

CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST (CNS), GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

This 18-credit post-graduate Clinical Nurse Specialist Certificate is designed to provide advanced practice nurses with preparation as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). The student will choose one of the following populations: adult/gerontology or pediatric. Upon completing the certificate requirements, students will be eligible to sit for the population specific national certification exams offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN). Once nationally certified, the CNS is eligible to apply for licensure in all fifty states.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

Admission

The admission requirements of the Post-Graduate CNS Certificate are consistent with those requirements specified by the Graduate School of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In addition, students must also meet the following requirements for the School of Nursing:

1. A master's or doctoral degree in Nursing from an accredited program providing preparation as a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse midwife, or certified registered nurse anesthetist.
2. Certification in their current advanced practice registered nurse specialty as applicable.
3. Completion with a grade of B or better of a graduate-level course in advanced physiology/pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and advanced health assessment. Evidence of current prescriptive authority in the state of Wisconsin will be accepted in place of advanced pharmacology.
4. Current registration as a Registered Nurse in the state of Wisconsin.
5. Three (3) letters of recommendation, two (2) of which are from persons most knowledgeable about the applicant's recent academic and work experiences.
6. Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV).
7. Personal statement that includes rationale for certificate study and career goals.
8. Personal interview with a faculty member may be requested.
9. One year of clinical experience relevant to the chosen specialty.

Application

- Admission to a graduate certificate program requires formal student application through the Graduate School admissions application (<https://uwm.edu/applygrad/>) system, including the required admissions application fee.

- Certificate programs will inform the Graduate School of their admission recommendation for an applicant. The final admission decision is made by the Graduate School.
- Early application to the certificate program is recommended; late application is possible, but may incur delays for certificate conferral related to time required for credit tracking.
- Applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree and have a minimum 2.75 cumulative undergraduate grade point average to be admitted into a certificate program.

Credits and Courses

The CNS Post-Graduate Certificate consists of 18 credit hours of coursework. All courses are 3 credits each and are offered in a 3-semester sequence so the program can be completed in 12 months. The three theory and health management courses must be graduate level (700 or above) and provide content across the continuum from wellness through acute care for the adult-gerontology population.

Adult/Gerontology Track

Code	Title	Credits
Clinical		
NURS 832	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I-Adult/Gerontology	3
NURS 833	Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II	3
NURS 834	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III-Adult/Gerontology	3
Theory		
NURS 702	Advanced Health and Illness Management for Adult-Gerontology Acute Care I	3
NURS 703	Advanced Health and Illness Management for Adult Gerontology Acute Care II	3
Select one of the following two courses:		3
NURS 704	Advanced Practice Nursing Adult-Gerontology Critical Illness	
NURS 765	Processes of Aging (Offered regularly during fall semester or NURS 704)	
Total Credits		18

Additional Requirements

Allowance for Transfer Credit

If approved by the CNS option coordinator, one 3-credit course from an institution other than UWM may be transferred in to meet requirements of the certificate program.

Completion Requirements

Certificate program progression requirements will be consistent with the School of Nursing requirements for progression in graduate level programs. Students must complete all courses with at least a B- or better and a cumulative GPA of a 3.00 or greater in order to progress in the program.

Time limit

It is expected that students will complete the certificate within one year from time of enrollment.

Certificate Conferral

The certificate will be awarded upon successful completion of the requirements (i.e. once all grades for the certificate courses are officially recorded with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater). Successful completion of the certificate program will be noted on the student's transcript.

Articulation with Degree Programs

1. Credits and courses required for a certificate may double count toward meeting UWM graduate degree requirements subject to the following restrictions:
 - Degree programs must approve the courses from certificates that can double count toward the degree.
 - All credits taken in completion of certificate requirements may count towards a UWM graduate degree as long as they do not contribute more than 90% of the total credits needed to obtain the degree. (Note: Students in PhD programs must still complete the minimum residency requirements)
 - Certificate courses used toward meeting degree requirements must be completed within the time limit for transfer credit.
2. Courses completed for a degree may be counted toward a subsequent certificate, subject to all certificate policy requirements.
3. A course may count toward no more than one certificate and one degree.
4. Students may not earn a certificate subsequent to a concentration in the same area.

Certification and Licensing

On completion of the CNS Certificate program, graduates with a population focus on adult/gerontology or pediatrics will be eligible to take the national CNS certification exams in adult/gerontology or pediatrics offered by American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC, 2013) or by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) Certification Corporation (AACN, 2014). Upon successful completion of the CNS certification exam, graduates may choose to apply for prescriptive privileges in the state of Wisconsin as an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber or APNP (Wisconsin DSPS, 2013). Currently, CNS certification exams are not available for the maternal/infant or psychiatric/mental health populations.