

Post-Master's Certificate: Acute Care

ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER (ACNP)

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The Role

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program prepares graduates to function as advanced practice nurses in adult critical/acute care. The emphasis of the program is on clinical practice with acutely or critically ill adults that prepares practitioners to function autonomously across the spectrum of health care in a variety of settings. The ACNP student will gain an in-depth knowledge of nursing theory and research, critical decision-making, differential diagnosis, patient/case management, and technical intervention skills related to health maintenance, health restoration, and illness prevention.

The Program

There are six 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 options; e) a combined ACNP and Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) program of study; and f) competency-based application of knowledge to clinical practice. ACLS certification and two years of recent full-time critical/acute 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 adult acute/critical care.

Faculty Contact for the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program:

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Clinical Sites

Rush University Medical Center offers graduate practitioner students clinical experiences in a wide variety of settings with a focus on managing a caseload of acutely/critically ill patients. Practicum sites include acute in-patient hospital units, general and specialty intensive care units, emergency departments, sub-acute care institutions, and specialty acute care practices (e.g., cardiology, neurosurgery, bone marrow transplant).

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 acute care nurse practitioners cross the spectrum of healthcare. Acute care nurse practitioners provide care in a variety of acute and critical care settings in tertiary and community hospitals, as well as diverse settings in private practices. They function independently and collaboratively with a variety of adult acute/critical care providers to deliver quality, evidence-based care that will maximize patient care outcomes.

Certification and Accreditation

Completion of the ACNP program provides eligibility for certification as an acute care nurse practitioner 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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