

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Nursing

Course Number:	NUR 583
Course Title:	The Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist: Management of the Acutely Ill Adult Populations
Credits:	5 credits 12 hours clinical practicum per week (minimum 180 hours per semester and demonstration of competency) 5 (Five) 3-hour clinical seminars per term Grading: Pass/Fail
Placement:	Role Development
Pre-requisites:	NUR 501, 504, 515, NUR 570 NUR 575 Approved thesis proposal on file in Nursing Office

Course Description:

Development of nursing knowledge in diagnosis and treatment to prevent, remediate, and alleviate illness and to promote health through the lifespan of young adults through older adults with acute health problems. Standards of clinical nurse specialist practice and the three spheres of clinical nurse specialist, patient/client, nurses and nursing practice, and organization/system, will be emphasized along with emphasis on genetic and genomic components that influence life cycle.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, the clinical nurse specialist student will demonstrate progression from advanced beginner to competency in:

1. The delivery of direct clinical care.
2. The integration of care across the continuum.
3. The use of research based evidence to design, revise, and evaluate innovations in clinical practice affecting patients, populations of patients, and/or care delivery systems to improve outcomes in a cost-effective manner.
4. The facilitation of learning based on learner needs by developing innovative educational programs for patients, families, nursing personnel and other health care providers, and communities.

5. Collaborating with multiple disciplines to facilitate intra and interdisciplinary best practice including the examination of ethical, legal and cultural considerations.
6. Assisting patients and families to navigate a complex health care system.
7. Proposing ways the CNS can create environments, through mentoring and system changes, that empower nurses to develop caring practices, alleviate patient suffering, facilitate ethical decision making for themselves and their patients/families, respond to diversity, and serve as a strong patient advocate.

Seminar # 1 (first week of class)

- I. The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Role
- II. Accrediting bodies and the CNS role

- A. AACN *Essentials for Graduate Education in Nursing* (<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/>)
- B. National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (<http://www.nacns.org>)

- III. Certification and licensure requirements:

- A. <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/Licensure/apps/aprnapp.pdf>
- B. <http://www.nursingworld.org/ancc/certification/cert/certs/advprac/cns.html>

- IV. The spheres of CNS practice

- A. patient/client
- B. nurse and nursing practice
- C. organization/system
- D. Sphere of practice: patient/client
- E. Outcomes and the CNS

- V. Course expectations

- A. Selecting a preceptor
- B. Clinical hours and competence: 180 hrs. and demonstration of competence
- C. course requirements
 1. Designing a learning contract
 2. Clinical Encounters
 3. Clinical portfolio
 4. Clinical project

Seminar # 2 (week 2)

- I. Acute health problems and the nation's health goals: Healthy People 2010 and the CNS
 - II. Learning Contracts due
 - III. Transitioning to the CNS role
 - IV. Sphere of practice: nurse/nursing practice
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- A. Staff development
 - B. Practice mandates
 - C. Orientation

Seminar # 3 (week 5)

- I. Update on clinical activities
- II. Sharing successes and challenges in the clinical practicum
- III. Sphere of practice: organization

Seminar # 4 (week 9)

- I. Update on clinical activities.
 - II. Sharing successes and challenges in the clinical practicum: problem solving.
 - III. Evaluation of clinical learning
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- A. Using the clinical log as an evaluative tool
 - B. Evaluating a clinical site

Seminar # 5 (week 14-15)

- I. Update on clinical activities
- II. Evaluation of preceptor and clinical site
- III. Self-evaluation
- IV. Course evaluation

Approved: Jan 2006 -Graduate Council

Revised/Approved

Programs Committee 2/20/13

Nursing Department Feb 2013

AVP March 2013