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COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

SCHOOL OF NURSING  
Graduate Programs

Clinical Nurse Specialist – Adult Health  
Preceptor Manual

*Innovation and Excellence in Nursing Education*

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### **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 Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is an RN prepared at the Master's or Doctoral level as a Clinical Nurse Specialist. The CNS is educated to care for and improve outcomes of acutely, critically, and chronically ill patients by influencing the patient, family, nursing personnel, and organizational systems. The CNS is a masters' prepared expert clinician in a specialized area of nursing practice. Care is continuous and comprehensive and may be provided in a variety of settings. Care is provided in a collaborative model involving patients, families, nurses, other healthcare providers, and administrators. The CNS serves as:

- A leader, the CNS is an expert in the roles of collaborator, consultant, researcher, and case manager to optimize care to patients/clients.
- An expert clinician, the CNS assesses patients to prevent or resolve health problems, develops and evaluates population -based programs of care, and designs and evaluates innovation in nursing practice.
- The CNS focuses on health promotion and preventative care.
- The CNS promotes advanced nursing care for patients/clients and promotes the discipline of nursing.

The graduate of the Adult Health & Illness CNS specialization is eligible to take national certification examinations; examples include the Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult Health exam and the Clinical Nurse Specialist Core exam administered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and the Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist exam administered by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. In some states, certification is required for licensure as a CNS and for reimbursement. CNS graduates are eligible to apply for certification as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) as a clinical nurse specialist through the Kansas State Board of Nursing.

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 CNS and ACNP specialties, and some didactic coursework is shared, while other courses are specifically designed for the CNS student.

## **Faculty**

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## Adult Health and Illness CNS Curriculum

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

<b>Core Courses</b>	<b>Core Course Credit Hours</b>	<b>24</b>
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
<b>Specialization Courses</b>	<b>Specialization Credit Hours</b>	<b>25</b>
N 834 Adult CNS Practicum I		4
N 840 Pathophysiology & Management of Acute Care Problems I		3
N 866 Transitions to the CNS Advanced Practice Role I		1
N 909 Pathophysiology & Management of Acute Care Problems II		3
N 927 Transitions to the CNS Advanced Practice Role II		1
N 928 Adult CNS Practicum II		4
N 952 Advanced Nursing Practice Preceptorship		3
Elective course		3
And <u>one</u> of the following:		
N 723 Foundations of Nursing Education or		3
N 775 Health Care Information Systems		
Comprehensive Examination		0

## **Course Descriptions:**

The following didactic courses build upon 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.

### **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 866 Transition to the CNS Advanced Practice Role I**

This seminar focuses on the application of theoretical models in practice, CNS role development, outcomes of care, practice issues, change process, and health system leadership.

### **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 927 Transition to the CNS Advance Practice Role**

This course focuses on continued CNS role development, case management, health promotion, outcomes of care, evidence-based practice, and practice issues.

## **Clinical/Lab courses:**

### **Nursing 834 Adult CNS Nursing Practicum I**

This is an intensive clinical experience in which the student is expected to design, implement, and evaluate nursing care for adults. Specialized areas of study are selected and may involve health maintenance or illness care of acutely or chronically ill adults. All students are expected to be involved in expert practice in the practicum experience. The specific objectives and nature of the practicum may vary depending on the area/preceptor assigned. Students select an area of clinical practice in which further clinical skills and role development is desired. Students schedule clinical experiences in blocks of time during the last 8 weeks of the semester (240 hrs.) and as arranged with the instructor and preceptor.

### **Nursing 928 Adult CNS Nursing Practicum II**

An intensive clinical experience in which the student is expected to design, implement, and evaluate nursing care for adults. The course emphasizes application of case management principles and health promotion strategies for a selected population. All students are expected to be involved in expert practice in the practicum experience. The specific objectives and nature of the practicum may vary depending on the area/preceptor assigned. Students select an area of clinical practice in which further clinical skills and role development is desired. Students schedule clinical experiences in blocks of during the last 8 weeks of the semester (240 hrs.) and as arranged with the instructor and preceptor.

### **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.

Total Practicum Hours: 660.

## 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 and Clinical judgment
- Patient rapport and education
- Professional relationships
- Knowledge base
- Understanding of the CNS role
- 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 below 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 CNS education at WSU!

**WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY- SCHOOL OF NURSING**  
**Preceptor/Instructor Evaluation of Clinical Nurse Specialist 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.											
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.											
Evaluates the appropriateness of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic therapies.											
Implements appropriate patient teaching, counseling, and health promotion strategies.											
Demonstrates an awareness of ethical and legal implications of care provided to patients and families.											
Demonstrates ability to self-direct learning activities											
Cooperates and collaborates with members of the health care team; provides consultation and education to staff members as appropriate. Exhibits professional behavior.											

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