

Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (DNP)

Scope: Wellness to Acute Care

Specialty Focus: Perioperative Continuum of Care

GSN Core Courses

Course Number: GSN601

Course Title: Advanced Anatomy

Credits: 3

Course Description: This foundational didactic and human dissection course is designed to facilitate a thorough understanding of human anatomy. It is a specialized course building on basic knowledge attained in undergraduate nursing courses to expand the understanding and integration of human anatomy into clinical practice of the advanced practice nurse. This knowledge is expected to enhance understanding of human anatomy across the spectrum in the student's advanced practice clinical settings as well as courses in physiology, pathophysiology, and patient assessment. The course will be presented in several different modalities including didactic lectures and laboratory experiences to include cadaveric pro-sections and dissections with the assistance of a web-based dissecting guide and learning platform. Clinical application of anatomical structures for each advanced practice nursing specialty will be discussed through-out the course, as will operational readiness issues.

Course Number: GSN602

Course Title: Advanced Health Assessment

Credits: 3

Course Description: This course explores advanced health assessment; the foundational health history and physical examination tools needed by all advanced practice nurses. Throughout the classroom and laboratory skills sessions, students will build upon existing nursing assessment competencies and tailor history and physical examination elements for both episodic complaints and comprehensive, focused, and well patient exams for populations across the lifespan. Students will devise assessments tailored to the individual's chief complaint, developmental stage, and socio-cultural context. Formulated and executed assessments will reflect population and risk specific health promotion and disease prevention.

Course Number: GSN603

Course Title: Advanced Physiology

Credits: 3

Course Description: This core course will provide graduate nursing students with the normal physiologic principles that are necessary for the advanced nurse practitioner. Topics are organized to provide an in-depth understanding of the function and regulation of body systems to maintain homeostasis. Emphasis is placed on the integration of the structure and functional systems within the human body. The course content ranges from cellular mechanisms to the major body organ systems, providing the basis for understanding physiologic derangements.

Course Number: GSN606

Course Title: Advanced Pathophysiology I

Credits: 2

Course Description: In this the first, in a two core course sequence, in which students engage in the advanced exploration of the scientific underpinnings of pathophysiology. Students will examine the changes in physiological parameters that occur resulting from selected disease processes as they occur across the life span. This course is a bridge between the basic sciences, such as anatomy, and the clinical sciences of Advanced Nursing Practice. This course will expand knowledge of pathophysiological processes so as to expand the knowledge of concepts relevant for advanced practice nurse and to support more autonomous practice in the Uniformed Services health care system.

Course Number: GSN607

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Course Title: Advanced Pharmacology I

Credits: 2

Course Description: This is the first of two pharmacology courses and will be taught in the first Fall semester and delivered concurrently with pathophysiology. This course provides students with the pharmacologic concepts required to practice safely in advanced practice nursing roles while emphasizing health promotion and disease prevention. In addition, students will understand how pharmacologic management may vary across the continuum of care and appreciate how the inter-relatedness of drugs used by different healthcare professionals impacts patient care and outcomes. Heavy emphasis is placed on understanding the pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacogenomics and biochemical pathways. Side effects, toxicities and contraindications within important classes of drugs and modifications required for age, weight, gender, pregnancy and ethno-cultural differences are also reinforced. Students apply critical thinking and problem solving skills when they are asked to integrate newly acquired pharmacological principles with legal and ethical guidelines to plan safe and effective care for individuals with acute and or chronic medical conditions across a variety of clinical environments including operational and humanitarian settings. Ultimately, students will be prepared to design individualized pharmacotherapeutic plans to safely administer pharmacologic agents.

Course Number: GSN608

Course Title: Advanced Pathophysiology II

Credits: 2

Course Description: In this the second, in a two core course sequence, in which students engage in the advanced exploration of the scientific underpinnings of pathophysiology. Students will examine the changes in physiological parameters that occur resulting from selected disease processes as they occur across the life span. This course is a bridge between the basic sciences, such as anatomy, and the clinical sciences of Advanced Nursing Practice. This course will expand knowledge of pathophysiologic processes so as to expand the knowledge of concepts relevant for advanced practice nurse and to support more autonomous practice in the Uniformed Services health care system.

