NURSING, CERTIFICATE IN (POST-MASTER’S CERTIFICATE) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN ADULT-GERONTOLOGY PRIMARY CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

The VCU School of Nursing adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner concentration prepares graduates for advanced practice registered nurse roles by developing the knowledge and skills needed to diagnose and manage common acute and chronic health problems in adults, ranging from adolescents to the elderly. 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, including health promotion and disease prevention.

The AGPCNP has a practice located in a variety of primary care settings, including college health services, health maintenance organizations, community clinics, long-term care, assisted living, continuing care retirement communities, occupational health settings and private practices.

Graduates of the AGPCNP concentration are eligible to apply for certification as an AGACNP by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

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. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialties
2. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of health care delivery
3. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery
4. Understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes
5. Synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations and settings
6. Use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals, populations and systems
7. Integrate organizational science and technology to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes and practice efficiency
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/post-masters-certificate/).

### Admission requirements

| Degree: Certificate | Semester(s) of entry: Spring | Deadline dates: Jan 15 (Nov 1 early action deadline; after Jan 15 consideration is given on a space-available basis) | Test requirements: |

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

1. Be eligible for readmission or in good standing at the last college or university attended
2. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School
3. Submit a completed application with all required materials to the School of Nursing
4. Have an earned master's or doctoral degree in nursing as an advanced practice registered nurse (NP or CNS) from an accredited nursing school (e.g. ACEN, CCNE, CNEA)
5. 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.cgfns.org/) and the Virginia Board of Nursing (https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/) for the steps needed to obtain a Virginia R.N. license.)
6. 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/).)

### Degree requirements

Twenty-four graduate credit hours are required for the post-master's certificate in nursing with a concentration in adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/), a candidate for the degree of Certificate 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

Students in nurse practitioner certification concentrations are required to have completed advanced health assessment, pharmacotherapeutics and pathophysiology courses. A gap analysis is required to determine specific plan of study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 611</td>
<td>Primary Care Advanced Practice Clinical Procedures</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 615</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 616</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 617</td>
<td>Advanced Gerontology Primary Care Across the Care Continuum</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 620</td>
<td>Gero-pharmacology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 676</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practicum I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 675</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practicum II</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 677</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practicum III</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**: 24

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this certificate is 24.

### Graduate program director

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### Additional contact

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**Program website**: nursing.vcu.edu/programs/post-masters-certificate