

## Master of Science in Nursing Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist (World Wide Web)

### Concentration Description

The neonatal clinical nurse specialist concentration prepares nurses for an advanced practice nursing role from wellness to acute care. Nationally approved clinical nurse specialist competencies 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 the organizational systems in the neonatal population. This option provides preparation in the roles of clinician, educator, clinical consultant, researcher, program planner and leader. The 43-semester hour curriculum includes core courses, clinical core courses and concentration courses.

### Requirements for Admission

Admission to the master of science in nursing program requires the student to meet the minimum admission requirements for graduate study at the university and the following requirements of the College of Nursing:

- A baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited program
- A minimum GPA of 2.7 in undergraduate studies and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in nursing major
- Acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) within the past five years
- Current non-restricted license to practice as a registered nurse (RN) in North Carolina or an NCSBN-compact state (Individual advisement may be necessary for licensure regulations for online out-of-state students)
- Two years clinical experience in a neonatal unit prior to admission
- A personal statement of purpose essay describing the applicant's interest in graduate study as a neonatal CNS, career goals and the MSN degree's relationship to those goals
- Three professional references, including one from a neonatal clinician
- A personal interview with a member of the graduate faculty
- A course in statistics with a grade of "C" or higher

### 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](http://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.

### Sample Curriculum Plan – Full-Time

#### First-Year Students

##### Fall Semester

NURS 6417	Developmental Physiology for Advanced Practice Nurses Across the Lifespan	3
NURS 6418	Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Across the Lifespan	3
NURS 6959	Clinical Nurse Specialist Theory and Role Development	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>9</b>

##### Spring Semester

NURS 6080	Theory for the Practice of Advanced Nursing	3
NURS 6419	Clinical Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice Across the Lifespan	3
NURS 6420	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research and Theory I	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>9</b>

##### Summer Semester

NURS 6422	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research and Theory II	3
NURS 6960	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Year Total</b>		<b>24</b>

#### Second-Year Students

##### Fall Semester

NURS 6081	Research for the Practice of Advanced Nursing	3
NURS 6083	Healthcare, Finance, and Economics	3
NURS 6961	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>9</b>

##### Spring Semester

NURS 6962	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III	3
NURS 6208	Concepts of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURS 6082	Influencing Healthcare Quality, Safety, and Policy	3
NURS 6993	Advanced Nursing Synthesis	1
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>10</b>

**Semester Total** 10  
**Year Total** 19

**Curriculum Total** 43

## Sample Curriculum Plan – Part-Time

### First-Year Students

#### Fall Semester

NURS 6080	Theory for the Practice of Advanced Nursing	3
NURS 6959	Clinical Nurse Specialist Theory and Role Development	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>

#### Spring Semester

NURS 6081	Research for the Practice of Advanced Nursing	3
NURS 6082	Influencing Healthcare Quality, Safety, and Policy	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>

#### Summer Semester

NURS 6083	Healthcare, Finance and Economics	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Year Total</b>		<b>15</b>

### Second-Year Students

#### Fall Semester

NURS 6417	Development Physiology for Advanced Practice Nurses Across the Lifespan	3
NURS 6418	Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Across the Lifespan	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>

#### Spring Semester

NURS 6419	Clinical Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice Across the Lifespan	3
NURS 6420	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research & Theory I	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>

#### Summer Semester

NURS 6422	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research & Theory II	3
NURS 6960	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Year Total</b>		<b>18</b>

### Third-Year Students

#### Fall Semester

NURS 6961	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>3</b>

#### Spring Semester

NURS 6208	Concepts of Health Promotion & Disease For Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURS 6962	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III	3
NURS 6993	Advanced Nursing Synthesis	1
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Year Total</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Curriculum Total</b>		<b>43</b>

### 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/](http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/) and in the Graduate School Office).
- All graduate students complete a comprehensive assessment at the end of their program in NURS 6993.
- MSN students are required to keep graduate program/health requirements and liability insurance requirements up to date throughout their clinical courses.

---

The master's program at East Carolina University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001. Phone: 202.887.6791.

### The University

The university is the third largest in the University of North Carolina system (UNC), which consists of the state's sixteen degree-granting public institutions. ECU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees and is designated as an academic health center by the Association of American Health Centers. Governed by its own Board of Trustees, which is responsible to the UNC Board of Governors, ECU offers 80 departmental certificates, 93 baccalaureate degree programs, 76 master's degree programs, two specialist degree programs, six first professional programs, and 15 doctoral programs in our professional colleges, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Dental Medicine, and the Brody School of Medicine. It confers more than 5,800 degrees annually and it has approximately 160,000 alumni.

**For more information, contact [ECUNursingGradPrgms@ecu.edu](mailto: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.

Updated February 11, 2020