Course Number: GSN609

Course Title: Advanced Pharmacology II

Credits: 2

Course Description: This is the second of two pharmacology courses and will be taught in the first Spring semester that runs concurrently with pathophysiology. This course provides students with the pharmacologic concepts required to practice safely in advanced practice nursing roles while emphasizing health promotion and disease prevention. In addition, students will understand how pharmacologic management may vary across the continuum of care and appreciate how the inter-relatedness of drugs used by different healthcare professionals impacts patient care and outcomes. Heavy emphasis is placed on understanding the pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacogenomics and biochemical pathways. Side effects, toxicities and contraindications within important classes of drugs and modifications required for age, weight, gender, pregnancy and ethno-cultural differences are also reinforced. Students apply critical thinking and problem solving skills when they are asked to integrate newly acquired pharmacological principles with legal and ethical guidelines to plan safe and effective care for individuals with acute and or chronic medical conditions across a variety of clinical environments including operational and humanitarian settings. Ultimately, students will be prepared to design individualized pharmacotherapeutic plans to safely administer pharmacologic agents.

Course Number: GSN701

Course Title: Advanced Practice Role

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Credits: 1

Course Description: This core course introduces the student to the multiple roles of advanced practice nurses within the Military, Civilian, and Federal Health Care systems. The historical, professional, political, and cultural components of the roles are presented, as well as legal and ethical issues in advanced practice nursing. Principles of leadership, collaboration, conflict management, negotiation and power as related to the advanced practice role are some of the topics discussed in this course.

Course Number: GSN702

Course Title: Organizational and Systems Leadership in Healthcare

Credits: 3

Course Description: This core course provides knowledge and skills relevant to systems leadership in clinical practice. Graduates will be prepared to assume leadership positions through skill development and the application of knowledge in addressing complex clinical practice, safety and organizational issues. Content will be drawn from established literatures in political science, anthropology, workforce diversity, economics, human relations, communication, ethical, legal, organizational behavior, systems leadership, change management, marketing, and conflict resolution strategies as they relate to safe and effective patient centered care in complex environments. Knowledge from these theoretical perspectives will be integrated with nursing science and clinical settings as a framework for organizational and quality assessment, management of ethical dilemmas, staff and patient safety, mitigation of risks and emerging system wide practice initiatives.

Course Number: GSN703

Course Title: Ethics and Policy in Federal Health Systems

Credits: 3

Course Description: This core course introduces students to ethical and health care policy issues in federal and military practice. The course examines relationships among social, cultural, political, financial, clinical, and legal factors that influence health care delivery and policy in the Military and Federal Health Care Systems both in peacetime and in contingency operations.

During this course, ethical, legal and federal health policy issues will be explored. Key ethical principles will be presented as a class topic and case studies will be used to demonstrate how theories, principles, frameworks, and code of ethics guide decision-making when practice, research and policy dilemmas are at hand. This course will also examine current issues and legislative actions and nursing involvement in the policy making process. Past and current health debates are used to illustrate contemporary challenges and the critical need for practice experts. The role of the doctorally prepared nurse in influencing policy related to health care services, patient outcomes and professional nursing is emphasized.

At the end of the semester, the student will be familiar with the major ethical principles and will have formulated a system for ethical decision-making in their practice. They will also understand the legislative process and how to further their profession through political activity.

Course Number: GSN704

Course Title: Population Health and Epidemiology in Advanced Practice

Credits: 4

Course Description: This course provides students with an opportunity to understand the use of epidemiology to design and manage advanced health care for populations. The course builds on previous knowledge in analytic methods, policy, systems, and leadership, and includes an overview of the study and distribution of determinants of health and disease in specified populations; and the application of this study to the promotion of health, prevention and control of disease, design of health care services, and initiation of health policy for populations served by the Military/Federal Health Systems

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Course Title: Health Economics and Advanced Practice

Credits: 2

Course Description: This online course is designed to facilitate a thorough understanding of fundamental principles and concepts of health economics as applied to advanced practice nursing to improve outcomes in support of quality and cost-effective care within the federal healthcare system. Students will be introduced to health economics principles with a focus on fiscal aspects of evidence-based assessment, planning, analysis, implementation and evaluation of quality outcomes from both the micro and macro-level system perspective. Additionally, students will explore specialty specific issues related to health economics supporting their respective Advanced Practice roles (FNP, WHNP, RNA, PMHNP and AGCNS).

