

Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (AG-CNS MSN)

Specialty Specific Courses

Course Number: CNS 600

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 601

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 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 Design: Maximizing Patient Outcomes

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 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: CNS609

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

Credits: 4

Course Description: The major emphasis of this course is on the integration of the role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) into practice across the wellness to acute care continuum within three spheres of influence: Patient (direct care), Nurse (healthcare team), and the System (organization). Students complete multiple rotations across the continuum supporting clinical practice, education, consultation, research/evidence-based practice and administrative roles with a focus on improved outcomes and risk reduction strategies for the adult and geriatric patient populations. Evidence-based practice 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 support based clinical management of complex adults and geriatric patient populations. Students will also analyze organizational issues to improve patient outcomes in both acute and primary care settings.

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 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: CNS801

Course Title: Clinical Practicum II: Capstone Immersion for CNS Independent Practice

Credits: 7

Course Description: This is a clinical capstone course where students demonstrate competencies related to the domains of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) across the three areas of influence. During their clinical rotation, students will integrate evidence into clinical practice and interact within the system to enhance outcomes for the adult and geriatric populations. In this full scope CNS immersion experience, students will complete an organizational assessment and identify opportunities for process improvements in the form of a comprehensive business plan. In performing the activity, students will demonstrate “how” the CNS improves outcomes for the individual, family, and populations; analyze healthcare systems/processes to optimize patient outcomes; and guide change for organizational success in the provision of evidence-based/quality patient care. It also serves as a means to perform a *current state analysis* from which programs for improvement can be identified and provides pre-intervention data points from which to assess outcomes achieved. The goal of this capstone course is to demonstrate the magnitude of the impact the CNS can have in support of the patient, healthcare team and the organization and ultimately support the VALUE the CNS brings to the organization.

Course Number: GSN904

Course Title: Clinical Inquiry Project

Credits: 4

Course Description: All students must complete a scholarly project. In pursuing the scholarly project students use a reflective process of thinking, integrate multiple sources of knowledge, and demonstrate scholarly inquiry based on nursing theory, research, and practice. The scholarly project

provides students with an opportunity to conceive and execute a learning experience encouraging scientific inquiry, professional growth, and understanding of an area related to advanced nursing practice in the Federal Health Care System. This course builds on: Statistical Measures and Analytic Methods: Application and Critique, Healthcare Research and Evidence Based Practice, increasing student autonomy in utilization, analysis, synthesis and dissemination of evidence in support of advanced clinical decision making.