

Post-Certificate Master's Neonatal

Online Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (MSN) Program

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

[Admission Guidelines](#)

The Role

The Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) is a registered nurse (RN) with a graduate degree in nursing and a concentration in advanced practice neonatal nursing. The NNP assumes daily management of neonates in a neonatal intensive care unit which includes advanced physical assessment, evaluation of laboratory and clinical data, consulting and collaborating with neonatologists and other interdisciplinary team members, writing orders, and providing parent support and education as it relates to their infant. Additional responsibilities include advanced practice clinical skills such as delivery room management of the neonate, intubation, umbilical line insertion, lumbar punctures, and chest tube, percutaneous arterial line and central line insertion.

The Program

The Rush curriculum emphasizes advanced nursing care of high-risk infants from birth through the first 2 years of life. The spectrum of health from promoting wellness to the management of acute and chronic illness in a variety of settings is incorporated into the curriculum. Through didactic and clinical experiences students gain advanced knowledge in nursing theory, research, physical and psychosocial assessment, evidenced-based interventions, case management, and care coordination. The program concludes with a clinical residency that provides students with hands on experience as a neonatal nurse practitioner. Students must have at least one year of recent neonatal intensive care experience before advancing to the specialty curriculum.

The NNP program may be completed almost entirely **online**. Students are required to come to campus for 2 days during each of the 3 neonatal specialty courses for on campus instruction and seminar discussion. A Pediatric CNS program, with a focus on neonatal issues, is available for a student wishing to complete a clinical specialist program.

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 Neonatal NP Program

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Clinical Sites

A number of excellent Chicagoland clinical sites are available to students enrolled in the NNP program. Experienced preceptors provide students with outstanding experiences in nationally-recognized neonatal intensive care units. Distance students may complete all or a portion of the clinical requirements at their home hospital, as long as program requirements are met.

Career Opportunities

Throughout the nation, the demand for NNPs remains high, as many units are expanding and resident work hours have decreased. NNPs traditionally work in Level 2 or Level 3 NICUs, providing daily management to neonates of any gestational age or severity of illness. While work is typically focused in the in-patient setting, a growing number of NNPs are participating in NICU follow-up and developmental programs. NNPs may be employed by hospitals or private neonatology groups.

Certification and Accreditation

Upon successful completion of the Rush NNP Program the student will be eligible to sit for the Neonatal Care Nurse Practitioner Exam, offered by the National Certification Corporation. National certification is required prior to obtaining an APN license in most states.

To apply or for further information contact:

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