

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING: ADULT- GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

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The Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) MSN prepares nurses to further their careers in acute care settings as providers. You will gain the theory and skills to effectively provide care and prescribe for patients with acute health issues. In addition to learning to assess acute care problems, you will learn the pharmacological, non-pharmacological and interventional skills required in acute care settings. This program is online with four distinct, focused immersions on campus. Completion of this program makes you eligible to take a national certification exam for adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioners.

## MSN: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Course Listing</b>		
NUR 520	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan	3
NUR 520L	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan Lab	2
NUR 522	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 502	Principles of Epidemiology and Biostatistics	3
NUR 660	Advanced Specialty Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for the Adult Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	3
NUR 530	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 504	Healthcare Technology and Innovation	3
NUR 661	Clinical Practicum and Seminar I for the Adult Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	3
NUR 662	Advanced Acute Care Pharmacology	2
NUR 501	Nursing Scholarship and Evidence-Based Practice	3
NUR 663	Clinical Practicum and Seminar for the Adult Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	3
NUR 664	Acute Care Diagnosis and Management I	3
NUR 665	Clinical Practicum and Seminar III for the Adult Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	4
NUR 666	Acute Care Diagnosis and Management II	3
NUR 503	Advanced Practice Nursing Leadership	3

NUR 667	Clinical Practicum and Seminar IV for the Adult Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	3
NUR 668	Acute Care Diagnosis and Management III	3
NUR 669	Transition to Practice for the APRN	1
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>51</b>

### Curriculum Note

The semester-by-semester Learning Pathway for this program is available in the School of Nursing.

The curriculum for this program is subject to modification as deemed necessary by the nursing faculty to provide students with the most meaningful educational experience and to remain current with professional standards and guidelines.

### Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the MSN program are prepared for higher level professional practice and leadership roles in a variety of healthcare settings, as well as advanced study at the doctoral level.

Specifically, graduates will be able to:

1. Synthesize information, evidence, and the decisions of individuals and teams to inform critical thinking to enhance decision-making.
2. Analyze adaptive thinking and apply when faced with challenges by exhibiting flexibility, creativity and critical analysis.
3. Incorporate ethical principles into evidence-based decision making in advanced nursing practice.
4. Design equitable, holistic, person-centered, and evidence-informed care coordinated to improve the health of diverse communities and populations.
5. Implement evidence-based and emerging principles of safety and improvement science to enhance care delivery at the individual, organizational, and systems-level.
6. Demonstrate advanced use of informatics and healthcare technologies in data-informed decision-making and the enhancement of secure, efficient, effective, and regulated healthcare delivery.
7. Integrate holistic self-care practices that promote well-being, resilience, and lifelong learning to sustain clinical practice and promote well-being in care environments
8. Exhibit advanced leadership and advocacy by influencing care delivery and advancing the nursing profession through role modeling, collaboration, and policy engagement.

### Admission Requirements

- At least one year of full-time RN experience (approximately 2000 hours). Students applying to the Acute Care NP program should have at least 1 year of full-time acute care experience (ER or critical care experience preferred).
- Earned BSN with 3.0 GPA
- Undergraduate statistics with grade C or better (or conditional acceptance & take at Quinnipiac)

Applicants should submit the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

1. Official transcripts from all schools previously attended.
2. Official recent results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for international applicants.
3. CV or resume.
4. Copy of unencumbered and unrestricted RN license.
5. Competitive applicants will provide a minimum of one reference from professional supervisors or faculty who can speak specifically to the applicant's professionalism, strengths and opportunities, and clinical experience in selected specialty.
6. Personal Statement (see application)

Applications for full-time and part-time study are accepted on a rolling basis. Final deadlines are generally two weeks prior to the start of classes. Applications are evaluated once all materials are received by Quinnipiac. Students are encouraged to submit their applications as early as possible for their desired semester. Class sizes are limited.

All accepted students are required to complete a background check and urine drug screen following acceptance and before the start of classes. Acceptances are conditional until satisfactory completion of both.

