SCHOOL OF NURSING
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE: ADULT CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST (ACNS)
SUGGESTED FULL-TIME SPECIALTY CURRICULUM

	Autumn	Credits	Winter	Credits	Spring	Credits	Summer	Credits
Year 1	**NSG 557** (AP) Physiology and Pathophysiology Across the Lifespan *(VS/IP)*	5	**NCLIN 500** (AP) Comprehensive Health Assessment (*Lecture IP or VS; Lab IP*) **NCLIN 501** (AP) Diagnostic Health Assessment (*Lecture IP or VS; Lab IP)*	5	**NCLIN 541** (AP) Clinical Seminar/Practicum (*Seminar IP or WC*)	4	**NCLIN 542** (AP) Clinical Seminar/Practicum (*Seminar IP or WC*)	5
	PBIO 505 (AP) Human Physiology (*IP or VS*)	4	**PBIO 506** (AP) Human Physiology (*IP or VS*)	4	**NURS 534** Seminar in Nursing in Gerontology (recommended)	3	**NMETH 530** (PI) Scholarly Proposal Development (*IP or WC*) *Might also offered in Autumn* **Required for MN in Passing**	3-5
	NURS 539 (AP) Seminar in Critical Care Nursing *(WC)* (*EVEN YEARS*) or equivalent clinical seminar (see note #5) OR **PHARM 515** (AP) Pharmacotherapeutics for Acute/Critical Illness (VS) or area specific pharmacology (*ODD Year*) See note #6	3	**NMETH 520** Scholarly Inquiry for Nursing Practice	5	**Electives**	3	**Elective** **NURS 552**: Health Promotion (see note #10)*(IP)* *Might also be offered in Autumn (VS)*	2-3
					PHARM 514 Pharmacotherapy for Advanced Nursing Practice *(VS/IP)*	3		
	TOTAL	**12**	**TOTAL**	**14**	**TOTAL**	**10+**	**TOTAL**	**5-8**

	Autumn	Credits	Winter	Credits	Spring	Credits	Summer	Credits
Year 2	**NMETH 530** (PI) Scholarly Proposal Development (*IP or WC*) *Might also be offered in Summer*	3-5	**NMETH 598** (PI) Special Projects /**NMETH 700** (thesis option – see note #4 below)	0-3	**NMETH 598** (PI) Special Projects /**NMETH 700** (thesis option – see note #4 below)	0-6	**Social Justice Elective** (NSG 514 Health Care & Culture is recommended) *Might also be offered in Spring*	4
	NMETH 527 (PI) Introduction to Health Informatics and Systems Training (Web-based)	3	**NCLIN 544** (AP) Clinical Practicum & Seminar (*Seminar IP or WC*) Clinical: 15 hours/week	5	**NMETH 534** (PI) Translating Evidence to Clinical Practice: Conceptual, Methodological, and Clinical Issues *Prerequisite:* NMETH 533	4		
	NCLIN 543 (AP) Clinical Practicum & Seminar (*Seminar IP or WC*) Clinical: 15 hours/week	5	**NMETH 533** (PI) Appraising Evidence for Clinical Practice (Also offered in Summer) *Prerequisite:* NMETH 520	4	**2nd Year Elective**	0-6		
	NURS 539 (AP) Seminar in Critical Care Nursing *(IP/WC)* (*EVEN Years*) or equivalent clinical seminar (see note #5) OR **PHARM 515** (AP) Pharmacotherapeutics for Acute/Critical Illness (IP/VS) or area specific pharmacology (*ODD Years*) See note #6	3	**NMETH 525** (PI) Managing Clinical Effectiveness Within Care Systems (Web-based)	3				
	TOTAL	**11-16**	**TOTAL**	**10-13+**	**TOTAL**	**4-7+**	**TOTAL**	**4**

