The Clinical Nurse Specialist Postgraduate Certificate is designed to provide advanced practice preparation as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) to nurses who hold a Master’s degree in Nursing and are prepared for other roles or population groups. The student will choose one of the following populations: adult/gerontology, pediatric, maternal/infant, or psychiatric/mental health. The program will be taught online with clinical preceptor placements as close as possible to a student’s geographic location.

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
Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for admission to the program:

1. A minimum 3.0 (4.0 scale) cumulative grade point average (GPA) is required in previous undergraduate and graduate programs.
2. Prerequisites: Graduate courses (3 credits each) in physiology, physical assessment, and pharmacology are required with a grade of B or better. Physiology and physical assessment must be within the previous five years and pharmacology must be within three years. Note: Evidence of prescriptive authority granted through a state board of nursing will be accepted in place of graduate pharmacology.

Application
• Students wishing to obtain this certificate must declare their intention by applying to the program office or director.
• All graduate certificate applicants—even those already enrolled in a UWM graduate program—must apply to the Graduate School through the Panthera Admission Application (https://graduateschool-apply.uwm.edu).
• Graduate degree and previously admitted graduate non-degree students who decide to pursue a certificate program must submit the Panthera application before completing 6 credits in the certificate sequence.
• Applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree and have a minimum 2.75 cumulative undergraduate grade point average to be admitted in to a certificate program.

Credits and Courses
The CNS Certificate consists of 18 credit hours of coursework. All courses are 3 credits each and are offered in a three-semester sequence so the program can be completed in 12 months. The three practicum courses vary by population focus and must be taken sequentially. The three theory courses vary by population focus and the plan for theory coursework must be approved by the CNS option coordinator. The three courses must be graduate level (700 or above) and provide content across the continuum from wellness through acute care for the selected population.

Adult/Gerontology Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 832</td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I-Adult/Gerontology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 833</td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II-Adult/Gerontology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 834</td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III-Adult/Gerontology</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Theoretical
Select 9 credits; recommended courses may include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle &quot;Advanced Practice Nursing-Adult/Gerontology Acute Illness&quot;)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle &quot;Advanced Practice Nursing-Adult/Gerontology Chronic Illness&quot;)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 760</td>
<td>Processes of Aging</td>
<td>9</td>
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</table>

Total Credits 18

Pediatric Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 817</td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I-Pediatric</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 818</td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II-Pediatric</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 819</td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III-Pediatric</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Theoretical
Select 9 credits; recommended courses may include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle &quot;Advanced Practice Nursing-Pediatric Acute Illness&quot;)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle &quot;Advanced Practice Nursing-Pediatric Chronic Illness&quot;)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle &quot;Theoretical Foundations for Child Health&quot;)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 762</td>
<td>Family Theory and Intervention Strategies for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC WRK 771</td>
<td>Development of the Family Over the Life Span</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 18

Maternal/Infant Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 814</td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I-Maternal/Infant</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NURS 815  Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II-
Maternal/Infant  3

NURS 816  Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III-
Maternal/Infant  3

Theory
Select 9 credits; recommended courses may include the
following:

NURS 779  Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle
“Advanced Practice Nursing-Health
Promotion for Women and Childbearing
Families”)

NURS 779  Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle
“Advanced Practice Nursing-Women
and Childbearing Families with Acute
and Chronic Health Conditions”)

NURS 779  Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle
“Special Topics Seminar with subtitle
Maternity and Perinatal Care”)

NURS 763  Issues in Women's Health and
Development

Total Credits  18

Psychiatric/Mental Health Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychiatric/Mental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychiatric/Mental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychiatric/Mental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Theory
Select 9 credits; recommended courses may include the
following:

COU  715  Multicultural Counseling

NURS 774  Trauma Counseling I: Theory and
Research

NURS 775  Trauma Counseling II: Diagnosis and
Treatment

ED PSY 752  Developmental Psychopathology

SOC WRK 753  Adult Psychopathology

Total Credits  18

Certificate Requirements

Transfer Credit
No more than 20% of the required credits may be taken at an institution
other than UWM. These courses are subject to Graduate School transfer
policy and must be approved by the director of the certificate program.

Grade Point Average Requirement
A minimum cumulative 3.00 grade point average in certificate courses
taken at UWM is required.

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.

Time Limit
Certificate program time limits shall be established as follows:

   • 18 or fewer credits/Three years from initial enrollment in the
certificate sequence.
   • 19 or more credits/Four years from initial enrollment in the certificate
sequence.

For certificates that are designed as add-ons to degree programs and are
awarded concurrent with the degree, the time limit shall be the same as
that of the degree program.

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.