COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Graduate Programs

Adult-Gerontology Acute Care
Nurse Practitioner Preceptor Manual

The Master of Science in Nursing at
Wichita State University School of Nursing
is accredited by the
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036, (202) 887-6791

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The Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees prepare students for advanced clinical practice as an Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.

**Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice**

- Care of adults and older adults across the acute care continuum, including those with acute and complex illnesses
- History & physical examination
- Medical and nursing therapeutics
- Health promotion, health screening & maintenance
- Diagnosing & managing unstable and complex health care problems
- Teaching & counseling
- Collaborating with Physicians and other Health Care Professionals

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

1) performing history and physical exams;
2) determining differential diagnoses;
3) working collaboratively with physicians and other healthcare providers to develop a therapeutic plan of care;
4) health promotion and health education;
5) case managing patients with a focus on cost-effective outcomes;
6) recognizing atypical presentations and specialized needs of older adults.

The AGACNP 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 AGACNP have included a *Nursing Based Model* where the AGACNP 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 AGACNP specialization is eligible to take the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner exam administered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the certification exam for Adult-Gerontology 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. AGACNP graduates are eligible to apply for recognition as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) as a nurse practitioner through the Kansas State Board of Nursing.
Vision
INSPIRE  INNOVATE  EXCEL

Mission
To improve the health of the community by inspiring change in health care through innovation and excellence in nursing education, scholarship, practice, and service.

Philosophy
The Graduate Program prepares students for advanced 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 DNP graduates are prepared to provide leadership in the analysis of factors influencing health and the subsequent implementation and evaluation of strategies for improving health in an interprofessional, globally aware, culturally sensitive manner.

Location
Wichita, Kansas, in the south central part of the state, is the home of Wichita State University (WSU). The Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner track is within the School of Nursing and the College of Health Professions, one of six colleges within the university structure.

Accreditation Status
The graduate nursing program is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Academic Degree
The DNP student completes 74 credit hours including the AGACNP courses for the DNP degree.

Student Capacity
Students are admitted once annually in the fall.

For the AGACNP 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 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 AGACNP track are: comprehensive cost-effective care provided to patients across the lifespan and their families; continuity of patient care; leadership in clinical decision-making, and the development of collegial relationships with physicians and other health care professionals.

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

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AGACNP Curriculum

Prerequisites for the program are graduate level statistics course approved by the School of Nursing.

Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number &amp; Title</th>
<th>Core Course Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N 701 Advanced Health Assessment</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 702 Advanced Health Assessment Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 703 Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 715 Advanced Nursing Practice Roles</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 710 Applied Clinical Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 711 Pharmacological Management of Acute/Chronic Diseases</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 793 Advanced Pathophysiology I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 801 Health Care Systems: Policy and Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 806 Evidence Based Nursing Practice/Outcomes of Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 826 Evidence Based Nursing Project I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 828 Evidence Based Nursing Project II</td>
<td>2</td>
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Specialization Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number &amp; Title</th>
<th>Specialization Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N 728 Advanced Practice Technology and Skills</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 874 Adult/Older Adult ACNP Practicum I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 840 Pathophysiology &amp; Management of Adult/Older Adult Acute Care Problems I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 842 Transition to the ACNP Advanced Practice Role I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 909 Pathophysiology &amp; Management of Adult/Older Adult Acute Care Problems II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 910 Adult/Older Adult ACNP Practicum II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 911 Transition to the ACNP Advanced Practice Role II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 912 Management of Acute &amp; Critical Problems of Adult/Older Adult Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 952 Advanced Nursing Practice Preceptorship</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

DNP Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number &amp; Title</th>
<th>DNP Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N 824 Advanced Pathophysiology II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 901 Organizational Systems &amp; Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 902 Populations &amp; Social Determinants of Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 956 Practice Management</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 959 Evidence Based Nursing Project III</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 960 Residency (includes clinical residency)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AGACNP Course Descriptions

Course Number & Title: N728, Advanced Practice Technology and Skills (3 cr hrs)

Course Description: A course that focuses on application of clinical skills, advanced health assessment, and interpretation of technologies utilized 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. Prerequisite: Completion of the core courses or departmental consent; admission to one of the NP options.
**Course Objectives:** The student will:

1. Analyze data from health histories, physical exam, and psychosocial assessment of clients.
2. Enhance skill in using various techniques and equipment for client management.
3. Differentiate between variations of normal and abnormal assessment data.
5. Demonstrate a developmentally appropriate approach to history and physical examination of clients across the lifespan.
6. Demonstrate cultural awareness in interviewing and examining clients.
7. Communicate effectively in verbal and written instances.

