NURSING, MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN ADULT-GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

The VCU School of Nursing adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner concentration prepares graduates for advanced practice registered nurse roles by developing the knowledge and skills needed to manage acutely ill adults, ranging from adolescents to the elderly, through all phases of their hospitalization. Students learn to manage patients through comprehensive physical and psychosocial assessments, use of decision-making/diagnostic reasoning processes, performance of advanced practice skills and procedures, and implementation of evidence-based treatment strategies. Graduates of the AGACNP concentration are prepared to diagnose and manage complex health problems of adults across the life span, including acute/critical illness and injuries, as well as exacerbations of chronic conditions.

The AGACNP generally works in an acute care setting, often within a multidisciplinary team focused on the provision of evidence-based care to adults who are acutely ill. The sphere of influence of the nurse practitioner is that of the patient.

Graduates of the AGACNP concentration are eligible to apply for certification as an AGACNP by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Program goals

Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:

1. Systems and organizational leadership
2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
3. Effective use of research and technology
4. Systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes

Student learning outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

1. Synthesize knowledge and theories from nursing and related sciences to improve health outcomes for individuals, populations and systems
2. Integrate prevention and population health concepts into models of care
3. Demonstrate leadership to foster interprofessional collaboration that advances health care practices and influences health policies
4. Integrate evidence and organizational science into practice to enhance outcomes
5. Enhance patient care and safety using quality processes and improvement science
6. Incorporate current and emerging health care technologies and informatics into practice
7. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice concentration
Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school's academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/masters/).

### Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Rolling admissions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: No admissions test is required for this program.

To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must:

1. Be eligible for readmission or be in good standing at the last college or university attended
2. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School
3. Submit a complete application with all required materials to the School of Nursing
4. Have an earned baccalaureate (or higher) degree in nursing from an accredited nursing school (e.g. ACEN, CCNE, CNEA)
5. Have completed a minimum of three credit hours in statistics with a minimum grade of B
6. Have a current, unrestricted R.N. license from a U.S. state or territory at the time admissions application is submitted (Applicants without a R.N. license in the U.S. should consult with the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (http://www.cfonns.org/) and the Virginia Board of Nursing (https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/) for the steps needed to obtain a Virginia R.N. license.)
7. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university (Additional information can be found on the 'Required materials' tab of the VCU International Admissions website [https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/international/undergraduate-applicants/].)

School of Nursing B.S. graduates who successfully completed the requirements of the VCU Honors College are eligible for guaranteed admission to the master's program.

### Degree requirements

Forty-four graduate credit hours are required for the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner concentration.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/), a candidate for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

### Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 502</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 504</td>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 511</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 512</td>
<td>Foundations for Evidence-based Advanced Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 520</td>
<td>Professional Transitions for the Advanced Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 607</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Population Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 638</td>
<td>Health Policy Leadership and Advocacy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 640</td>
<td>Teamwork In Complex Clinical Situations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Concentration courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 580</td>
<td>Primary Care of the Adult-Gerontology Population</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 581</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicim I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 619</td>
<td>Acute and Complex Health Conditions of the Adult-Gerontology Population</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 662</td>
<td>Care of the Adult-Gerontology Population in the Critical Care Setting</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 669</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicim II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 689</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicim III</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours**: 44

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 44.

**Contact**

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(804) 827-0629

**Additional contact**

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cnu_nurse@vcu.edu

**Program website**: nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters (http://www.nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters/)