

Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Program for RNs

- **Master of Science in Nursing**
- **Post-Master's Certificate**

The Role

The clinical nurse leader is responsible for the clinical management of comprehensive client care, for individuals and clinical populations across the continuum of care, and in multiple settings. He/she assumes leadership/accountability for health outcomes for a specific group of clients within a unit or setting through the assimilation and application of research-based information to design, implement and evaluate plans of care. The clinical nurse leader is also responsible for the coordination and planning of care team activities and functions. Health promotion, risk reduction and improvement in point-of-care outcomes are critical elements in the role of the clinical nurse leader.

The Program

The program is eight quarters in length and offered as a part-time program of study. All courses are offered online. There is a clinical residency requirement that may be completed at the student's place of employment. In addition, students take two electives that add a *role component*, e.g., education or management, to the clinical nurse leader focus.

The Faculty

Rush College of Nursing faculty are highly experienced practitioner-teachers with doctoral and master's degrees and certification in their specialties. The practitioner-teacher model at Rush University allows faculty to maintain and enhance their clinical expertise and apply it to research and academic programs. Faculty are nationally known in their various areas of expertise and are actively involved in professional organizations. Faculty are also well published and frequently speak at regional, national, and international professional meetings.

Faculty Contact for the Clinical Nurse Leader Program

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Clinical Sites

In addition to the world-renowned Rush University Medical Center, the College of Nursing uses a variety of tertiary care, community hospital and community settings for clinical experiences.

Career Opportunities

Master's-prepared clinical nurse leaders are actively sought by acute care and community health settings. Our experience and that of other CNL programs reveals a high demand for these graduates, prepared for high-level clinical practice. Employers that hire these graduates report they are superior patient advocates, excellent problem solvers and committed to high quality care at the bedside. The additional role component in the program of study also provides the graduate more opportunity to focus in areas such as clinical education or management.

Certification and Accreditation

The master's degree programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). Upon graduation from the CNL program, students are eligible to sit for certification as a clinical nurse leader offered by the AACN.

To apply or for further information contact:

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