ADULT GERONTOLOGY
CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST
WITH ONCOLOGY SPECIALTY
(DNP)

The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) role provides leadership for best practice initiatives and cost-effective quality improvement.

Clinical Nurse Specialists possess the advanced knowledge and skills to coordinate quality care practices across three spheres of impact: patient care, nursing personnel, and the health care system. The role may include direct patient care, as well as consultation, systems leadership, research, ethical decision-making, and advocacy.

The oncology specialty preparation in the Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist track provides the graduate with advanced oncology knowledge and skills to care for patients and their families across the cancer care continuum.

CURRICULUM

The Adult-Gerontology CNS program can be completed fully online, allowing students to complete their clinical practicum hours at a site close to home.

Credit Hours

63 credits for the Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist track and 12 credits for the Oncology Specialty preparation.

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 Health Care
• 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) Courses

• Advanced Practice Nursing Care of Older Adults

Oncology Specialty Courses

• Cancer Biology and Epidemiology
• Palliative/Supportive Management
• Diagnostic and Therapeutic Approaches

Practicum

• Clinical Practicum for Advanced Practice in the CNS role
• Interprofessional Education Practicum
• Oncology Care Practicum

Clinical Experience

A minimum of 2,000 hours of recent clinical practice experience is required before entering the first APRN clinical rotation. Students must have an RN license before they begin their clinical experiences/practicums.

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.