

Master of Science in Nursing

Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist – Post-Master’s Certificate (Online)

Concentration Description

The post-master’s neonatal clinical nurse specialist certification 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 organizational systems in the neonatal population.

Requirements for Admission

Admission 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 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 including career goals and how the certificate will meet those goals
- Three professional references, including one from a neonatal clinician
- A personal interview with a member of the graduate faculty
- Two years of clinical experience in a neonatal unit prior to admission

Requirements for Clinical Courses

Information regarding clinical requirements can be found in the ECU College of Nursing Student Handbook at <https://nursing.ecu.edu/student-handbook/>. 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. Out of state students should check with their specific state board of nursing for any restrictions related to distance education curriculum.

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 6208	Concepts of Health Promotion & Disease Prevention	3
NURS 6959	For Adv Nursing Practice Clinical Nurse Specialist Theory & Role Development	3
Semester Total		6

Spring Semester

NURS 6420	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research and Theory	3
NURS 6889	Advanced Evidence Based Practice for the CNS	3
Semester Total		6

Summer Semester

NURS 6422	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research & Theory II	3
NURS 6960	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I	2
Semester Total		5
Year Total		17

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		7
Curriculum Total		24

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

** this sample plan can be modified based on student preferences regarding graduation dates.

First-Year Students

Fall Semester

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

Spring Semester

NURS 6419	Clinical Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice Across the Lifespan	3
NURS 6889	Advanced Evidence Based Practice for the CNS	3
NURS 6420	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research & Theory I	3
Semester Total		9

Summer Semester

NURS 6422	Advanced Neonatal Nursing: Research & Theory II	3
NURS 6960	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I	2
Semester Total		5
Year Total		23

Second-Year Students

Fall Semester

NURS 6208	Concepts of Health Promotion & Disease Prevention For Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURS 6961	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II	3

Spring Semester

NURS 6992	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III	3
*NURS 6993	Advanced Nursing Synthesis	1
Semester Total		4
Year Total		10
Curriculum Total		33

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.

(OVER)

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 neonatal 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.