Course Number: GSN706

Course Title: Healthcare Informatics

Credits: 3

Course Description: This required core course focuses on the application and innovation related to the collection, development, organization, analysis, and dissemination of information and technology in an interdisciplinary health care environment. Students are introduced to the role of the healthcare informaticist, healthcare information systems and information system life cycle, the electronic health record (EHR), telemedicine, clinical decision-making tools, and other technology useful for enhancing healthcare delivery and patient safety. Special emphasis will be placed on information systems used in the Military Health System (MHS). Students will also gain understanding of the ethical considerations, laws, and policies governing the oversight of healthcare information systems. Strategies for the use and evaluation of information used by consumers and health professionals for health promotion, early detection, disease prevention and tracking will be explored.

Course Number: GSN900

Course Title: Healthcare Research

Credits: 1

Course Description: The emphasis of this course is to provide instruction on the entire research process applicable to Advanced Practice Nursing within the military and federal health care systems. The course begins with an introduction to the philosophy of science and the development of nursing science. This course highlights research ethics, fundamental design, theoretical frameworks, sampling, measurement strategies, and data collection for qualitative and quantitative nursing research.

Course Number: GSN901

Course Title: Evidence Based Practice

Credits: 2

Course Description: The content in this core course builds on the subject matter from GSN 900 Healthcare Research. Students will integrate existing knowledge of the research process and skills related to searching and summarizing literature with new knowledge and skills for critically appraising published research. The focus is to develop critical thinking skills for the evaluation and appraisal of current literature which is a foundation for evidenced based practice.

Course Number: GSN902

Course Title: Statistical Measures and Analytic Methods: Application and Critique

Credits: 2

Course Description: The content in this core course builds on the subject matter from GSN900 Healthcare Research and GSN901 Evidence Based Practice. The focus of this course is the

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development of critical appraisal skills, to include statistical reasoning, in advanced practice nursing students through the critique of analytic methods and statistical measures used in the healthcare literature. In a mentored setting, students will integrate existing knowledge of the research process and skills related to searching and summarizing literature with new knowledge and skills for critically appraising published research. Students will also acquire the knowledge and technological skills needed to manipulate quantitative data and use nonparametric and parametric statistics to answer research questions or test hypotheses.

Course Number: GSN903

Course Title: Translating Evidence Into Practice

Credits: 3

Course Description: This course provides students with an opportunity to explore philosophical models for translation of evidence into practice and policy. The course builds on previous knowledge an analytic methods, policy, systems, and leadership, and includes an overview of the science of and multifactorial influences on translation of evidence into practice. This course culminates in the development of the scholarly inquiry project proposal specifically seeking to improve healthcare and systems outcomes for populations and communities within Military/Federal Health Systems.

Course Number: GSN906

Course Title: DNP Project I-III

Credits: 6

Course Description: The scholarly inquiry project is a culminating experience demonstrating student synthesis of coursework and laying the foundation for future scholarship. Projects most often evolve from practice environments within Federal and Military Healthcare systems; therefore each scholarly project is unique depending on the student's nursing specialty, and clinical setting. Designed by the student in collaboration with faculty, each project focuses on improving outcomes for patients, groups, populations, communities and/or systems. This seminar course is designed to be accomplished over 3 semesters in year 3 of program of study. Each semester, students will be awarded three semester credit hours, total 9 credits upon program completion.

