



COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

SCHOOL OF NURSING
Graduate Programs

Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
Preceptor Manual

Innovation and Excellence in Nursing Education

Vision

Innovation and excellence in nursing education to promote a healthy society.

Mission

The mission of the School of Nursing is to prepare students from diverse populations to provide professional nursing across the continuum of health. Faculty in the School of Nursing promote innovation and excellence in nursing education through practice, scholarship, teaching and service at both the baccalaureate and graduate level.

Core Values

Excellence, Professionalism, Student-centered, Innovation, Respect.

Philosophy

The Graduate Program prepares students for advanced practice roles in nursing and to be accountable for clinical and organizational decision making based on scholarly evidence, principles of ethics, relevant theories and health care policy. Upon completion of the Graduate Program, the advanced practice nurse is prepared to provide leadership in the analysis of factors influencing health and the subsequent implementation and evaluation of strategies for improving health in a multidisciplinary, globally aware, culturally sensitive manner.

(Revision 02/05/09)



The Master of Science in Nursing and the Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees prepare students for advanced clinical practice as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.

Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice

- Care of Adults across the Acute Care Continuum, including those with acute and complex illnesses
- Histories & Physicals
- Medical and Nursing Therapeutics
- Health Screening & Maintenance
- Diagnosing & Managing unstable and complex health care problems
- Teaching & Counseling
- Collaborating with Physicians and other Health Care Professionals

The Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) is a RN prepared at the Master's or Doctoral level as a nurse practitioner whose focus is the care of acutely and critically ill adult patients. The ACNP is educated to provide continual and comprehensive care, in a variety of settings, to adults who are chronically, acutely or critically ill. Acute Care Nurse Practitioners seek to improve patient care and help return the patients to an optimal state of wellness by:

- 1) performing history and physicals;
- 2) determining differential diagnoses;
- 3) working collaboratively with physicians to develop a therapeutic plan of care;
- 4) case managing patients with a focus on cost-effective outcomes.

The ACNP has skills that can assist the patient with chronic, acute and critical conditions to optimize healthier outcomes in outpatient and inpatient settings by providing patient teaching, early detection and treatment of exacerbations and in collaboration with physicians provide treatment when intensive care is warranted.

Practice patterns for the ACNP have included a *Nursing Based Model* where the ACNP is placed in a unit or service based program of care, or a *Joint Professional Practice Model* in collaborative practice with a physician practice or group and for reimbursement. The graduates of the ACNP specialization is eligible to take the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner exam administered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the certification exam for Acute Care Nurse Practitioners administered by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. In some states, certification is required for licensure as a nurse practitioner. ACNP graduates are eligible to apply for recognition as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) as a nurse practitioner through the Kansas State Board of Nursing.

For the nurse practitioner student, there is a strong emphasis on clinical practice and skill development, including advanced health assessment, management of patients, technologies, and supervised clinical experiences. Core courses required for all master's students are: evidence based practice, theoretical foundations, advanced nursing practice roles, healthcare policy systems and politics, advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and management of clinical data and outcomes. The overall benefits of the nurse practitioner track are: comprehensive cost-effective care provided to patients and families; continuity of patient care; and the development of collegial relationships with physicians and other health care professionals.

The faculty of WSU's School of Nursing supports both the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and the Nurse Practitioner (NP) roles to meet the needs of patient care delivery and the health care team. Therefore, the curriculum reflects both the ACNP and CNS specialties, and some didactic coursework is shared, while other courses are specifically designed for the nurse practitioner student.

Faculty

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ACNP Curriculum

Prerequisites for the program are statistics and an undergraduate nursing research course approved by the School of Nursing. The ACNP track is 49 credit hours.

