average Purdue Global military student awarded 54 credits needed associate 's 45 credits needed bachelor 's Commonly Searched Commonly Searched Nurse practitioners experiencing higher-than-average job growth one fastest-growing occupations nation Bureau Labor Statistics ’ recent report 20 fastest-growing occupations nation nurse practitioner comes tie number one Employment nurse practitioners projected grow 38 2022 2032 much faster average occupations sat Purdue Global ’ Michele McMahon DNP associate dean School Nursing learn factors influencing nurse practitioner job outlook advanced practice registered nurse registered nurse earned least Master Science Nursing opportunities practice wide-ranging include becoming certified licensed advanced practice nurse practitioner “ Nurse practitioners choose work autonomously various specialties including family practice internal medicine pediatrics women 's health also work in-patient acute care settings including emergency department urgent care geriatrics ” McMahon says Regardless setting NPs range clinical skills include diagnosing managing acute chronic conditions ordering interpreting laboratory imaging studies prescribing medication educating making appropriate referrals patients families Four main factors behind high demand nurse practitioners One hundred two million Americans live areas without adequate numbers primary care providers according Health Resources Services Administration U.S. faces projected shortage 37,800 124,000 physicians 2034 according report released Association American Medical Colleges AAMC Specific AAMC projections 2034 include shortages “ shortage primary care providers U.S. ” McMahon says “ limited number physicians rural areas well APRNs provide many services physicians nurse practitioners essential bridging gap improving access care communities. ” Nurse practitioners full practice authority varies state positive impact health outcomes health care utilization Nurse practitioners increase access care thereby increasing incidence routine well-visits decreasing need urgent emergency care services conditions may treated managed clinic “ AMA reports physician shortages years come may take 10 years physician train practice full capacity use nurse practitioners assist providing care primary care acute care settings offset effects physician shortages ” says McMahon