

# Post-Master's Certificate Program: Gerontological

## Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Practitioner (M.S.N.) Programs

### Apply Online Now

Available as onsite program only at this time.

### Admission Guidelines

#### The Role

*The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in the Gerontological Nursing program prepares graduates to function as gerontological nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists. The emphasis of the program is on clinical practice with healthy and frail older adults that prepares advanced practice nurses to function autonomously across the spectrum of health care in a variety of settings. The focus of the gerontological nurse practitioner program is the management of common health problems experienced by older adults with an emphasis on physical and multidimensional functional assessment. The gerontological clinical nurse specialist program focuses on nursing leadership, consultation, and participation in multidisciplinary clinical programs for 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 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 and post-certificate program of study; and e) competency-based application of knowledge to clinical 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. 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 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:

Joanne Miller, PhD, RN, GNP  
Phone: (312) 942-7219  
E-mail: [Joanne\\_M\\_Miller@rush.edu](mailto:Joanne_M_Miller@rush.edu)

Lynn Sivertsen, MSN, RN, GNP  
Phone: (312) 942-6275  
E-mail: [Lynn\\_Sivertsen@rush.edu](mailto:Lynn_Sivertsen@rush.edu)

#### 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 encompass a variety of healthcare settings, including 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 or gerontological clinical nurse specialist by the American Nurses Credentialing Center of the American Nurses Association and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners 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)