



Program of Study: Post-Master of Science-Nursing: Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Certificate

Program Description

The MS-CNS concentration prepares the advanced professional nurse as an advance practice nurse. The CNS addresses health care needs in the three CNS spheres of influence – the patient/client, nurses and nursing practice, and systems and organizations. The dimensions of the CNS role include clinical judgment, clinical inquiry, facilitator of learning, collaboration, systems thinking, advocacy/moral agency, caring practices and response to diversity.

Advanced Nursing Core:

NUR 642	Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology	This web-enhanced course focuses on the advanced physiology and pathophysiology principles. This course will be used to guide the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), and the Clinical Nurse Specialist Education (CNS-ED) student in interpreting changes in normal function that result in symptoms indicative of illness. The emphasis will be placed on the genetic, molecular, cellular, and organ system levels. Prerequisite: Undergraduate Pathophysiology. Co-requisite: NUR 644.	3
NUR 644	Advanced Pharmacology	This web-enhanced course focuses on the advanced pharmacotherapy principles and practices to enable the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), and the Clinical Nurse Specialist Education (CNS-ED) student to prescribe and monitor the effects of medications and selected herbal therapy. Emphasis is on the pharmacodynamics of clients with common, acute and chronic health problems in various stages of the life cycle in diverse populations. Evidence-based research provides the basis for selecting effective, safe but cost-efficient pharmacologic or integrative regimens. Appropriate client education as to various prescribed pharmacologic agents is incorporated. Legal requirements for prescriptive writing and dispensing authority are covered. Prerequisite: NUR 640. Co-requisite: NUR 642.	3

NUR 640	Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning with Skills Lab	This course builds upon the student's previous assessment skills offering more advanced health assessment content to provide the foundation for the advanced practice-nursing role. This course gives emphasis to focused assessments for a chief complaint that include physical, psychosocial and spiritual health assessment, risk assessment, functional assessment, and physical examination in diverse populations. The student uses a systematic method of diagnostic reasoning and clinical decision-making to establish a differential diagnosis. An overview of appropriate protocols for performing health screening and ordering, performing, and interpreting lab, radiographic, and other diagnostic data are included based on best practice consistent with resource allocations. Effective communication and client teaching/counseling to eliciting clients' interpretation of their health status and perceived barriers, is incorporated throughout the course so to maintain a nursing focus on patient responses to illness or the threat of illness. Effective documentation and medical record keeping are required. To begin the transformation to an advanced professional nurse, students are to start a professional journal that they are to keep throughout the program. Prerequisite Course: Undergraduate Health Assessment course.	3
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Total Advanced Nursing Core Credits: 9

Adult Clinical Specialist Core:

NUR 655	CNS I – Theoretical Foundations	This course focuses on the theories, conceptual models and research that are the basis of CNS practice. Building on advanced practice nursing theory, students will engage in discussion of theoretical and empirical knowledge of illness and wellness, both of disease and non-disease etiologies, from the three spheres of influence, particularly the patient/client sphere. Advanced health assessment, advanced pharmacology and advanced physiology and pathology principles are integrated along with professional/legal, and spirituality concepts. Content will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical foundations of CNS practice. • Phenomena of nursing concern, integrating health promotion. • Design and development of innovative nursing interventions. • Clinical inquiry/critical thinking using advanced knowledge. • Consultation, teaching and coaching with focus on the individual/family/groups • Measurement, outcome evaluation, including cost-effectiveness and evidence-based research focused on the patient/client sphere. 	6
NUR 645	Theories and Methods of Teaching	This course focuses on theories of teaching/, traditional, and alternative instructional strategies, and evaluation methods applicable to nursing education in the classroom and clinical setting. Strategies to enhance critical thinking are included. The course includes the development of learning activities for adult learners from diverse backgrounds. Prerequisite: NUR 649.	3

NUR 657	CNS II – Influence Change in Health Care Systems	<p>This course focuses on the essential characteristics and competencies of the CNS, exploring the CNS roles of clinical leader, collaborator, change agent, consultant, educator and researcher. The student will discover how utilizing those roles, a CNS can influence the quality of care within health care systems. The course builds on the patient/client sphere of influence focusing on the broader nurse/nursing practice and organizational/systems spheres of influence. Content will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influencing change. • Systems thinking. • Leadership for multidisciplinary collaboration. • Consultation, teaching and coaching focused on groups. • Measurement, outcome evaluation including cost effectiveness, and evidence-based research focused on the group/organization. • Technology, products and devices development/evaluation. • The clinical experience will take place in the student’s chosen specialty area and the above concepts will be integrated in that specialty setting. <p>Prerequisite: NUR 655.</p>	6
NUR 663	CNS Internship	<p>(4 clinical credits = 200 contact credits) A culminating practicum experience, completed in person with a preceptor, provide experiences in the three spheres of influence of CNS practice- patient/client, nurses and nursing practice and organization/system within their specialty area. This clinical practice will afford the student opportunity to refine their clinical decision-making skills in differential illness diagnoses and treatments that require nursing interventions, to develop their CNS roles of clinical expert, leader, collaborator, consultant, educator, researcher and change agent and to explore how their professional attributes, ethical conduct and professional citizenship are integrated in CNS practice to affect outcomes within the spheres. The course includes the application of the core content specific to CNS practice identified in the CNSI and CNSII courses. Online case study discussions analyzed by evidence-based practice guidelines are utilized. Impact of the student CNS on nursing practice and system level outcomes are identified. Prerequisite: NUR 657 CNS II.</p>	4

Total Clinical Hours: 250

Total Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist Core Credits: 19

Total Advanced Nursing Core Credits: 9

Total Post-Master of Science–Nursing: Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist Certificate Credits: 28