Core Courses	Core Course Credit Hours	24
N 701 Advanced Health Assessment		2
N 702 Advanced Health Assessment Lab		1
N 703 Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice		3
N 715 Advanced Nursing Practice Roles		1
HS 711 Pharmacological Management of Acute/Chronic Diseases		3
N 793 Advanced Pathophysiology I		4
N 801 Health Care Systems: Policy and Politics		3
N 806 Evidence Based Nursing Practice/Outcomes of Care		3
N 826 Evidence Based Nursing Project I		2
N 828 Evidence Based Nursing Project II		2
Specialization Courses	Specialization Credit Hours	25
N 728 Advanced Practice Technology and Skills		3
N 874 ACNP Practicum I		4
N 840 Pathophysiology & Management of Acute Care Problems I		3
N 842 Transition to ACNP Advanced Practice Role I		1
N 909 Pathophysiology & Management of Acute Care Problems II		3
N 910 ACNP Practicum II		4
N 911 Transition to ACNP Advanced Practice Role II		1
N 912 Management of the Acutely & Critically III Adult		3
N 952 Advanced Nursing Practice Preceptorship		3
Comprehensive Examination		0

Course Descriptions:

The following didactic coursework builds on core nursing courses and provide the knowledge base for application in clinical settings:

Health Sciences 711 Pharmacologic Management of Acute & Chronic Diseases

This course includes discussion of the clinical application of specific categories of drugs used in the treatment of common acute and chronic diseases. It presents pharmacokinetics, mechanisms of action, dosages, side effects, and monitoring parameters for medications as they are used in these diseases and in various patient populations. The course facilitates clinical application of this knowledge through case studies, class discussions, and reviews of latest medical literature.

(Continued on the next page)

Nursing 840 Pathophysiology and Management of Acute Care Problems I

This is the first of two courses that examines pathophysiology and management of acute, multisystem health problems in the adult. Emphasis is placed on the scientific underpinnings for clinical decision-making and practice issues. The major themes address normal physiology, pathophysiology, assessment, diagnosis, and management of acute, critical, and exacerbation of chronic disease states. Health promotion and disease prevention are emphasized.

Nursing 909 Pathophysiology and Management of Acute Care Problems II

This is the second of two courses that examines pathophysiology and management of acute, multisystem health problems in the adult. Emphasis is placed on the scientific underpinnings for clinical decision-making and practice issues. The major themes address normal physiology, pathophysiology, assessment, diagnosis, and management of acute, critical, and exacerbation of chronic disease states. Health promotion and disease prevention are emphasized.

Nursing 912 Management of the Acutely and Critically Ill Adult

This course will examine advanced nursing interventions focused on client stabilization and management of complications in the acutely and critically ill adult. Emphasis is placed on diagnostic reasoning and the management of the adult with complex health problems. Interventions focus on application of advanced practice nursing care to the restoration of health and well being.

Clinical/Lab courses:

Nursing 728 Advance Practice Technology and Skills

Focuses on application of clinical skills, advanced health assessment, and interpretation of technologies used in a variety of clinical settings. Students practice these skills in laboratory and clinical settings. Students practice history-taking and physical examination, with emphasis on differentiation, interpretation and documentation of normal and abnormal findings. A 40-hour precepted experience is included. The ACNP develops beginning skills in skills such as X-ray interpretation, 12 Lead EKG interpretations, pacemaker management, ventilation management, hemodynamic monitoring, arterial blood gas analysis, and suturing. Additional skills may be required depending on practice area, and students practice these skills in laboratory and/or clinical settings.

Nursing 842 Transition to the ACNP Advanced Practice Role I

This course focuses on the application of theoretical models of practice, ACNP role, evidence-based nursing practice, outcomes of care, and practice issues. Case discussions emphasize the application of physiologic principles and clinical management of acute, critical, and exacerbation of chronic health problems.

(Continued on the next page)

Nursing 874 Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Practicum I

A clinical experience that builds on pathophysiology and clinical management coursework, emphasizing evidence-based practice. Students participate in a medical rotation that is supervised by an ACNP or physician preceptor in the acute care setting. Emphasis is placed on physical assessment, interpretation of data, differential diagnosis, development and implementation of management plans, and performing relevant procedures. Patient and family education, health promotion, and prevention are emphasized. Clinical experiences are scheduled during the last 8 weeks of the semester (240 hrs.).

Nursing 910 ACNP Practicum II

Advanced clinical experiences that is a continuation of NURS 874. Students participate in surgical and/or emergency department rotations supervised by an ACNP or physician preceptor in the acute care setting. Emphasis is placed on physical assessment, interpretation of data, differential diagnosis, development and implementation of management plans, and performing relevant procedures. Patient and family education, health promotion, and prevention are emphasized. Clinical experiences are scheduled during the last 8 weeks of the semester (240 hrs.).

