

# CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST, GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The Clinical Nurse Specialist Post Graduate Certificate is designed to provide advanced practice nurses with preparation as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) for nurses with a Master's or Doctoral in Nursing prepared for other roles or population groups. The student will choose one of the following populations: adult/gerontology, pediatric, or maternal/infant/women's Health.

## 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

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Clinical</b>		
NURS 832	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I-Adult/Gerontology	3
NURS 833	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II-Adult/Gerontology	3
NURS 834	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III-Adult/Gerontology	3
<b>Theory</b>		
Select 9 credits; recommended courses may include the following:		9
NURS 779	Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle "Advanced Practice Nursing-Adult/Gerontology Acute Illness")	
NURS 779	Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle "Advanced Practice Nursing-Adult/Gerontology Chronic Illness")	
NURS 760	Processes of Aging	
Total Credits		18

### Pediatric Track

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Clinical</b>		
NURS 817	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I-Pediatric	3
NURS 818	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II-Pediatric	3
NURS 819	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III-Pediatric	3
<b>Theory</b>		
Select 9 credits; recommended courses may include the following:		9
NURS 779	Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle "Advanced Practice Nursing-Pediatric Acute Illness")	
NURS 779	Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle "Advanced Practice Nursing-Pediatric Chronic Illness")	
NURS 779	Special Topics Seminar: (with subtitle "Theoretical Foundations for Child Health")	
NURS 762	Family Theory and Intervention Strategies for Advanced Nursing Practice	
SOC WRK 771	Development of the Family Over the Life Span	
Total Credits		18

### Maternal/Infant Track

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Clinical</b>		
NURS 814	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I-Maternal/Infant	3
NURS 815	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II-Maternal/Infant	3

NURS 816	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III- Maternal/Infant	3
<b>Theory</b>		
Select 9 credits; recommended courses may include the following:		9
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

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Clinical</b>		
NURS 811	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I- Psychiatric/Mental Health	3
NURS 812	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II- Psychiatric/Mental Health	3
NURS 813	Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III- Psychiatric/Mental Health	3
<b>Theory</b>		
Select 9 credits; recommended courses may include the following:		9
COUNS 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

## Additional 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.