

Chronic Care Advanced Practice Nursing Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The 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, blended and synthesized role of Clinical Nurse Specialist/Adult Nurse Practitioner. Graduates are prepared to provide comprehensive primary, secondary and tertiary health care services to people who are either at risk for or are currently experiencing chronic illnesses. Classroom learning activities and clinical experiences with preceptors enable the RN to develop increased knowledge, skills, and confidence in providing health care within a collaborative, evidenced-based practice model.

PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY & DESIGN

The program for APNs has been designed to offer courses on a schedule that permits students to:

- Complete the course of study within two-four years, depending upon other commitments as work and family requirements;
- Complete many course requirements away from UNMC campuses /classrooms by using Internet-based electronic syllabi, chat rooms, bulletin boards, and computer assisted home monitoring equipment, or video-conferencing;
- Schedule clinical experiences with preceptors in local community-based or university-based settings on one or two days per week or in monthly or other extended blocks of time;
- Concentrate on selected chronic care populations.
- Become technologically more skilled in using Internet resources, computer-assisted video-conferencing and laptop home monitoring equipment.
Use of video conferencing for classroom activities and meetings with advisor to decrease travel

CERTIFICATION

Graduates who complete the Chronic Care specialty are eligible to take the nationally recognized certification examinations for:

- Y Adult Nurse Practitioners**
- Y Clinical Nurse Specialists**

COURSE WORK

Courses in the program include advanced pharmacology, advanced pathophysiology, role preparation, graduate statistics, research, and a focus on outcomes of care. In addition, the in-depth sequence of four integrated practicum-based courses addresses the physical assessment, diagnostic reasoning and case management/treatment skills expected of an APN (49 semester credit hours & 630 practicum hours).

Particular emphasis is given to developing diagnostic skills and prescriptive protocols in order to treat commonly occurring chronic health care problems. Students will also design educational programs that are responsive to client, practice, staff, and community needs; and become technologically more skilled in using electronic media, including telecommunication resources, for instructional purposes and for delivery of clinical care.

FACULTY PREPARATION/ RESEARCH

Chronic Care Nursing Faculty are doctorally-prepared, certified as APNs, and hold regular part-time clinical placements to maintain APN competencies. Faculty programs of research address health promotion and symptom management.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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