AG-CNS DNP Specialty Specific Courses

Course Number: CNS 600A

Course Title: Principles of Outcomes Management for CNS Practice

Credits: 2

Course Description: Outcomes management (OM) is critical to assessing interventions, identifying effective practices, and identifying practices that need improvement. The requirement to measure outcomes by federal and state regulatory agencies has spurred organizations to actively monitor outcomes as a means for evaluation and as a requirement for accreditation and certification. As such, management of outcomes in CNS practice is critical to demonstrate the impact of CNS contributions to the organization. This course will provide the foundation for measuring outcomes related to CNS competencies and the three spheres of influence (patient/client, nurse, and organization/system) of CNS practice. Students will be introduced to the practical application of OM including methods to collect, analyze, and share outcome data.

Course Number: CNS 601A

Course Title: CNS Role Application across the 3 Spheres of Influence

Credits: 4

Course Description: This course allows students to engage in systems thinking within the domains of CNS practice across the three spheres of influence (patient, nurse, organization). Students will engage in consultative/collaborative relationships with inter-professional health care

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team members focusing on comprehensive wellness/illness assessments, education, clinical management, and problem solving activities for the Adult/Gerontology patient population. Incorporating adult learning principals, change management theory, and cultural awareness students will design an evidence-based patient education brochure/pamphlet to increase the patient's knowledge of the perioperative process. Additionally, to support perioperative patient care on a national level, students will develop and present a professional nursing education activity through the Association of perioperative Nurses (AORN) via Webinar. Within the context of the course, students will research critical processes, review/analyze regulatory and practice guidelines, and evaluate patient safety programs according to Joint Commission standards for the Adult/Gerontology patient population within the perioperative environment. Incorporating federal/national regulations, organizational practice standards, and evidence-based practice students will conduct a system level assessment of current policy and practice to identify weaknesses/gaps and provide leadership with an analysis of current state and recommendations for improvement. Additionally, students will collaborate with hospital professionals utilizing the Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) surveillance guidelines to identify and minimize the potential for hospital acquired infections with particular attention to surgical site infections. The analysis of these systems/processes exposes students to the value of collaboration as well as support the development of the consultant and managerial/leadership role of the clinical nurse specialist (CNS) throughout the perioperative environment.

In support of the development of advanced practice clinical skills and expertise, students will utilize evidence-based techniques and synthesize assessment data using critical thinking and clinical judgment to formulate differential diagnoses amenable to CNS intervention for the Adult/Gerontology patient population. Student's knowledge in support of direct care will be enhanced as they conduct comprehensive, surgically focused exams throughout the entire perioperative continuum of care (pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative). Strategies will be utilized to meet the multicultural and diverse needs of the Adult/Gerontology patient population. This course will expose students to a multidisciplinary team approach to advanced practice nursing as well as support the development of the consultant, educator, manager, researcher, and clinical role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in the perioperative environment.

Course Number: CNS603

Course Title: Business Administration for Highly Reliable Healthcare Organizations

Credits: 3

Course Description: This course examines the concepts of financial and human resource management as well as strategies for application in nursing practice within the federal health care system. Strategies to gain the "competitive advantage" in the business end of health care are explored, as well as tools and techniques facilitating decision-making for patient care programs with a focus on patient safety and improving patient outcomes. Students will utilize critical thinking skills that incorporate evidence to support best practices in the development of strategies focused on improving manpower and resource utilization. They will also critically analyze financial information and its impact on operational performance. The culmination of this course is the creation of a comprehensive business plan that demonstrates competencies supporting efficient and effective administration of resources for quality health care delivery across the organization.

Course Number: CNS605

Course Title: Medical Facility Master Planning and Hospital Architectural Design

Credits: 3

Course Description: This course introduces students to the complexities of new and renovation facility design projects. This content introduces critical thinking skills necessary to navigate the multidisciplinary issues and constraints in facility design efforts. Students will be challenged to critique comprehensive functional designs in compliance with national standards and Department of

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Defense (DoD) space criteria, safety concerns and advanced issues for infection control during construction.

