

Acute Care Advanced Practice Nursing Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Acute Care Advanced Practice Nursing Program (APN) is an in-depth program of study that is designed to prepare Registered Nurses at the Master's or Post Master's levels to function in the innovative and synthesized role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist/Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. The program for the "Acute Care Advanced Practice Nurse" is a unique program that blends the traditional roles of both the acute care nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist into an evolved role as an "Advanced Practice Nurse" in Acute Care. Course work and preceptored (physician and APRN) clinical experiences enable the RN to develop increased skill and confidence in:

- Implement a collaborative, evidenced-based practice model
- Utilize prescriptive authority
- Make differential diagnoses in order to treat commonly occurring health care problems, symptoms, and complications associated with acute conditions and/or its treatments
- Provide case management across inpatient, outpatient, subacute, rehabilitation and home care settings
- Design educational programs that are responsive to practice, staff, and community needs
- Become technologically more skilled in using Internet resources, computer-assisted video-conferencing and laptop home monitoring equipment.

The role is designed to address the increasing acuity and complexity of patients in the acute care setting. Changes in health care delivery practices (e.g., such as shortened lengths of hospital stay, increased acuity of hospitalized patients, complexity of patient care in the acute care settings) have provided opportunities for this new type of APN to bridge a gap in the health care needs of the acutely ill adult. The Acute Care APN will be able to provide:

- ✓ Continuity of Care (Including transitions from the hospital to home/ community & follow-up in clinics)
- ✓ Comprehensiveness of care in collaboration with the health care team

PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY & DESIGN

- Use of video conferencing for classroom activities and meetings with advisor to decrease travel
- Blocked classroom time to decrease travel time
- Blocked clinical time to decrease travel time
- Increased courses activities on the Internet: discussion groups, chat rooms, on-line assignments to decrease on-site classroom time
- Clinical preceptors in local community to facilitate clinical course work and decrease travel time

CERTIFICATION

This program is very unique in providing graduates of the program with a foundation of a "blended" role of an APN. The outcomes attained in the program will provide the graduate with a wide variety of job opportunities as the graduate will be eligible to attain certification in the following areas:

- ✓ Adult Nurse Practitioner
- ✓ Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- ✓ Clinical Nurse Specialist

COURSE WORK

Course work includes advanced pharmacology, pathophysiology, role preparation, statistics, research, and a focus on outcomes as well as the in-depth sequence of four integrated practicum-based courses that address the physical assessment, diagnostic reasoning and case management/treatment skills expected of an Acute Care APN (49 semester credit hours & 630 practicum hours).

FACULTY PREPARATION/ RESEARCH

All Acute Care Nursing Faculty are doctorally-prepared, certified as APNs, and involved with clinical practice to maintain APN competencies. Faculty programs of research address symptom management (such as pain, fatigue, rest) and health promotion behaviors in the post cardiac intervention population and heart failure patients. Faculty are also very interested in the continuum of care and use of technology to manage patients in the home.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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