



TIMELINE FOR INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

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Becoming a family nurse practitioner in Colorado

April 2026

Get ready to be done with school

- Apply for Spring Graduation
- Get Resume, References, Transcripts in order
- Register for Certification Exam with ANCC

May 2026

Graduate!

- Completed 42 Didactic Credits, 14 Clinical Credits, and 630 Clinical Hours of MSN FNP program
- Send transcripts to ANCC
- Apply for APRN License with State of CO Board of Nursing
- Make sure my RN license is up to date with State of Colorado

Summer 2026

Become Board Certified and Join APRN Registry

- Pass the American Nurses Credentialing Center FNP Certification Exam
- Ensure results sent to Colorado State Board of Nursing

Summer 2026

Interview time!

- Obtain FNP-BC credentials and license number - Apply to be on APRN Registry
- Apply for provisional RX Authority - DEA eligible
- Find employer than will help provide Professional Liability Insurance

Summer 2027

Independent FNP with Full Prescriptive Authority

- Start working as an independent FNP with full prescriptive authority in my specific scope of practice and specific population foci

Winter 2026-Spring 2027

Complete Prescriptive Authority Mentorship

- Complete 750 hours of prescriptive mentorship with authorized physician or APRN
- Submit signed attestation to State Board of Nursing of completion of hours

Fall 2026

Start Working/Start Mentorship

- Start work as an FNP with provisional prescriptive authority - DEA Eligible
- Find and participate in mentorship for prescriptive authority

2027

Maintain Good Standing

- Maintain up to date licenses and good status in the registered nurse and APRN registries with Colorado State Board of Nursing

2028

Provide Quality and Cost Effective Care

- Implement advanced practice nursing care to clients in my specific population foci, staying within my scope of practice and prescriptive authority

2029

Advocate/Collaborate

- Find ways to advocate for the nursing profession and healthcare policy

References

American Nurses Credentialing Center (2023). <https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/>

Colorado Nurse Practice Act. (2020). https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2020a_1216_signed.pdf