Course Number: CNS606

Course Title: Trauma Management in CNS Practice

Credits: 2

Course Description: This course exposes students to the management of patients in contingency and trauma environments. The clinical nurse specialist (CNS) must have a keen understanding of patient management across the continuum of care supporting combat, peace-keeping and humanitarian missions. The foundation of this course is based on a combination of teaching techniques using scenarios supporting simulation exercises and student led classroom seminars to enhance the student's critical thinking and advanced clinical practice. Students will examine the evidence related to the management of trauma patients as well as management of personnel, scarce resources, equipment and supplies in austere environments. To promote a team approach to management of trauma patients, students will participate in a simulated trauma scenarios that incorporate elements of TeamSTEPPS and support the role of the CNS. To enhance their clinical skills as advanced practitioners, students will also perform simulated lifesaving interventions on manikins and/or simulators (i.e., needle decompression, chest tube insertion, and lower leg fasciotomy). Additionally, students will identify outcome measures to ensure quality patient care is delivered across the patient, nurse, and organization spheres of influence with a focus on adherence to professional practice standards.

Course Number: CNS608

Course Title: Performance Metrics in Outcomes Management

Credits: 3

Course Description: This is a capstone course that demonstrates student attainment of Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) competencies supporting outcomes management. Students will create numerous comprehensive dashboards across the continuum that incorporates quality indicators with outcome metrics supported by professional standards and best practices. Demonstrating advanced clinical knowledge, students will critique the delivery of care within the acute care environment and develop clinical questions targeting opportunities to improve the care process for the adult and geriatric patient populations. Rounding out this course, students expand their management acumen by discovering the "evidence" in evidence-based design initiatives to support efficiency, productivity, and positive patient outcomes across the CNS spheres of influence.

Course Number: CNS610

Course Title: Advanced Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Geriatric Acute Care

Credits: 3

Course Description: This course is designed to build on GSN602, Advanced health Assessment; GSN708, Advanced Diagnosis and Management in Adult Primary Care; and GSN709, Advanced Diagnosis and Management in Geriatric Primary Care and build on the foundations of CNS practice. The course will develop, expand, and evaluate competence related to the student's ability to develop a differential diagnosis and implement a patient specific plan of care for the Adult/Gerontology patient population within the perioperative environment of care. This course challenges the student's critical thinking and problem solving abilities, as they integrate knowledge from health assessment, pathophysiology, and pharmacology to diagnose, and manage acute health conditions of the Adult/Gerontology surgical patients incorporating both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions. The student's critical thinking and data synthesis ability will be further challenged as they analyze assessment data in support of differential diagnosis and management plans for clinical problems amenable to CNS interventions for the Adult/Gerontology population using literature supporting evidence synthesis, and clinical guidelines/care pathways. Students will incorporate the development of clinical questions using the PICOT format to guide in

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the delivery of care for the Adult/Gerontology patient population across the Perioperative continuum of care. Within the context of the clinical activities, students will be exposed to patients in high acuity specialty areas including the cardiovascular, neurosurgery, diabetes, and oncology units/clinics. Student activities culminate in the ability to present a patient case study using evidence-based literature supporting the development of a plan of care that spans the entire perioperative continuum of care.

Course Number: GSN708

Course Title: Advanced Diagnosis and Management in Adult Primary Care

Credits: 5

Course Description: This course prepares the student to function at a beginning level as an advanced practice nurse (APN) in a primary care setting. This course applies the nursing process, using communication and assessment skills, interpreting findings, applying laboratory diagnostic methods, developing and evaluating plans of care, and implementing nursing strategies to promote the health of adults with common health problems. Operational readiness and deployment is integrated throughout this course.

This course is designed to teach the student to develop his/her own problem-solving strategies for a variety of health problems presented by the adult patient. The focus of this course will be on selected minor acute and chronic diseases seen in primary care. There will be an integration and application of concepts from basic sciences, along with utilization of research findings in primary care nursing practice. Problem solving & critical thinking are emphasized throughout.

Course Number: GSN709

Course Title: Advanced Diagnosis and Management in Geriatric Primary Care

Credits: 1

Course Description: This course prepares the student to provide primary care for the elderly. Special focus is placed on assessing the impact of aging on physical and developmental status; adapting interventions to meet the complex needs of the individual and their family; and health promotion, health protection, disease prevention, and end-of-life planning in primary care. Current evidence will provide the basis for understanding typical and atypical development, anticipatory guidance, selected acute/chronic conditions, appropriate screening, and the promotion of self-care and independent living. Course content and presentations are intended to enhance learning, integrate knowledge of evidence-based practice, and promote academic discussion on issues commonly confronted by patients and their families.