	Autumn	Credits	Winter	Credits	Spring	Credits
Year 3	**NMETH 801** Capstone Clinical Investigative Project	2	**NMETH 801** Capstone Clinical Investigative Project	5	**NMETH 801** Capstone Clinical Investigative Project	5
	NCLIN 798 Tripartite Immersion Practicum (also offered in Winter or Spring; see note #9) ***Take one quarter only***	5				
	NSG 530 Professional Identity and Leadership Processes in Nursing (Method TBD)	5				
	TOTAL	**12**	**TOTAL**	**5**	**TOTAL**	**5**

Additional Notes

1. Distance learning note: most DNP courses have distant learning support although the methods are not all listed here.
2. Abbreviations: IP=in-person, VS= video stream, WC= web conference for distance students. AP=advanced practice, L=leadership, PI=practice inquiry (research)
3. **For students seeking a Master's in Passing**. NMETH 530 is a seminar course designed to help you begin working on your thesis or project. It is beneficial to have a fairly clear picture the subject of your research interests before taking this course. It is offered several times throughout the academic year. **It must be taken after NMETH 520**.
4. Students obtaining a Master's Degree in passing must complete a thesis or a scholarly project. For students completing a scholarly project, 6 credits are required. These credits may be taken as a combination of NMETH 530 (3-5) + NMETH 598 (1-3). For students completing a thesis, they must complete 9 credits of NMETH 700.
5. NURS 539 is REQUIRED for Critical Care CNS and is optional for other CNS students. It is offered even years only with synchronous web conferencing for distance students. All other students should take an equivalent clinical course in their area of practice.
6. PHARM 515 is offered odd years only; students starting their program in AU 12will enroll in PHARM 515 AU 13. Students preparing for the AOCNS certification are not required to complete a pharmacology course; however, completion of an appropriate area specific pharmacology course is strongly recommended.
   Students desiring to sit for the AACN Acute-Critical Care Adult/Gero Exam must take this pharmacology in addition to Pharm 514.
7. Clinicals (NCLIN 541 – NCLIN 544) must be taken in sequence. There is no variation in credit hours for each clinical course.
8. **Before starting clinical (NCLIN 541 – NCLIN 544) the following courses must be completed: PBio 505/506, Pharm 514 or Pharm 515 and NClin 500/501.**
9. NCLIN 798 Tripartite (5 credits) can be taken any quarter (either concurrent or before Capstone) – All other required DNP coursework must be completed before enrollment in this course
10. Curriculum must include wellness content. Example: NURS 552 – Health Promotion

Examples of Alternate Classes and Electives

- **PHARM 497** Drug Therapy for the Elderly (3)
- **PHARM 519** Pharmacotherapeutics for Infectious Disease and Infection (2; more focused on the NP role) – offered odd years
- **NSG 548** Basic Arrhythmia, Conduction Disturbance, and 12-Lead Electrocardiography Interpretation (2)
- **NSG 549** Complex Arrhythmia, Conduction Disturbance, and 12-Leasd Electrocardiography Interpretation (2)
- **NURS 552** Health Promotion (2) – might also be offered in Summer

Examination Requirements

The two primary examinations that the CNS graduate will sit for are the ANCC exam or the American Association of Critical Care Nurses Acute-Critical Care Adult-Geriatric exam. You cannot sit for both exams. Both exams require 500 clinical hours in the CNS role **(NCLIN 541-544 = 19 credits = 500 hours)** plus the following courses (3Ps):

- **Pathophysiology (NSG 557)**
- **Pharmacology –** this course needs to be a broad based course that also contains information related to prescribing (recommend Pharm 514) plus Pharm 515 for nurses who want to sit for the AACN exam
- **Physical Assessment – NCLIN 500/501**
- Clinical needs to include content related to **wellness through acute care across the life span** (Adults are described as extending from emancipated minors to very old)
- Need coursework related to **wellness (Example: NURS 552 – Health Promotion)**
- **NURS 534 Seminar in Gerontology (or similar course) – Required to sit for AACN and ANCC exams** (must have content specific to older adults)