*The Nurse Practitioner programs at Quinnipiac University are currently accepting applications from students residing in the following states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and Pennsylvania. Potential students residing in other states should contact Graduate Admissions to inquire further regarding future opportunities for applications from students in other states. Due to requirements of the New York Office of the Professions, students are unable to complete clinical requirements for APRN licensure programs in the state of New York. New York students should plan to complete clinical requirements in Connecticut or New Jersey.*

*At this time, the School of Nursing only makes clinical placements for students in Connecticut. Students outside of the state are required to identify their own clinical sites and preceptors. The School of Nursing provides guidance and recommendations to students for identifying potential preceptors in other states.*

*Any student who plans to relocate to a new state during their program must inform their program director immediately as this may impact the students ability to continue their out of state clinical practice. If the school is not approved to place students in the new state, this may jeopardize student progression in the program unless they are able to complete clinical rotations in an approved state.*

## Progression Requirements

Students are expected to take courses in the order they are presented on the curriculum pathways. In order to preserve quality in our clinical placements, we are not able to accommodate a change in program specialty in the nurse practitioner programs.

According to Quinnipiac University policy all graduate students are expected to maintain a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. Full-time graduate students are required to achieve a 3.00 GPA each semester. Part-time graduate students must have an overall GPA of 3.00 upon completion of nine credit hours and must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 thereafter. The grading scale of the Graduate Nursing Program is consistent with that of the university.

A student who earns less than a 3.00 in a semester (after nine credits for part-time students) will be automatically placed on probation and must

achieve both a semester and cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater in the following semester in order to progress in the program. Failure to achieve and maintain a semester and cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all following semesters results in dismissal from the program.

The minimum passing grade in nursing courses is a B minus (B-). A student who earns less than the minimum passing grade in one nursing course, but who has a semester GPA of at least 3.00, will be required to retake the course when it is offered again at Quinnipiac University. The student may not proceed into courses for which the deficient course is a prerequisite. Thus, the student will be placed in another student cohort and the student's program completion date will be delayed. The student must achieve the minimum passing grade or better and must also achieve the minimal passing grade in all subsequent nursing courses. Failure to meet this requirement results in dismissal from the program.

A student who earns unsatisfactory grades in two or more nursing courses in any semester is not eligible to repeat the courses and will be dismissed from the program. At the end of each semester, the directors of the graduate nursing programs reviews the cumulative GPA and academic record of all graduate nursing students. The directors of the graduate nursing programs notifies both the senior associate dean and the student, in writing, of the student's failure to meet academic requirements. Students who are performing at an unsatisfactory level will be: a) placed on probation, b) suspended, or c) dismissed in accordance with the terms of the Academic Progression Policy. Students placed on academic probation remain in their program but must also complete a learning plan to help them achieve the academic standards of the School of Nursing. A copy of this learning plan, signed by the director of the graduate nursing program and the student, will be placed in the student's file and should be reviewed periodically with the advisor. Students should meet with their advisors to identify learning strategies to help them accomplish the goals in the learning plan. In order to promote student success, students may be asked to audit courses if there has been an interruption to the continuity of their curriculum plan.

## Clinical progression policy

In addition to course grade requirements, unsafe clinical practice and/or unprofessional conduct are grounds for failure in any clinical course and may result in immediate removal from the clinical site. Students who demonstrate unsafe or unprofessional conduct in a clinical practice site will undergo academic review and may be dismissed from the program.

## Nurse practitioner students

Nurse practitioner students in clinical practica must receive a grade of B minus (B-) or better on the final faculty and preceptor clinical evaluations in order to pass the course and progress into the next semester. If a student is not performing satisfactorily in clinical according to the preceptor and/or faculty site visitor, a final faculty visit and evaluation of clinical performance will be made by a full-time faculty member, and this final grade must be B minus (B-) or better to pass the course.

## Appeal Process

1. A student wishing to appeal a progression decision must write a letter via email to the appropriate program director within 5 business days of receiving notice of their inability to progress.
2. Appeals will be considered by a Progression Appeals Committee and chaired by the senior associate dean. Results will be communicated in writing to the student via email.

3. A student wishing to appeal a course grade should follow the grade appeal process (<http://catalog.qu.edu/university-policies/procedure-appeal-final-grade/>).

