OVERVIEW
The Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (AG-CNS) DNP is a practice-focused doctoral program that prepares nurses to be leaders at the highest level of clinical nursing practice. Graduates function as expert providers of care to patients/families in acute and ambulatory care settings.

The curriculum focuses on developing knowledge and skills necessary for advanced practice, including content on health promotion/protection and management of problems frequently seen in adults with acute, critical or complex chronic health problems. Students prepare for professional roles through course work that develops organizational, economic, and leadership skills. Clinical courses provide hands-on experience focused on competencies within the three spheres of influence in which a CNS practices (patient/client, nurses/nursing practice, and organization/system). Clinical practicums provide opportunities to design, implement, and evaluate projects with faculty/preceptor guidance. Students may choose a clinical emphasis in cardiopulmonary, critical care, oncology, trauma emergency preparedness or directed study. A culminating DNP Project reflects the student’s application of knowledge gained throughout the curriculum.

Graduates are eligible to sit for national certification exams in Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), or American Association of Critical Care Nurses. After passing the exam, the graduate should consult the licensing board of the state in which they intend to practice for legal (credentialing) and practice information. Graduates may also sit for the Advanced Oncology Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist exam offered by the Oncology Nursing Society (if oncology emphasis is selected).

CURRICULUM FORMAT
BSN to DNP
Onsite
Full-time (3 years) / Part-time (varies)
78 credits (includes 1,000 minimum clinical hours)
Curriculum Plans: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu) / Part-time (individualized with program coordinator)
Fall Term admission

MSN to DNP
Onsite (online* with master’s degree CNS)
Applicants with Nurse Practitioner MSN may complete the curriculum online
Applicants with MSN (CNL, Education, or General) will be evaluated for online eligibility
Full-time (1.5 years) / Part-time (varies)
Minimum 33-39 credits (includes 1,000 minimum clinical hours post-BSN)*
Curriculum Plans: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu) / Part-time (individualized with program coordinator)
Fall Term admission
* Upon admission, faculty will review official master’s transcript for:
  • clinical hours completed for applicability toward 1,000 minimum clinical residency hours
  • coursework for permissible transfer credits (Additional coursework may be required)

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

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ADMISSION CRITERIA

BSN to DNP
- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- ≥ 3.0 GPA in BSN (from ACEN [NLN], ACICS, or CCNE accredited program)
- Competitive GRE scores
- Prerequisite statistics course with grade of B or better
- RN Options-Early Admission to DNP is available for graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs

MSN to DNP
- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- ≥ 3.0 GPA in MSN (from accredited program)
  or
- ≥ 3.0 GPA in master’s in related field (must have BSN from accredited program)
- Competitive GRE scores (may be waived if master’s GPA ≥ 3.5)
- Prerequisite statistics course with grade of B or better

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

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
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Director, DNP Program
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