Assessment of student learning
The College of Nursing uses at least three measures to validate each program outcome in the FNP program. In general, each piece of evidence represents the perspective of a student, alum, faculty member or employer. The academic questionnaires determine these perspectives and provide indirect measurement of student learning. Benchmark assessments and predictor testing in the practicum course determine the instructor perspective and provide direct evidence of student learning.

BSN program learning outcomes
The FNP program enhances the knowledge and skills of registered nurses with baccalaureate-degree preparation. The program prepares advanced nurses to function in leadership roles in practice and educational settings. Advanced nursing theory and research provide the foundation for nurses to influence the future of nursing and health care. Students complete core courses in advanced nursing content and process, and then complete the Family Nurse Practitioner course sequence. The FNP courses focus on the health care needs of people throughout the life span. Graduates of the FNP program are prepared for independent and collaborative decision-making in health promotion and maintenance, with an emphasis on primary care. Graduates are eligible to take the national Family Nurse Practitioner certification exam.

In February 2012, the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) conducted the reapproval site visit for the FNP program in Sacramento and Southern California. At that time, nursing education consultants for the BRN reviewed the programmatic outcomes for the FNP program. The programmatic outcomes were found to exclude language specific to the role of the advanced practice nurse. The written report from the BRN required that the outcomes be revised to meet the BRN recommendation. The outcomes were revised, submitted to the BRN and approved as rewritten. On August 29, 2012, the reapproval of the FNP program went before the Education and Licensing Committee of the BRN, and the FNP program received a unanimous vote for continued approval.

Students who graduate from the FNP program will be able to:

- Obtain and accurately document a relevant health history for patients in all phases of the individual and family life cycle.
- Perform and accurately document appropriate comprehensive or symptom-focused physical examinations on patients, including developmental and behavioral screening, and physical system evaluations.
- Order, perform and interpret age-, gender- and condition-specific diagnostic tests and screening procedures.
- Formulate comprehensive differential diagnoses while considering epidemiology, environmental and community characteristics, and life-stage development, including the presentation seen with increasing age, family and behavioral risk factors.
- Provide health protection, health promotion, disease prevention interventions and treatment strategies to improve or maintain optimum health for all family members.
- Treat common acute and chronic physical and mental illnesses, and common injuries, in people of all ages to minimize the development of complications and to promote function and quality of living.
- Practice lawfully, based on the state’s Nurse Practice Act, which includes the methodology of practice (California students: specifically standardized procedures and furnishing number).

University learning goals
In addition to program-specific learning outcomes, University of Phoenix has a set of institution-wide learning goals. These University learning goals encapsulate the knowledge, skills and values the institution aims to help students develop through their educational experiences, regardless of the program of study they are enrolled in. The University learning goals cover the following areas:

- Professional competence and values
- Critical thinking and problem-solving
• Communication
• Information utilization
• Collaboration

**Student learning assessments**
The FNP program assesses student learning outcomes using multiple methods of direct and indirect assessments, including benchmark assignments that align with specific student learning outcomes, academic questionnaires, standardized assessments and predictor testing. Below is a brief description of some of the key activities used to assess student learning.

**A. Benchmark assignments/performance assessments**
These are standardized, course-embedded assignments that directly assess specific student learning outcomes at various points in the curriculum.

**B. Predictor testing**
Testing in the practicum course determines student readiness to take the national Family Nurse Practitioner certification exam.

**C. Alumni Academic Questionnaire**
Developed by University of Phoenix, this web-based questionnaire aligns with the University’s mission and student outcomes and is administered every two years by the University’s Office of Learning Assessment and Academic Research Group to graduates who have completed their programs within the past two to three years.