

Oncology Advanced Practice Nursing Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Oncology 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/Nurse Practitioner specializing in Oncology. Graduates are prepared as generalists in the area of adult health care, and as specialists who can provide comprehensive primary, secondary, and tertiary health care services to people who are experiencing a diagnosis of cancer. Course work and preceptored clinical experiences enable the RN to:

- Develop increased skill and confidence in implementing a collaborative, evidenced-based practice model;
- Develop prescriptive authority and make differential diagnoses in order to treat commonly occurring health care problems, symptoms, and complications associated with cancer and/or its treatments;
- Provide case management across inpatient, outpatient, home care and hospice 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.

PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY & DESIGN

Course work is designed to permit Oncology APN students to:

1. complete the program in two-four years depending upon work and family requirements;
2. 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/video-conferencing;
3. schedule preceptored clinical placements in a local community-based or university-based setting, on one to two days per week or in monthly or other extended blocks of time; and

CERTIFICATION

Graduates are eligible to become certified as:

- ✓ Advanced Oncology Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP)
- ✓ Adult Nurse Practitioners (ANP)
- ✓ Advanced Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist (AOCNS)
- ✓ Clinical Nurse Specialists (CS)

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 Oncology APN (49 semester credit hours & 630 practicum hours).

FACULTY PREPARATION/ RESEARCH

All Oncology Nursing Faculty are doctorally-prepared and certified as APNs. Faculty programs of research address symptom measurement and management, particularly in the areas of pain, fatigue and insomnia; and health promotion for breast cancer survivors.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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