The major advanced practice concepts supported by this course incorporate the scientific underpinnings for practice; analytical methods; use of surveillance, screening, and health technology tools in patient care; population health, prevention and wellness services; care of patients with acute and chronic illness; inter-professional collaboration and health policy issues.

Course Number: GSN710

Course Title: Bedside Ultrasonography

Credits: 1

Course Description: This vertical, integrated bedside ultrasound course is designed to enhance and augment concepts learned in foundational science courses such as anatomy, physiology, pathology, and supports clinical decision-making. The content reinforces the military-specific applications and aspects of ultrasound that can be especially useful in primary care, inpatient as well as austere settings such as combat and humanitarian assistance environments. Basic principles of ultrasonography are interwoven with hands-on experiences to offer students the opportunity to experience a number of different bedside ultrasonography assessments including FAST (Focused Assessment with Sonography in Trauma), RUSH (Rapid Ultrasound in Shock and Hypotension), Musculoskeletal, Cardiology, Deep Vein Thrombosis, Renal, Airway/Ventilation,

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Thoracic Trauma, Ocular, Aorta, Hepatobiliary, Thyroid, and Female Pelvic Assessments.

Course Number: GSN711

Course Title: Integrative Medicine Methodologies

Credits: 1

Course Description: This introductory course is designed to expand student understanding of treatment options with the goal of improving patient outcomes. Course content introduces aspects of integrative medicine that are useful in all settings, as well as techniques that have been found to be particularly useful in military settings. Basic principles of integrative medicine are interwoven with hands on application of techniques such as acupuncture, guided imagery and progressive relaxation. Students will be asked to apply Evidenced Based principles to enhance their understanding of how these alternative approaches to healthcare can be effectively integrated into clinical practice.

Course Number: GSN723

Course Title: Human Context in Healthcare

Credits: 1

Course Description: This course explores the non-cognitive human elements present in every clinical encounter, and how these non-cognitive elements may impact a provider's cognitive process thereby influencing healthcare outcomes. Using personal experience, panel-based sessions, online supplemental resources, written reflective essays, and small group discussions, students will be afforded the opportunity to consider their own reactions to various common and challenging situations in healthcare. They will thereafter examine their personal context, composed of one's unique and diverse life experiences, beliefs and values; analyze the implications of those reactions for patient care; and develop a plan to enhance the positive and mitigate the negative implications of those reactions. Through contemplation of the often unacknowledged assumptions and biases they bring into the clinical environment, students will increase their self-awareness, a critical skill for healthcare providers.

Participation of students from the Graduate School of Nursing and the School of Medicine is designed to facilitate students' understanding that one's profession composes only a small part of one's personal context. Such understanding offers students the ability to identify their own predispositions to labeling others (patients and colleagues alike) based on a single identifiable factor and fosters an environment in which interprofessional education and thereafter interprofessional practice is most likely to be successful.

Course Number: CNS802

Course Title: CNP Practicum for CNS Practice I – Advanced Concepts for CNS Independent Practice

Credits: 4

Course Description: The major emphasis of this course is the introduction to advanced concepts supporting independent clinical practice in the role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). During the course, students gain competencies designed to support all domains of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) role and those needed to support the *Military Health System (MHS) Quadruple Aim* to effectively manage quality care; analyze healthcare systems/processes to optimize patient outcomes; and guide change in support of *high reliability organizations* undergirded by evidence-based practice to achieve consistent excellence across the organization. Students will complete clinical rotations that are developed to support clinical practice, education, consultation, research/evidence-based practice and administrative roles of the CNS with a focus on improved outcomes and risk reduction strategies for the adult and geriatric patient populations. Additionally, students will be part of interprofessional teams within the healthcare organization applying concepts of interprofessional patient-centered, collaborative practices. Evidence-based practice

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and technology interfaces (e.g., AHLTA, Essentris, CHCS II, CIS, EMR) are used to support direct care management and clinical decision making. Seminars augment the learning and are geared to advance the skills necessary to function in increasingly complex healthcare settings to optimize health system performance; improve patient safety, quality and outcomes; enhance the delivery of evidence-based care and improve the business side of healthcare focused on efficiency and productivity.

