requests received by faculty must be kept confidential and should be considered unless they create an

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undue hardship. If the student and faculty member cannot agree on an accommodation, the matter should be referred to the Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs for resolution.

## University Policies

### I. Access

- I. **Disability Access:** the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is committed to providing equitable access to our programs for students with disabilities (e.g., psychological, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, and physical).
- II. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom and clinical settings please contact **The Office of Disability, Access, and Inclusion** at [REDACTED] or begin the process via the website: <https://www.cuanschutz.edu/offices/office-of-disability-access-and-inclusion>. Accommodations are not provided retroactively, therefore, students are encouraged to begin this process early.

### II. Nondiscrimination and Sexual Misconduct:

- I. The University of Colorado Denver is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment. University policy and Title IX prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, pregnancy, creed, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, gender identity, gender expression, political philosophy or political affiliation in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. University policy prohibits sexual misconduct, including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or related retaliation.

Title IX requires the university to designate a Title IX Coordinator to monitor and oversee overall Title IX compliance. The University Title IX Coordinator is available to explain and discuss: your right to file a criminal complaint; the university's complaint process, including the investigation process; how confidentiality is handled; available resources, both on and off campus; and other related matters. Students may report allegations of discrimination or harassment through the Office of Equity: <http://equity.ucdenver.edu/>.

### III. Academic Honesty

#### I. **Student Code of Conduct:**

- a. Students are expected to know, understand, and comply with the ethical standards of the university, including rules against plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submissions, misuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty.

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- b. For suggestions on ways to avoid academic dishonesty, please see the Academic Honesty Handbook at <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/writing-center/faculty/academic-honesty-turnitin-resources-faculty>

**II. Plagiarism**

- a. is the use of another person's ideas or words without acknowledgement. The incorporation of another person's work into yours requires appropriate identification and acknowledgement. Examples of plagiarism when the source is not noted include: word-for-word copying of another person's ideas or words; the "mosaic" (interspersing your own words here and there while, in essence, copying another's work); the paraphrase (the rewriting of another's work, while still using their basic ideas or theories); fabrication (inventing or counterfeiting sources); submission of another's work as your own; and neglecting quotation marks when including direct quotes, even on material that is otherwise acknowledge.

**III. Cheating**

- a. involves the possession, communication or use of information, materials, notes, study aids, or other devices and rubrics not specifically authorized by the course instructor in any academic exercise, or unauthorized communication with any other person during an academic exercise. Examples of cheating include: copying from another's work or receiving unauthorized assistance from another; using a calculator, computer, or the internet when its use has been precluded; collaborating with another or others without the consent of the instructor; submitting another's work as one's own.

**IV. Fabrication**

- a. involves inventing or counterfeiting information - creating results not properly obtained through study or laboratory experiment. Falsification involves deliberate alteration or changing of results to suit one's needs in an experiment or academic exercise.

**V. Multiple submissions**

- a. involves submitting academic work in a current course when academic credit for the work was previously earned in another course, when such submission is made without the current course instructor's authorization.

**VI. Misuse of academic materials**

- a. includes: theft/destruction of library or reference materials or computer programs; theft/destruction of another student's notes or materials; unauthorized possession of another student's notes or materials; theft/destruction of examinations, papers, or assignments; unauthorized assistance in locating/using sources of information when forbidden or not authorized by the instructor; unauthorized possession, disposition, or use of examinations or answer keys; unauthorized alteration, forgery, fabrication, or falsification of academic records; unauthorized sale or purchase of examinations, papers, or assignments.

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**VII. *Complicity in academic dishonesty***

- a. involves knowingly contributing to or cooperating with another's act(s) of academic dishonesty.

**Important Dates to Remember**

The College of Nursing academic calendar is available at

<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/student-life/academic-calendar-and-resources>