

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

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 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 – Part Time

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

First-Year Students

Fall Semester

NURS 6959	Clinical Nurse Specialist Theory and Role Development	3
NURS 6208	Concepts of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for Advance Nursing Practice	3
Semester Total		6

Spring Semester

NURS 6889	Advanced Evidence-based Practice for the CNS	3
NURS 6911	Acute and Chronic Health Concerns for the CNS	3
Semester Total		6

Summer Semester

NURS 6960	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I	2
Semester Total		2
Year Total		14

Second-Year Students

Fall Semester

NURS 6961	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II (3)	3
NURS 6910	Diagnostic Reasoning and CNS Advanced Practice (3)	3
Semester Total		6

Spring Semester

NURS 6962	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III	3
NURS 6993	Advanced Nursing Synthesis	1
Semester Total		7
Year Total		13
Curriculum Total		24

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.

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

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
NURS 6910	Diagnostic Reasoning and CNS Advanced Practice	3
Semester Total		9

Spring Semester

NURS 6911	Acute and Chronic Health Concerns for the CNS	3
NURS 6889	Advanced Evidence-based Practice for the CNS	3
Semester Total		6

Summer Semester

NURS 6610	Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURS 6960	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I	2
Semester Total		5
Year Total		20

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 6208	Concepts of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for Advance Nursing Practice	3
NURS 6993	Advanced Nursing Synthesis	1
Semester Total		7
Year Total		13
Curriculum Total		33

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 the program.
- 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, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001. Phone: 202.887.6791

The University

East Carolina University (ECU), a public, four-year university established in 1907, is located in Greenville, North Carolina. ECU has 11 degree-granting colleges/school/institutes. Serving a largely rural population in the coastal region of the state, ECU is one of 17 constituent institutions within the University of North Carolina (UNC) System. ECU accomplishes its mission - to be a national model for student success, public service and regional transformation - through education, research, creative activities and service. As of Fall 2018, ECU is the fourth largest institution in the UNC System. ECU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. The UNC System is governed by a Board of Governors, which delegates significant responsibility to ECU's Board of Trustees. The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education classifies ECU as a Doctoral University: Higher Research Activity. In 2010 and 2015, ECU received the Community Engagement Classification from the New England Resource Center for Higher Education..

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.

