

Statement of Program of Study for Clinical Nurse Specialist programs

I am an assistant professor in the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner / Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist doctorate of nursing degree program at the University of Maryland School of Nursing. I am also a graduate of the program when it was a Trauma/Critical Care and Emergency Nursing: A Blended Clinical Nurse Specialist and Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program with a master's of science degree. I practiced as a clinical nurse specialist from 2007-2019 as a clinical nurse specialist at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, MD.

A Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is a licensed registered nurse that has completed a graduate level educational program (Masters or Doctoral) from an accredited educational institution and has passed a national certification examination.

The core educational elements of all advanced Practice Registered nurse (APRN) are **1] advanced physiology and pathophysiology, 2] advanced health assessment across the life span, and 3] clinical pharmacology and therapeutics across the life span**. These combined courses comprise the “3 -P’s” fulfilling national requirements for APRN programs. Additional course requirements to support CNS clinical practice in the healthcare environment include research and evidenced-based practice, Information and technology systems, health promotion within populations, over 1000 hours of clinical, in addition to diagnosis and management courses.

This is an example of the University of Maryland School of Nursing Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner -Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist Program plan of study. This is considered a blended program, meaning students completing the required courses and clinical hours are eligible to take board examinations for a nurse practitioner (NP) and CNS. While the educational requirements are equivalent, within the State of Maryland, many graduates pursue NP practice due to the limited scope of practice of the CNS. The CNS is not able to practice to the full extent of their education and training due to lack of prescriptive authority, unlike the NP.

The State of Maryland has two universities that offer the CNS specialty, Johns Hopkins, and University of Maryland, both program curricula are provided. **The 3-P’s are in Bold**. CNS’s in the state of Oklahoma have full prescriptive authority and I am including their curriculum.

University of Maryland, Baltimore
School of Nursing

DNP: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner / Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist

Semester and Course Number/Title	Credit/Clinical Hours
Fall Year 1	
1] NPHY 612: Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology	3 credits
2] NURS 723: Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Across the Life Span	3 credits
3] NDNP 819: Advanced Health Assessment Across the Life Span	4 credits
NRS 785: Professional Writing	1 credit
Total:	11 credits
Spring Year 1	
NRS 790: Methods for Research and Evidence-Based Practice	3 credits
NRS 795: Biostatistics for Evidence-Based Practice	3 credits
NDNP 820: Diagnosis and Management 1: Intro to Diagnostic Reasoning	2 credits
NDNP 821: Diagnosis and Management 1: Intro to Diagnostic Reasoning Clinical	2 credits (90 Hours)
Total:	10 credits
Summer Year 1	
NRS 782: Health Systems & Health Policy: Leadership & Quality Improvement	3 credits
NDNP 804: Theory for Evidence-Based Practice	3 credits
NPHY 620: Pathological Alteration in the Critically Ill	2 credits
Total:	8 credits
Fall Year 2	
NDNP 814: Practice Leadership within Complex Health Care Systems	3 credits
NDNP 817: Practice Leadership within Complex Health Care Systems Clinical Practicum	2 credits (90 hours)
NDNP 822: Diagnosis and Management 2: Common Health Conditions, Episodic and Chronic	4 credits
NDNP 823: Diagnosis and Management 2: Common Health Conditions, Episodic and Chronic Clinical Practicum Seminar	3 credits (135 Hours)
Total:	12 Credits
Spring Year 2	