Nursing 911 Transition to the ACNP Advanced Practice Role II

This course focuses on collaborative practice, outcomes of care, practice issues, and case discussion. Emphasis is placed on developing collaborative relationships with other health professionals. Case discussions emphasize the application of physiologic principles and clinical management of acute health problems.

Nursing 952 Advanced Nursing Practice Preceptorship

A concentrated clinical practicum in the student's specialization health care setting that emphasizes the management of care for individuals. Students synthesize concepts and principles from previous classes and clinical experiences, applying theoretical and research content to acute, chronic, urgent and/or common health problems. Preceptorship is in a clinical agency appropriate to the student's clinical interests. Students select an area of clinical practice in which to further clinical skills and role development in this 180 hour practicum.

Evaluation of Student Learning by Preceptors

PRECEPTOR STATEMENT

Preceptors assist course responsible faculty and are practitioners who provide direct teaching to students appropriate to the course and program objectives. Preceptors for clinical specializations may include both advanced practice nurses (ARNPs) and non-nurse practitioners (usually physicians). Each preceptor must be credentialed and state licensed to practice in his/her specialization. National certification is highly encouraged although not required in Kansas for ARNP status. Preceptors must have educational preparation and/or extensive practice experience appropriate to his/her supervisory responsibility. Newly prepared preceptors must have at least one year of practice experience in the specialization. Orientation to the preceptor role, including program requirements, expectations for oversight and evaluation of students, are provided for each specialization. Student evaluation is the responsibility of the faculty with input from the preceptor. Experiences with preceptors are evaluated by students and faculty to enhance program development and student learning activities. Documentation of preceptor qualification is maintained in the School of Nursing.

*Alicia Huckstadt, 4/09
SON Graduate Council approval 5/1/09*

Evaluation of student performance by the preceptor provides valuable input to both the student and the faculty member. In addition to the general guidelines presented earlier, please consider these areas in your evaluation of the student:

- Reliability
- Information gathering ability
- Physical examination techniques
- Problem-solving
- Clinical judgment
- Patient rapport and education
- Professional relationships
- Knowledge base
- Recognition of limitations

Additional resources for evaluating students can be found in the links section for preceptors on this website. These can be helpful if you have additional questions or encounter difficulties during the rotation.

Please provide your evaluation of the student on the form provided on the following page and return it to the faculty member promptly upon completion of the student's clinical rotation. The addition of written comments is particularly useful for the student and the faculty member.

Thank you for supporting ACNP education at WSU!

Total Practicum Hours: 700.

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY-SCHOOL OF NURSING
Preceptor Evaluation of Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Student

Semester _____

Student: _____

Preceptor Signature: _____ Date: _____

- Key: NA = Not applicable or not observed
 2 = Omits task/procedure, minimal competence even with assistance
 4 = Below average skills, needs a lot of direct supervision
 6 = Performs with average skills, needs some direct supervision
 8 = Performs with above average skills, needs minimal direct supervision
 10 = Skills are well developed , works independently most of the time

Total Points Possible = 100

Directions: Place a "X" in the box to indicate your rating of the student for each item

Procedure/Task	Rating										
	NA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Is skillful in obtaining histories and performing physical examinations in patients as appropriate for the setting.											
Selects and performs appropriate physical exam techniques; recognizes abnormal findings.											
Demonstrates ability to record data in concise, accurate, and timely manner using SOAP or agency format.											
Articulates patient problems and physical findings, verbally and in writing, using accurate and appropriate terminology.											
Succinctly articulates the appropriate plan of care; uses clinical data and relevant literature to support the plan of care.											
Selects and recommends appropriate diagnostic tests with attention to safety, cost, acceptability, and efficacy.											
Selects and recommends appropriate pharmacologic preparations with attention to safety, cost acceptability, and efficacy.											
Demonstrates an awareness of ethical and legal implications of care provided to patients and families.											
Implements appropriate patient teaching, counseling, and health promotion strategies.											
Cooperates and collaborates with members of the health care team. Demonstrates professional behavior.											

Comments: (Your comments are particularly valued, so please add a few of your comments here)