**NUR 501. Nursing Scholarship and Evidence-Based Practice. 3 Credits.**

This course focuses on the principles and processes of evidence-based practice and relationships between theory, research, quality improvement, and evidence-based practice. Research topics such as ethical and cultural issues, methodological procedures associated with scientific investigation and potential barriers to evidence-based practice will be explored.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Offered:** Every year, Fall and Summer

**NUR 502. Principles of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. 3 Credits.**

This course introduces epidemiologic principles, methods and data used to advance nursing practice. Students learn how to examine data and evidence regarding population health including interventions leading to positive health outcomes. Key types of data analysis including descriptive and inferential statistics are covered.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Offered:** Every year, Fall and Spring

**NUR 503. Advanced Practice Nursing Leadership. 3 Credits.**

This course explores the concepts of leadership within the advanced practice nursing role. Leadership behaviors related to health policy, interprofessional and systems-based practice, and ethics are explored.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Offered:** Every year, All

**NUR 504. Healthcare Technology and Innovation. 3 Credits.**

This course will explore how nurses apply technology and innovation to clinical practice allowing nurses to streamline efficiencies, better manage workloads, and increase team communication resulting in more quality time to interact with their patients and involve them in their care and treatment.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Offered:** Every year, Spring and Summer

**NUR 520. Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan. 3 Credits.**

This course presents the principles of performing a comprehensive health assessment and reporting the findings in a professional format. Attention is given to assessment and physical examination across the lifespan within diverse communities. The processes underlying diagnostic decision making are introduced. A laboratory component enables the student to master the techniques of performing a holistic health assessment.

**Corequisites:** Take NUR 520L.

**Offered:** Every year, Spring Online

**NUR 520L. Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan Lab. 2 Credits.**

This lab must be taken with NUR 520. (2 lab hrs.) An on-ground clinical residency is required.

**Corequisites:** Take NUR 520.

**Offered:** Every year, Spring

**NUR 522. Advanced Pathophysiology. 3 Credits.**

Essential concepts of pathophysiology are emphasized. Selected disorders are studied especially as they relate to homeostatic and defense/repair mechanisms. Where appropriate the course includes clinical correlations of disease states with symptoms and physical findings.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Offered:** Every year, Fall Online

**NUR 530. Advanced Pharmacology. 3 Credits.**

Students are introduced to pharmacological management across the lifespan and provided with advanced knowledge of pharmacokinetics. Selected categories of drugs commonly prescribed for management of healthcare problems and health promotion within diverse communities are presented. Controlled substances and the potential for abuse are discussed. The responsibilities and legalities of prescriptive authority in advanced practice are defined.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Offered:** Every year, Fall Online

**NUR 660. Advanced Specialty Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for the Adult Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. 3 Credits.**

This course is designed to equip students with the advanced diagnostic reasoning and assessment skills necessary for evaluating and managing acute illness in diverse populations. Building on foundational knowledge of health assessment, this course emphasizes a comprehensive approach to acute care assessment and evidence-based practice for clinical decision making. The emphasis is not only on learning assessment and procedural skills, but also on the appropriate use of these skills in a healing context. This course is grounded by a holistic approach, weaving together comprehensive health assessment and communication strategies. Students will apply concepts throughout the semester and during a required on-ground immersion.

**Prerequisites:** Take NUR 520, NUR 520L and NUR 522.

**Offered:** Every year, Summer

**NUR 661. Clinical Practicum and Seminar I for the Adult Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. 3 Credits.**

This clinical practicum is the first in a series of four clinical courses providing an opportunity to integrate theory and practice in supervised clinical experiences with an approved site and preceptor. Students complete 150 clinical hours in the acute care setting. Students will use seminars and simulation to apply and integrate clinical skills while receiving feedback. Emphasis will be placed on defining the NP specialty role and scope, application of clinical and diagnostic reasoning, and the translation of evidence to safe nursing practice.

