

## Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist: Adult (MSN) Program

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

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

### Admission Guidelines

#### The Role

*The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in the Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) program prepares graduate to function as change agent, collaborator, clinical leader, educator, case manager and patient advocate. The clinical nurse specialist role is built around four dimensions: clinical expertise, consultation, education and research. The program prepares the Critical Care CNS to work with adult critical care populations in a variety of in-patient settings.*

#### The Program

There are five unique aspects of this program: a) a combination of online and onsite didactic courses; b) accessible clinical practice sites; c) individualized clinical practica precepted by expert health care practitioners; d) individually designed post-master's certificate; and e) competency-based application of knowledge to clinical practice. One year of recent full-time critical care experience is required prior to enrollment in the clinical seminar/practica courses.

#### 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. Faculties are nationally and internationally known in their various areas of expertise and are actively involved and often leaders in professional organizations. Faculties are also well published and frequently speak at local, regional, national, and international professional meetings. Additional program faculties 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 critically ill adult patients.

#### Clinical Sites

Rush University Medical Center offers graduate students in critical care nursing clinical experiences in a wide variety of settings. Practicum sites include acute and subacute care institutions, acute medical-surgical and intensive care units, and subspecialty practices (e.g., cardiology, pulmonology, neurosurgery). 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 critical care clinical nurse specialists include a variety of healthcare settings, including acute care and intensive care units, subacute hospitals, clinical education, care management, and subspecialty office practices. They function independently and collaboratively with a variety of critical care providers to deliver quality, evidence-based care that will maximize patient care outcomes.

#### Certification and Accreditation

Completion of the critical care clinical nurse specialist program provides eligibility for certification as a critical care clinical nurse specialist by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and for state licensure/certification where available.

**To apply or for further information, please contact:**

College Admission Services  
600 S. Paulina, Suite 440  
Chicago, IL 60612  
Phone: (312) 942-7100  
Fax: (312) 942-2219  
E-mail: [Rush\\_Admissions@rush.edu](mailto: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:**

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Acute Care NP and Critical Care CNS  
Adult NP and Gerontological NP or CNS

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