**Course Number & Title:** N840, Pathophysiology & Management of Adult/Older Adult Acute Care Problems I (3 cr hrs)

**Course Description:** This is the first of two courses that examines pathophysiology and management of acute, chronic, and multisystem health problems in adult/older adult populations. Emphasis is on the scientific underpinnings for clinical decision-making and practice issues. The major themes address normal physiology, pathophysiology, age-related changes, assessment, diagnosis, and management of acute, critical, and exacerbation of chronic disease states. Health promotion and disease prevention are emphasized. **Prerequisites:** NURS 793 and admission to AGACNP or AGCNS specialization.

**Course Objectives:** The learner will be able to:

1. Evaluate the epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis, and clinical and laboratory manifestations of specific acute, critical, and exacerbation of chronic health problems of the adult/older adult.
2. Discuss the genetic basis of selected diseases and related genetic issues.
3. Describe the pathologic mechanisms and management of pain and inflammation in the adult/older adult.
4. Examine strategies for disease prevention and health promotion across the adult lifespan.
5. Analyze relevant research, established protocols, and national standards of practice for selected acute, critical, and exacerbation of chronic disease states.
6. Develop and evaluate a management plan that includes pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic approaches for acute/critical health problems in the adult/older adult.
7. Discuss the psychological, cultural, social, economic, and ethical-legal consequences of major disease states for the individual, family, and society.

**Course Number & Title:** N909, Pathophysiology & Management of Adult/Older Adult Acute Care Problems II (3 cr hrs)

**Course Description:** The second of two courses that examines pathophysiology and management of acute, chronic, multisystem health problems in adult/older adult populations. Emphasis is placed on the scientific underpinnings for clinical decision-making and practice issues. Major themes address normal physiology, pathophysiology, age-related changes, assessment, diagnosis, and management of acute, critical, and exacerbation of chronic disease states. Health promotion and disease prevention are emphasized. **Prerequisites:** N793 and N840.

**Course Objectives:** The learner will be able to:
1. Evaluate the epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis, and clinical and laboratory manifestations of specific acute, chronic, and multisystem health problems of the adult/older adult.
2. Discuss psychosocial responses to illness, stress response, and end-of-life issues.
3. Examine strategies for disease prevention and health promotion.
4. Analyze relevant research, established protocols, and national standards of practice for selected acute, critical, multisystem, and exacerbation of chronic disease states.
5. Develop and evaluate a management plan that includes pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic approaches for acute, critical, and multisystem health problems in the adult/older adult.
6. Discuss the psychological, cultural, social, economic, and ethical-legal consequences of major disease states for the individual, family, and society.

**Course Number and Title:** N912 Management of Acute and Critical Problems of Adult/Older Adult Populations (3 cr hrs)

Course Description: Examines advanced nursing interventions focused on client stabilization and management of complications in the acutely/critically ill adult/older adult populations. 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/well-being. **Prerequisites:** N909 and N910.

**Course Objectives:** The learner will be able to:

1. Design physical and psychosocial interventions for the critically ill adult/older adult using diagnostic reasoning.
2. Analyze the effectiveness of advanced practice interventions based on current research and practice guidelines.
3. Select pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic therapies for the critically ill adult/older adult.
4. Analyze the advanced practice role in establishing and monitoring standards of practice.
5. Examine ethical-legal, cultural, social, and economic issues relevant to the role of the acute care nurse practitioner.
Practica and Transition Courses

Course Number & Title: N874, Adult/Older Adult ACNP Practicum I (4 cr hrs)

Course Description: 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 with adult/older adult populations. Patient and family education, health promotion, and prevention are emphasized. Pre-requisite: N728; Co-requisite: N840 and N842.