**Prerequisites:** Take NUR 520 and NUR 520L.

**Offered:** Every year, Summer

**NUR 662. Advanced Acute Care Pharmacology. 2 Credits.**

This course builds upon the previous advanced pharmacology course to prepare the AGACNP student to prescribe medications in the acute care setting. It provides the foundational knowledge of commonly used medications in the acute care setting with emphasis on drug interactions and polypharmacy.

**Prerequisites:** Take NUR 530.

**Offered:** Every year, Summer Online

**NUR 663. Clinical Practicum and Seminar for the Adult Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. 3 Credits.**

This clinical practicum is the second in a series of four clinical courses providing an opportunity to integrate theory and practice in supervised clinical experiences with an approved site and preceptor. Students complete 240 clinical hours in acute care settings. Students will use seminars and simulation to apply, integrate, and apply clinical skills while receiving feedback. Emphasis will be placed on ethical and legal considerations and the translation to safe, evidence-based nursing practice for the most commonly occurring acute care problems.

**Prerequisites:** Take NUR 661.

**Offered:** Every year, Fall

**NUR 664. Acute Care Diagnosis and Management I. 3 Credits.**

This is the first course in a series of three to prepare the AGACNP student for safe, reflective, and evidence-based practice. The focus is on strengthening students' ability to formulate differential diagnoses and develop initial treatment plans. Patient management is through a holistic, patient-centered and evidence-based approach, with an emphasis on pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions, triage, and therapeutic relationship with care teams, patients and families.

**Prerequisites:** Take NUR 660.

**Offered:** Every year, Fall Online

**NUR 665. Clinical Practicum and Seminar III for the Adult Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. 4 Credits.**

This clinical practicum is the third in a series of four clinical courses providing an opportunity to integrate theory and practice in supervised clinical experiences with an approved site and preceptor. Students complete 240 clinical hours in acute care settings. Students will use seminars and simulation to apply, integrate, and apply clinical skills while receiving feedback. Emphasis will be placed on the clinical and leadership skills required for the interdisciplinary management of complex patients including those with comorbidities, and multiple problems.

**Prerequisites:** Take NUR 663.

**Offered:** Every year, Spring

**NUR 666. Acute Care Diagnosis and Management II. 3 Credits.**

This is the second course in a series of three to prepare the AGACNP student for safe, reflective, and evidence-based practice. The focus is on mastering students' ability to formulate differential diagnoses and develop initial treatment plans. Patient management is through a holistic, patient-centered and evidence-based approach, with an emphasis on pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions, triage, and consideration of social, ethical and legal factors that influence care.

**Prerequisites:** Take NUR 664.

**Offered:** Every year, Spring Online

**NUR 667. Clinical Practicum and Seminar IV for the Adult Geriatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. 3 Credits.**

This clinical practicum is the fourth in a series of four clinical courses providing an opportunity to integrate theory and practice in supervised clinical experiences with an approved site and preceptor. Students complete 150 clinical hours in acute care settings. Students will use seminars and simulation to apply, integrate, and apply clinical skills while receiving feedback. Emphasis will be placed on complex patient management in the context of health systems factors.

**Prerequisites:** Take NUR 665.

**Offered:** Every year, Summer

**NUR 668. Acute Care Diagnosis and Management III. 3 Credits.**

This is the final course in a series of three to prepare the AGACNP student for safe, reflective, and evidence-based practice. The focus is on mastering students' ability to formulate differential diagnoses and develop comprehensive treatment plans including advanced clinical decision-making for complex patients. Patient management is through a holistic, patient-centered and evidence-based approach, with an emphasis on pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions, triage, and consideration of systems-based factors that influence health and patient care.

**Prerequisites:** Take NUR 666.

**Offered:** Every year, Summer Online

**NUR 669. Transition to Practice for the APRN. 1 Credit.**

This course is designed to facilitate the nurse practitioner (NP) student with transition into practice. The course will provide a thorough review of the NP role, including the intersection with other healthcare professionals, the scope of practice of the nurse practitioner, and an overview of the professional components that shape practice. This course is designed to provide the student with opportunities to practice the professional skills required for success in their role including, personal, professional, and leadership development, interprofessional practice and partnerships, self-care practices, and use of informatics.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Offered:** Every year, Spring