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 clinical leadership nursing role includes development of skills in leadership, education, quality, and safety. Graduates are prepared to take on a variety of careers and advancement, including:

- Clinical Nurse Manager
- Clinician
- Quality Improvement
- Nurse Educator
- Quality and Safety Manager
- Unit manager

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. The CNL curriculum intentionally reduces duplication between the master’s and doctoral programs. Graduates are prepared to begin a DNP or PhD in the future, with clinical backgrounds to support their success and long-term careers.

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

- Onsite or online*
- Full-time (4 terms) or Part-time (varies)
- 42 credits (includes 420 clinical practicum hours that may be completed at a healthcare facility near student’s home)
- Curriculum Plans: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu) / Part-time (individualized with program coordinator)
- Fall Term admission

*PittOnline (online.pitt.edu / 412-648-9499)
- View Virtual Open House
- 24/7 access to library, computing resources, and virtual tech support

(rev. 6-18-18)
ADMISSION CRITERIA

- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- Minimum of one year full-time nursing experience prior to beginning clinical practicum courses
- \( \geq 3.0 \) GPA in BSN from ACEN, NLN, ACICS, or CCNE accredited program
- Official GRE scores (may be waived if undergraduate GPA \( \geq 3.5 \))
- Prerequisite statistics course (within 10 years) with grade of B- or higher
- RN Options-Early Admission to MSN available for graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs

APPLICATION

- Online application: nursing.pitt.edu
- International applicants: nursing.pitt.edu & ois.pitt.edu
- 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**
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for a telephone interview)

Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) Option

- Prospective applicants may enroll in a maximum of 12 core, non-clinical graduate credits before beginning the program
- Submit an application to the Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) option at nursing.pitt.edu
  
  - Application fee waived if previous applicant within one year
- After receipt of the application, an academic advisor will contact student regarding course selection/enrollment

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Rose L. Hoffmann, PhD, RN
Associate Professor, MSN Program Director, Online Program Director, and Clinical Nurse Leader Coordinator
412-624-3821 or rho100@pitt.edu