ADULT-GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST (DNP)

Graduates of the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist track use advanced skills to care for adults in increasingly complex acute and critical care settings. The curriculum focuses on three spheres of impact: patient care, nursing personnel, and the health care system. Graduates of the track possess the core competencies to practice as a CNS for acute and critically ill adult patients in a variety of inpatients settings, including direct care, consultation, systems leadership, collaboration, research, ethical decision-making, and advocacy.

Curriculum
Credit Hours
64 credit hours

Courses
Core Courses
- Theories & Concepts for Advanced Clinical Practice
- Research for Advanced Clinical Practice
- Population-Focused Health
- Leadership and Roles in Advanced Nursing Practice
- Healthcare Policy and Economics
- Social Justice and Ethics in Healthcare
- Statistics for Health and Biological Sciences
- Evidence Translation for Advanced Clinical Practice
- DNP Project

Role (CNS) Courses
- Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan
- Advanced Pharmacology
- Advanced Pathophysiology
- Advanced Quality and Safety in Health Care
- CNS Practice Across the Adult-Age Spectrum

Population (Adult-Gerontology Acute Care) Courses
- Management of Adults with Acute/Critical Conditions I
- Management of Adults with Acute/Critical Conditions II

Practicum
- Clinical Practicum for Advanced Practice Nurses in the CNS role
- Interprofessional Education Practicum

Clinical Experiences
Practicum experiences are designed by faculty members, who will help secure clinical site placements. Practicum experiences for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care CNS program can be completed in the student’s geographical area. Students must have an RN license in before they begin clinical rotations.

Learning Outcomes
PROGRAM GOAL
The goal of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is to prepare nurses to assume advanced roles in direct care and systems leadership domains at the highest level of nursing to improve health care outcomes through practice-based scholarship.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES
At the completion of the DNP program, the graduate has the knowledge and skills to:
- Apply integrated scientific, knowledge and clinical judgements at the highest level of professional nursing practice.
- Evaluate health care delivery approaches and healthcare systems, with an emphasis on quality and safety.
- Apply best evidence in approaches to client and system-centered practices.
- Apply analytic approaches and information technology in the delivery and improvement of client-centered health care and health care systems.
- Employ ethics, leadership, and advocacy concepts to advance healthcare quality and equity for individuals, systems and populations.
- Implement intraprofessional and interprofessional leadership and collaboration competencies and methods, at the highest level of professional nursing practice in advancing health and health outcomes.