

MSN-CNS Adult and Gerontological Dual Program

Apply Online Now

- Master of Science in Nursing (GCNS)
- Master of Science in Nursing (ACNS/GCNS)
- Post-Master's Certificate*
- Post-Certificate Master's

*A Post-Master's Certificate may be earned for any NP option.

Admission Guidelines

This program is offered both online and onsite

The Role

*The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in the Gerontological Nursing program prepares graduates to function as both adult and gerontological clinical nurse specialists (ACNS/GCNS). The emphasis of the program is on clinical practice with healthy and frail older adults. The ACNS/GCNS program prepares advanced practice nurses to function autonomously across the spectrum of health care in a variety of settings. The **adult health and gerontological clinical nurse specialist -- program** focuses on nursing leadership, consultation and participation in multidisciplinary clinical programs for adults and older adults. The student will gain an in-depth knowledge of nursing theory and research, critical decision-making, differential diagnosis and patient/case management related to a) promotion, maintenance and/or restoration of health; b) optimal functioning; and c) promotion of death with dignity.*

The Program

There are several unique aspects of these programs: a) a combination of online and onsite didactic courses, with the **option to complete the program 100 percent online with limited campus visits**; b) accessible clinical practice sites; c) individualized clinical practica precepted by expert health care practitioners; and d) competency-based application of knowledge to clinical practice.

The dual or combined ACNS/GCNS program prepares graduates to function as clinical nurse specialists with populations aged teen to end of life. This preparation enables the student to take both the GCNS and ACNS certification exams, thus increasing their marketability and scope of practice.

The Faculty

Rush College of Nursing faculties are highly experienced practitioner-teachers with doctoral and master's degrees and certification in their specialties. The practitioner-teacher model at Rush University allows faculties to maintain and enhance their clinical expertise and apply it to research and academic programs. Faculty members are nationally and internationally known in their various areas of expertise and are actively involved and often leaders in professional organizations. Faculty members are also well published and frequently speak at local, regional, national and international professional meetings. Additional program faculty include experienced health care providers such as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and physicians, as well as allied health care professionals with expertise in the care of older adults.

Faculty Contacts for Gerontological Nursing Programs

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Clinical Sites

Rush University Medical Center offers graduate students in gerontological clinical practica in a wide variety of settings. Practicum sites include acute care institutions, nursing homes, retirement apartments, nursing wellness centers, community outreach sites, home care agencies and ambulatory care settings. Clinical practice experiences are planned on a student-centered basis by Rush College of Nursing faculty. Planning is based on individual student learning needs, available clinical sites and preceptors, and specifically designed clinical objectives.

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities for gerontological advanced practice nurses, both GNP and ANP/GNP, encompass a variety of health care settings, including primary care, retirement centers, nursing homes, ambulatory clinics, home care agencies, hospital-based skilled nursing facilities and special hospital-based geriatric programs. They function independently and collaboratively with a variety of gerontological care providers to deliver quality, evidence-based care that will maximize patient care outcomes.

Certification and Accreditation

Completion of a gerontological advanced practice nursing program provides eligibility for certification as a gerontological nurse practitioner and ANP for those in the ANP/GNP program or gerontological clinical nurse specialist by the American Nurses Credentialing Center of the American Nurses Association and for state licensure/certification where available.

To apply or for further information, please contact:

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Fax: (312) 942-2219
E-mail: Rush_Admissions@rush.edu

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[To view the program of study, click here now](#)

Please note: All programs of study are subject to change

Dual Master's Programs of Study are Available in the Following Areas:

Adult/Gerontological NP
Adult/Gerontological NP or CNS
Adult/Gerontological CNS

Contact the Department of Adult Health and Gerontological Nursing for more information about these dual programs of study.