Course Number: CNS803

Course Title: DNP Practicum for CNS Practice II: Systems Assessment for High Reliable Organizations

Credits: 4

Course Description: This course develops advanced skills of systems/process assessments as a strategy to optimize health system performance supporting the *Military Health System (MHS) Quadruple Aim*, improve patient outcomes and guide change in support of *high reliability organizations*. During this systems-focused clinical course, students demonstrate knowledge of system and organizational level assessments related to policy and practice. As a foundation for all assessments, a thorough examination of the evidence supported by best practices and national standards will be conducted to benchmark and critically analyze current practices related to “hot topic” issues impacting the delivery of quality patient care. From the evidence in the literature, students develop assessment and/or audit tools necessary to examine policy and current practices; work collaboratively with subject matter experts, department and organizational leadership; perform an organizational assessment of targeted policies; and outline the current state related to key practice issues. A thorough analysis of the data will be conducted to identify gaps in knowledge, policy, and practice when comparing current state to national practice standards. The course culminates in the development of evidence-based practice recommendations and dissemination of findings to the organizational leadership. Students will demonstrate competencies related to all domains of CNS practice across the three spheres of influence (patient/direct care, nurse/healthcare team, and the systems/organization), as they integrate the delivery of evidence into clinical practice and interact within the system to enhance patient care outcomes for the adult and geriatric population. Data collected in this course will provide the foundation for students Doctor of Nursing Practice projects.

Course Number: CNS804

Course Title: DNP Practicum for CNS Practice III: Strategic Planning in Healthcare

Credits: 3

Course Description: This is a strategic focused clinical course where students demonstrate knowledge of strategic planning in healthcare and strategic level assessments of policy and practice that supports the *Military Health System (MHS) Quadruple Aim*, improve patient outcomes and guide change in support of *high reliability organizations*. Students will examine and analyze strategic planning processes and issues with an emphasis on strategic decision making, plan making, and implementation in healthcare settings. This course is designed to help students develop an evidence-based framework to implement quality systems and execute strategic level organizational strategies. Quality management tools will be examined and blended with strategic planning tools (dashboards, balance scorecards, organizational metrics, and audit tools) to ensure integration of organizational strategy and continuous process improvement programs. Students will gain knowledge of identifying organizational barriers, developing action and prioritization of plans, strategic decision-making and how to implement and execute strategic plans. Students will work collaboratively with subject matter experts and organizational leadership to perform an organizational assessment of policy and current state related to strategic level practice issues. From this, the student will analyze the findings and compare current state to evidence based recommendations to identify gaps in knowledge, policy, and practice. The course will culminate in

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the development of recommendations and dissemination of the findings to the organizational leadership in order to enhance patient outcomes for the adult and geriatric population.

Course Number: CNS805

Course Title: DNP Practicum for CNS Practice IV: Capstone Immersion for CNS Independent Practice

Credits: 6

Course Description: This is a clinical capstone course where students demonstrate competencies related to all domains of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) as well as those competencies needed to support the *Military Health System (MHS) Quadruple Aim*. In this full scope CNS immersion rotation, students develop inter-professional relationships between nurses, physicians, and key leaders within the healthcare organization to optimize health system performance and improve safety and outcomes for the adult and geriatric populations. During this course, students complete a "macro" and "micro" organizational assessment, critically analyze scientific literature, evaluate nursing and patient outcomes, and translate evidence to support clinical, fiscal, and managerial recommendations for process and system improvements. The culmination of these efforts results in the creation of a comprehensive Business Plan presented to the leadership with the goal to guide change, undergirded by evidence based practice, in support of *high reliability organizations* goal to achieve consistent excellence across the organization. The third order effect of these efforts, is the creation of a "*current state map*" with pre-intervention data points from which the organization can assess outcomes achieved once recommendations are implemented. This effort also demonstrates the magnitude of the impact the CNS has within an organization in transforming healthcare to improve safety and outcomes for our patients.