Adult-Gero Acute Care

Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist and/or Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
This track prepares nurses in the medical-surgical environment for advanced practice roles. The Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP) provides direct patient care in medical/nursing subspecialty areas in collaboration with other members of the health care team. The Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist (AG-ACCNS) is a clinician, educator, and researcher, as well as clinical consultant and leader. The individual student determines the focus of his/her clinical specialization (i.e., cardiology, peri-operative, nephrology, neurology or neurosurgery, general surgery, digestive health, ER/trauma, wound/ostomy/continence, pulmonary, transplant, etc.). Both AG-ACNPs and AG-ACCNSs deliver care along the continuum of critical, acute, and chronic care across the full lifespan of adults (young adult through frail elders). Emphasis is placed on providing the student with the advanced theoretical knowledge and practice skills needed to manage acutely and chronically ill patients through all phases of their hospitalization and clinical follow-up. Diagnostic and clinical decision-making, preparation for prescriptive authority, collaboration with physicians and other members of the healthcare team, and outcomes management are emphasized. The program draws on the clinical strengths of UVA’s Medical Center – a 620-bed, Level I Trauma Center that has been a Top 100 Hospital for the past decade.

This Program is offered at the MSN, Certificate level (for those with a MSN in a different specialty), as well as the BSN-DNP level. Any of these exit points can prepare you for either the Clinical Nurse Specialist (AG-ACCNS) or Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP) roles. We offer a track option that prepares candidates for dual AG-ACCNS/AG-ACNP certifications.

Applicants with a Generalist MSN (CNL, education, informatics, forensics, etc.,) should apply for the BSN-DNP pathway and then apply for the transfer of credit after enrollment.

PROGRAM FORMAT
- MSN: 46 credits for MSN; 21 months fulltime or 33 months part-time; 560 clinical hours
- DNP: 71 credits; 33 months full-time or 5-6 years part-time; 1064 clinical hours.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
Students who complete the MSN or DNP Degree program in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care are able to:
- Synthesize and apply theories, models, and research relating to acute & critical care nursing to care for patients with complex health needs within a specialized area across the care continuum.
- Exercise the advanced practice roles of clinician, educator, researcher, clinical consultant and leader (for AG-ACCNS).
- Manage acutely and chronically ill patients through all phases of their hospitalization and clinical follow-up. (for AG-ACNPs)
- Engage in diagnostic and clinical decision-making, prescriptive authority, collaboration with physicians and other members of the healthcare team.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
Students must meet all admissions requirements, including the completion of a course in statistics within the past five years. Applicants must have a BSN or MSN degree from an accredited institution and should have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Enrolled students must have a current RN license in Virginia. Applicants must have at least 1 year of full-time RN experience for MSN and 2 years for DNP.

International students must demonstrate ability in English, and must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores.

Application deadline:
- Fall Semester  November 1
Sample Program of Study
(Full-time MSN students)

Fall Semester
Advanced Pathophysiology (4)
Theoretical Foundations of Nursing (3)
Role I: APRN Role Acquisition (2)
Clinical Decision-Making in Adult-Gero I (3)

January Term
Immunocompetence & Vulnerable Populations (3)

Spring Semester
Research Processes & Biostatistics (4)
Advanced Health Assessment (3)
Clinical Decision-Making in Adult-Gero II (3)
Health Policy: Local to Global (3)

Summer Session
Advanced Pharmacology (4)

Fall Semester
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicum I
(AG-ACNP or AG-ACCNS) (5)

Spring Semester
Epidemiology & World Health (3)
Role II: APRN Role Transition (1)
Synthesis Practicum: AG-ACNP or AG-ACCNS (5)

Sample Program of Study
(Certificate students)

Fall Semester
Advanced Pathophysiology (4)
Role I: APRN Role Acquisition (2)
Clinical Decision-Making in Adult-Gero I (3)

January Term
Immunocompetence & Vulnerable Populations (3)

Spring Semester
Clinical Decision-Making in Adult-Gero II (3)
Advanced Health Assessment (3)

Summer Session
Advanced Pharmacology (4)

Fall Semester
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicum I
(AG-ACNP or AG-ACCNS) (5)

Sample Program of Study
(DNP students for AG-ACCNS or ACNP)

Fall Semester Year 1
Biostatistics for Advanced Nursing Practice (3)
Clinical Decision-Making in Adult-Gero I (3)
DNP Seminar: Foundations of EBP (2)
Advanced Pathophysiology (4)

January Term Year 1
Immunocompetence & Vulnerable Populations (3)

Spring Semester Year 1
Evidence Based Practice (3)
Advanced Health Assessment (3)
Clinical Decision-Making in Adult-Gero II (3)
Roles for Advanced Nursing Practice (2)

Summer Session Year 1
Advanced Pharmacology (4)
Health Policy: Local to Global (3)

Fall Semester Year 2
Epidemiology & World Health (3)
Managing Information Technology (2)
Practicum I: Acute Care CNS or Acute Care NP (5)

Spring Semester Year 2
Nursing Ethics for Advanced Practice (3)
Quality & Safety in Healthcare Systems (3)
Synthesis Practicum: AG-ACNP or AG-ACCNS (5)

Summer Session Year 2
DNP Practicum I (5)
Health Behavior and Health Promotion (3)

Fall Semester Year 3
DNP Practicum II (4)
Finance & Resource Management (3)
Culture & Health (2)
[Practicum I for dual certification (5)]

Spring Semester
Evaluation & Dissemination of Scholarly Practice Project (2-6)
Optional Elective (3)
[Synthesis Practicum for dual certification (5)]

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