Master of Science in Nursing
Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist – Post-Master’s Certificate (World Wide Web)

Concentration Description
The post-master’s adult-gerontology clinical nurse specialist certification prepares nurses for an advanced practice nursing role in various types of health care settings. Nationally approved clinical nurse specialist competencies in adult and gerontology are the basis of the curriculum. Emphasis is placed on providing students with advanced theoretical knowledge and practice skills needed to improve patient care, nursing and organizational systems.

Requirements for Admission
Admission requires the student to meet the minimum admission requirements for graduate study of the university and the following requirements of the College of Nursing:

- A master’s degree in nursing from an accredited program
- Current non-restricted license to practice as a registered nurse (RN) in North Carolina or an NCSBN-compact state. (Individual advisement will be necessary for licensure regulations for online out-of-state students.)
- A course in statistics with a grade of “C” or higher
- A personal statement of purpose essay describing the applicant’s interest in post-graduate study as an adult-gerontology CNS, including career goals and how the adult-gerontology CNS role will meet those goals
- Three professional references
- A personal interview with a member of the graduate faculty

Requirements for Clinical Courses
Information regarding clinical requirements can be found in the ECU College of Nursing Student Handbook at: www.ecu.edu/cs/dhs/nursing/customcf/downloads/handbooks/grad_handbook.pdf Upon admission all graduate students are required to complete a criminal background check. Students will receive specific instructions from the Office of Student Services on how to complete this process. The concentration director will review the post-master’s certificate student’s transcripts to determine the appropriate plan of study for the individual student.

Sample Curriculum Plan – Full-Time

Curriculum Plan 1: Student has completed required clinical courses (Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pharmacology, Advanced Physiology and Health Promotion)

First-Year Students
Fall Semester
NURS 6959  Clinical Nurse Specialist Theory and Role Development 3
Semester Total 3

Spring Semester
NURS 6998  Clinical Practice for the CNS Across the Adult Lifespan 3
Semester Total 3

Summer Semester
NURS 6960  Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I 3
Semester Total 3
Year Total 9

Curriculum Plan 2: Student has not completed required courses (Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pharmacology, Advanced Physiology and Health Promotion)

First-Year Students
Fall Semester
NURS 6050  Human Physiology and Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
NURS 6959  Clinical Nurse Specialist Theory and Role Development 3
Semester Total 6

Spring Semester
NURS 6610  Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
NURS 6989  Clinical Practice for the CNS Across the Adult Lifespan 3
Semester Total 6

Summer Semester
NURS 6218  Concepts of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
NURS 6960  Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I 3
Semester Total 6
Year Total 18

Second-Year Students
Fall Semester
NURS 6961  Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II 3
Semester Total 3

Spring Semester
NURS 6962  Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III 3
*NURS 6993  Advanced Nursing Synthesis 1
Semester Total 4
Year Total 10
Curriculum Total 16

Please note: *Students who completed NURS 6993 to earn a previous master of science in nursing degree from ECU will satisfy this requirement by taking NURS 6500 to demonstrate professional competencies of the certificate program.

Second-Year Students
Fall Semester
NURS 6611  Clinical Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
NURS 6961  Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II 3
Semester Total 6

Spring Semester
NURS 6962  Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III 3
*NURS 6993  Advanced Nursing Synthesis 1
Semester Total 4
Year Total 10
Curriculum Total 28

Please note: Selected summer school courses are offered for students interested.
Requirements for Graduation

- All graduate students are required to maintain a grade average of “B.”
- Graduation application must be submitted at least one semester prior to completing the degree requirements as stated in the graduate catalog.
- Students who do not register for courses for a semester must complete an electronic readmission form (available at www.ecu.edu/gradschool/ and in the Graduate School Office).
- Students are required to keep graduate program/health requirements and liability insurance requirements up to date throughout their clinical courses.
- All post-master’s certificate students will be required to complete a terminal program assessment as advised by the concentration director in the final semester.

The post-MSN adult-gerontology CNS certificate prepares students in the roles of clinician, educator, clinical consultant, researcher, program planner and leader. Graduates are eligible to sit for national certification examination as a clinical nurse specialist. This concentration was reviewed by the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists and meets the criteria for consistency with the standards set by that national organization.

The master’s program at East Carolina University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 202.887.6791

For more information, contact ECUNursingGradPrgms@ecu.edu

East Carolina University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, creed, sexual orientation, or disability.

An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, which accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.

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