What is an AG-ACNP?  
The Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP) is an advanced practice nurse who uses theory, research, and clinical expertise to provide care for acute and chronically ill patients in a variety of settings. The AG-ACNP role arose from adult nurse practitioners whose responsibilities evolved to include patients in the hospital setting. AG-ACNPs currently provide advanced nursing care across the continuum of healthcare services to meet the specialized physiologic and psychological needs of patients with complex, acute, critical, and chronic health conditions.

In addition to managing patient care, the AG-ACNP utilizes invasive interventions and procedures to promote physiologic stability. AG-ACNPs perform a wide variety of skills and procedures, and the skill set of an AG-ACNP is often dependent on the specific patient population and specialty-based area of practice. The AG-ACNP is engaged in the diagnostic process, including critical thinking, involved in differential diagnosis, and the integration and interpretation of various forms of data. The focus of the AG-ACNP is restorative care, and short-term goals include patient stabilization, minimization of complications, and promotion of physical and psychological well-being. The long-term goal is to restore maximal health potential while evaluating risk factors in achieving this outcome.

Where do AG-ACNPs practice?  
While most AG-ACNPs practice in acute care and hospital-based settings including sub-acute care, emergency care, and intensive care settings, the continuum of acute care services spans the geographic settings of home, ambulatory care, urgent care, and rehabilitative care. The population in acute care practice includes acutely and critically ill patients experiencing episodic illness, exacerbation of chronic illness, or terminal illness.

Is OSU’s program accredited?  
The nurse practitioner program meets the curriculum guidelines of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and the standards for application for the credentialing examination (AG-ACNP) for the American Nurses’ Credentialing Center (ANCC).

What skills will I need to become an AG-ACNP?  
After graduation, you will enter the workforce with the skills and competencies to:

- Provide health promotion, protection of disease, and treatment with particular focus on assessment and diagnosis of health states and initiation of a plan of care and implementing treatment.
- Build the nurse practitioner/patient relationship.
- Teach/coach skills of the nurse practitioner.
- Develop professional role.
- Manage health care delivery systems.
- Provide culturally competent care.

An Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner provides advanced nursing care to younger and older adults and elderly patients, with complex, acute, and/or chronic health conditions.
As a Graduate Entry student, can I select the AG-ACNP specialty?

The AG-ACNP specialty is only offered to Traditional Master students, as well as current nurse practitioners interested in post-master’s study. Due to the experience required for the certification exam, the specialty is best suited for those who have at least one year of experience in a high acuity environment. If you are a Graduate Entry student interested in becoming an AG-ACNP, it is an option for post-master’s study upon graduation.

How long will it take to complete the program?

As a Traditional Master student pursuing the AG-ACNP specialty, you can complete the program in two years of full-time or three years of part-time study. If you already have at least one year of work experience in a high acuity setting, if not, you will need to gain this experience while taking classes as a part-time student.

Is healthcare experience required?

Whether you are a recent graduate or have years of nursing experience, you are welcome to apply to the master’s program. As a prospective Traditional Master student, current experience in a high acuity setting is not required, but will strengthen your application. At least one year of full-time work experience in a high acuity setting (such as an emergency department or intensive care unit) is required by the certification board in order to become a certified AG-ACNP. This year should be completed prior to beginning precepted clinical experiences in the final year of study.

Is there a distance-learning option for this specialty?

Currently, the AG-ACNP specialty is offered as an on-campus program only. You will, however, have the opportunity to take some courses online throughout the program.

What will my clinical experience be like?

During the final year of the program, you will complete your required precepted clinical experiences. You will work with nurse practitioners and collaborating physicians in acute care settings. We will work to place you at a site and handle all contracts.

You will be required to complete at least 500 clinical hours in order to be eligible for advanced certification.

Will I be able to work while going to school?

For Traditional Master students, a part-time option is available which allows you to work while completing the program, and earn a year of full-time work experience, if needed.

How much does the program cost?

As a student, you will pay tuition and fees every semester. Tuition and fees will be dependent on the number of credits taken. Please visit the website for specific details on tuition, or consult our Financial Aid handout.

How can I find out more?

For more information please explore www.nursing.osu.edu

Is financial aid available?

Yes, you can apply for financial assistance in the form of scholarships and loans. Please visit www.nursing.osu.edu/finaid to learn more.

AG-ACNP Courses

N7200 Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Skills
N7208.01 & 7268.02 Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Practicum
N7403 Innovation Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice
N7410 Advanced Health Assessment
N7450 Pathophysiology of Altered Health States
N7470 Advanced Pharmacology in Nursing
N7491 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Life Span
N7483 Quality Improvement and Informatics
N7500 Health Policy and Advocacy
N7780 Evidence Based Nursing Scholarship

Sample full-time Traditional Master curriculum

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Total specialty credit hours: 47

Sample part-time Traditional Master curriculum

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Total specialty credit hours: 47

1 One year of acute care work experience is required prior to N7200

These sample curricula are for illustration purposes only. Your specific curriculum plan must be confirmed by your faculty advisor. Course numbers, semester of offering, and specialty requirements are subject to change. Additional information may be found at www.nursing.osu.edu.