OVERVIEW
The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) MSN prepares nurses to thrive in the complex healthcare arena and improve the quality of patient care. It is a leadership role designed for nurses who want to make a difference in the clinical setting or provide leadership in educating others to gain these skills. The CNL assumes responsibility for patient care outcomes through the assimilation and application of evidence-based information to design, implement, and evaluate patient-care processes and models of care delivery. The CNL is a provider and manager of care at the point of care to individuals and cohorts of patients anywhere healthcare is delivered by coordinating and supervising the care provided by interdisciplinary team members. This master’s clinical leadership nursing role includes development of skills in precepting, mentoring and coaching and can be applied in educational as well as clinical settings.

The curriculum is designed to include the required clinical experiences and competencies for the CNL as delineated in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Competencies and Curricular Expectations for Clinical Nurse Leader-Education and Practice. Upon graduation, candidates are eligible to sit for the Clinical Nurse Leader Certification Examination administered by the Commission on Nurse Certification. The CNL certification is based upon a national standard of requisite knowledge and experiences, thereby assisting employers, the public and members of the health professions in the competencies of the CNL.

CURRICULUM FORMAT
- Admit annually Fall Term only
- Full-time (4 terms) or Part-time
- 42 credits (includes 420 clinical practicum hours that may be completed at a healthcare facility near student’s home)
- Onsite or online*
  - View a Virtual CNL MSN Open House at online.pitt.edu
  - Refer to PittOnline (online.pitt.edu / 412-648-9499) for list of states in which the School of Nursing is authorized to enroll online students.
- Curriculum
  - Full-time curriculum: available at nursing.pitt.edu
  - Part-time curriculum: planned individually with program coordinator

OBJECTIVES
Graduates of the program are prepared for the following aspects of practice, based upon the AACN Competencies and Curricular Expectations for CNL:
- Clinical leadership for patient-care practices, including the design, coordination and evaluation of care for individuals, families, groups and populations
- Participation in identification and collection of care outcomes
- Accountability for evaluation and improvement of point-of-care outcomes, including the synthesis of data and other evidence to evaluate and achieve optimal outcomes
- Risk anticipation for individual and cohorts of patients
- Lateral integration of care for individual and cohorts of patients
- Design and implementation of evidence-based practice(s)
- Team leadership management and collaboration with other health professional team members

(rev. 6-23-15)
OBJECTIVES (cont.)

- Information management or the use of information systems and technologies to improve healthcare outcomes
- Stewardship and leveraging of human, environmental and material resources
- Advocacy for patients, communities and health professional teams

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Valid registered nurse license from a state/territory of the United States or geographical area (for international online students) where clinical practicum will be completed
- Minimum of one year full-time nursing experience prior to beginning clinical practicum courses
- 3.0 or higher GPA in BSN (from CCNE, NLN, ACICS or ACEN accredited program)
- RN Options-Early Admission to MSN available for graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs
- Official GRE scores (may be waived if undergraduate GPA ≥ 3.5)
- Prerequisite undergraduate statistics course (at least 3 credits with a grade of C or above)
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for a telephone interview)
- Complete online application: nursing.pitt.edu
- International applicants: see nursing.pitt.edu and ois.pitt.edu (onsite students only)
- Deadlines: February 15 or May 1 (international applicants are advised to apply by Feb. 15)
  Complete applications received by Feb. 15 - admission decision expected by June 1
  Complete applications received by May 1 - admission decision expected by June 30

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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