Semester and Course Number/Title	Credit/Clinical Hours
NDNP 807: Information Systems and Technology Improvement/Transformation Health Care	2 credits
NDNP 808: Information Systems and Technology Improvement/Transformation Health Care Practicum	1 credit (45 Hours)
NDNP 810: DNP Project Identification	1 credit
NDNP 824: Diagnosis and Management 3: Acute and Chronic Complex Conditions	4 credits
NDNP 825: Diagnosis and Management 3: Acute and Chronic Complex Conditions Clinical Practicum/Seminar	3 credits (135 Hours)
Total:	11 credits
Summer Year 2	
NURS 834: Translating Evidence to Practice	3 credits
NDNP 826: Diagnosis and Management 4: Integration of Multiple Health Problems and Complex Clinical Syndromes	2 credits
NDNP 827: Diagnosis and Management 4: Integration of Multiple Health Problems and Complex Clinical Syndromes: Clinical Practicum/ Seminar	2 credits (90 Hours)
NDNP 811: DNP Project Development	1 credit
Total:	8 credits
Fall Year 3	
NRS 780: Health Promotion and Population Health	3 credits
NDNP 812: DNP Project Implementation	1 credit (45 hours)
NDNP 828: Diagnosis and Management 5: Advanced Practice/Clinical Nurse Specialist Roles in Health Care Delivery Systems-Clinical	4 credits (180 hours)
NDNP 891: Advanced Practice/Clinical Nurse Specialist Roles in Health Care Delivery Systems	3 credits
Total:	11 credits
Spring Year 3	
NDNP 813: DNP Project Evaluation/Dissemination	1 credit (45 hours)
NURS 810: Evidence-Based Health Policy	3 credits
NDNP 829: Diagnosis and Management 6: Integration of Practice and Leadership: Clinical Practicum/Seminar	5 credits (225 hours)
Total:	9 credits
Total: 80 Credits (56 Didactic/24 Clinical Credits [1,080 Clinical Hours])	

<https://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/academics/doctoral/dnp/agnp-cns/>

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
 PLAN OF STUDY - 4 YEAR PLAN

Fall I (5 Credits)

Biostatistics for Evidence-Based Practice (3) Health Finance (2)

Spring I (7 Credits)

The Research Process and Its Application to Evidence-Based Practice (3)

1] Advanced Pathophysiology/Physiology (4)

Summer I (6 Credits)

Health Promotion and Risk Reduction Across the Lifespan (2)

2] Clinical Pharmacology (4)

Fall II (8 Credits)

Context of Healthcare for Advanced Nursing Practice (3)

3] Advanced Health Assessment and Measurement (3)

Health Information Systems and Patient Care Technology (2)

Spring II (7 Credits)

Philosophical, Theoretical & Ethical Basis of ANP (3) Diagnostics Skills and Procedures for APN (2) Advanced Nursing Health Policy (2)

Summer II (6 Credits, 112 Clinical Hours)

Intro to Acute Care (4, 56 Clinical Hours) Problem Discovery (2, 56 Clinical Hours)

Fall III (9 Credits, 168 Clinical Hours)

Acute Care I (6, 168 Clinical Hours) Nursing Inquiry for EBP (3)

Spring III (9 Credits, 224 Clinical Hours)

Translating Evidence into Practice (3) Acute Care II (4, 168 Clinical Hours)
 Project Advancement (2, 56 Clinical Hours)

Summer III (7 Credits, 168 Clinical Hours)

Analysis and Evaluation of Individuals and Populations (3) Acute Care III (4, 168 Clinical Hours)

Fall IV (8 Credits, 280 Clinical Hours)

Acute Care IV (6, 224 Clinical Hours) Project Application (2, 56 Clinical Hours)

Spring IV (6 Credits, 56 Clinical Hours)

Organizational and Systems Leadership (2) Clinical Data Management and Analyses (2)
 Project Evaluation and Dissemination (2, 56 Clinical Hours)

* Curriculum, credit hours, and sequencing are subject to change.

** Up to 16 credits can be applied from the JHSON MSN (Entry into Nursing) Program to the DNP Advanced Practice Track.

***A minimum of 1000 practice hours is required for DNP.

Johns Hopkins School of Nursing Adult-Gerontological Health & Adult Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist PLAN OF STUDY - 4 YEAR PLAN

Fall I (8 Credits)

Biostatistics for Evidence-Based Practice (3)

Context of Healthcare for Advanced Nursing Practice (3) Health Finance (2)

Spring I (7 Credits)

The Research Process and Its Application to Evidence-Based Practice (3)

1] Advanced Pathophysiology/Physiology (4)

Summer I (6 Credits)

Health Promotion and Risk Reduction Across the Lifespan (2)

2] Clinical Pharmacology (4)