Course Objectives: The learner will be able to:

1. Perform comprehensive and focused physical and psychosocial assessments of adults/older adults with acute, critical, and exacerbation of chronic health problems.
2. Analyze patient data to develop differential diagnoses, select diagnostic tests, and develop a management plan for adults/older adults with acute/critical medical conditions.
3. Prescribe appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic modalities (pharmacologic, nonpharmacologic) in the management of acute/critical health problems.
4. Demonstrate integration of theory and research while providing care to patients and families.
5. Implement patient education strategies for health promotion and disease prevention.
7. Recognize situations requiring consultation and/or referral of individuals in the acute care setting.
8. Communicate effectively in verbal and written forms with patients, families, peers, and other health care disciplines.

Transition – Seminar Course

Course Number & Title: N842, Transition to the ACNP Role I (1 cr hrs)

Course Description: 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 of adult/older adult populations. Co-requisite: N840 and N874.

Course Objectives: The learner will be able to:

1. Apply theoretical models of practice to clinical situations in the acute care setting.
2. Analyze the ACNP role using relevant literature and practice standards.
3. Evaluate diagnostic and management plans using adult/older adult case scenarios.
4. Analyze an evidence-based practice guideline and apply to a case scenario.
5. Discuss practice issues related to the ACNP role.
Practicum

Course Number & Title: N910, Adult/Older Adult ACNP Practicum II (4 cr hrs)

Course Description: Advanced clinical experience that is a continuation of N874. 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 with adult/older adult populations. Patient and family education, health promotion, and prevention are emphasized. Pre-requisite: N874; Co-requisite: N909 and N911.

Course Objectives: The learner will be able to:

1. Perform comprehensive and focused physical and psychosocial assessments of adults with acute and chronic health problems.
2. Analyze patient data to develop differential diagnoses, select diagnostic tests, and develop a management plan for adults/older adults with acute surgical or emergency medical conditions.
3. Prescribe appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic modalities (pharmacologic, non-pharmacologic) in the management of acute and chronic health problems.
4. Demonstrate integration of theory and research while providing care to patients and families.
5. Implement patient education strategies for health promotion and disease prevention.
6. Integrate established protocols and national standards in the care of adults/older adults with acute and chronic health problems.
7. Recognize situations requiring consultation and/or referral of individuals in the acute care setting.
8. Communicate effectively in verbal and written forms with patients, families, peers, and other health care disciplines.

Transition – Seminar Course

Course Number & Title: N911, Transition to the ACNP Role II (1 cr hrs)

Course Description: 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 of adult/older adult populations. Co-requisite: N910.

Course Objectives: The learner will be able to:

1. Apply theoretical models of practice to clinical situations in the acute care setting.
2. Evaluate diagnostic and management plan, and outcomes of care using adult/older adult case scenarios.
3. Discuss the ACNP role in collaboration, consultation, and referral with other health professionals.
4. Analyze ethical-legal and other practice issues related to the ACNP role.
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 (APRNs) 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 APRN 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.

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 AGACNP education at WSU!

Total Practicum Hours: 1000.
### Preceptor/Instructor Evaluation of Adult Gerontology 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure/Task</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is skillful in obtaining histories and performing physical examinations in</td>
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<td>patients as appropriate for the setting, including normal and abnormal</td>
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<td>variations in older adults.</td>
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<td>Recognizes both typical and atypical presentations of complex acute,</td>
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<tr>
<td>critical, and chronic illnesses including urgent/emergent physical and mental</td>
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<td>health conditions across the age spectrum.</td>
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<td>Selects and recommends appropriate diagnostic tests with attention to</td>
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<tr>
<td>safety, cost, acceptability, and efficacy.</td>
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<td>Develops differential diagnoses by priority for new or recurring complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>acute, critical, and chronic physical or behavioral disorders/problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Articulates patient problems and physical findings, verbally and in writing,</td>
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<td>using accurate and appropriate terminology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Succinctly formulates &amp; articulates the appropriate plan of care; uses</td>
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<tr>
<td>clinical data and evidence based literature to support the plan of care for</td>
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<tr>
<td>adults across the lifespan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selects and recommends appropriate pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic</td>
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<tr>
<td>interventions with attention to safety, cost acceptability, and efficacy.</td>
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<td>Demonstrates an awareness of ethical and legal implications of care provided</td>
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<tr>
<td>to patients and families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implements appropriate patient teaching, counseling, and health promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>strategies with attention to culture, aging, gender, and health literacy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperates and collaborates with members of the health care team.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrates professional behavior.</td>
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</table>

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