Fall II (6 Credits) *** - Required Immersion, Dates TBD, Onsite or Online

Philosophical, Theoretical & Ethical Basis of ANP (3)

3] Advanced Health Assessment and Measurement (3) Human Growth and Development (1) ***

Spring II (6 Credits)

Organization and Systems Leadership (2) Advanced Nursing Health Policy (2)

Health Information Systems and Patient Care Technology (2)

Summer II (5 Credits, 56 Clinical Hours)

Clinical Judgement I (3) Problem Discovery (2, 56 Clinical Hours)

Fall III (9 Credits, 168 Clinical Hours)

Nursing Inquiry for EBP (3) Clinical Judgement II (3) Clinical Practicum I (3, 168 Clinical Hours)

Spring III (9 Credits, 280 Clinical Hours) - Required Onsite Immersion, Dates TBD

Translating Evidence into Practice (3) Clinical Practicum II (4, 224cl) Project Advancement (2, 56 Clinical Hours)

Summer III (9 Credits, 168 Clinical Hours)

Analysis and Evaluation of Individual & Population Health (3) Clinical Judgement III (3)

Clinical Practicum III (3, 168 Clinical Hours)

Fall IV (6 Credits, 280 Clinical Hours)

Clinical Practicum IV (4, 224 Clinical Hours)

Project Application (2, 56 Clinical Hours)

Spring IV (4 Credits, 112 Clinical Hours) - Required Immersion, Dates TBD, Onsite or Online

Clinical Data Management (2) Project Evaluation and Dissemination (2, 56 Clinical Hours)

* Curriculum, credit hours, and sequencing are subject to change.

** Up to 16 credits can be applied from the JHSON MSN (Entry into Nursing) Program to the DNP Advanced Practice Track.

*** Human Development Across the Lifespan is a required course for CNS Pediatric Critical Care students only.

**** A minimum of 1000 practice hours is required for DNP.

BSN-DNP Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist Pathway Full-Time Degree Plan

Summer 1	SCH/ Clinical & Practicum hours	Fall 1	SCH/ Clinical & Practicum hours	Spring 1	SCH/ Clinical & Practicum hours
NURS 8003 Background & Scientific Underpinnings for Advanced Practice	3	NURS 8443 Organizational and Systems Leadership in Nursing	3	NURS 8423 Evidence-Based Practice and Scholarship in Nursing	3
		NURS 7153 Advanced Physical/Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning	3	NURS 7043 Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nurses	3
		PATH 5503 Principles of Pathophysiology	3	NURS 8313 Economics and Finance in Healthcare for Advanced Practice Nurses	3
		NURS 8123 Information Systems & Technology Healthcare Transformation	3		
Credit Hours	3	Credit Hours	12	Credit Hours	9
Summer 2		Fall 2		Spring 2	
BSMC 5102 Fundamentals of Scientific Writing	2	BSE 5163 Biostatistical Methods	3	BSE 5113 Principles of Epidemiology	3
		NURS 8113 Research Methods	3	NURS 7113 Advanced Concepts I	3
		NURS 7103 Systems for the CNS	3/106	NURS 7123 Advanced Practicum I	3/192
				NURS 8712 Roles, Innovations and Opportunities of the DNP	2
Credit Hours	2	Credit Hours	9	Credit Hours	11
Summer 3		Fall 3		Spring 3	
NURS 8730 Practice Inquiry I (64 Practicum Hours)	1/64	NURS 8740 Practice Inquiry II (128 Practicum Hours)	2/128	NURS 8800 Practice Inquiry III (128 Practicum Hours)	2/128
NURS 8333 Healthcare Quality for Improved Outcomes	3	NURS 7133 Advanced Concepts II	3	NURS 7154 Synthesis for the CNS (192 clinical hours)	4/192
		NURS 7143 Advanced Practicum II	3/192	NURS 8323 Health Policy Local to Global	3
Credit Hours	4	Credit Hours	8	Credit Hours	9
Total Credit Hours	67				
CNS Clinical Hours	682				
DNP Practicum Hours	320				
Total Clinical/Practicum HR	1002				