**FAQs**

**What is an AGCNS?**
An adult clinical nurse specialist (AGCNS) is an expert practitioner in a specialized area of nursing with expanded authority and autonomy. An AGCNS focuses on improving patient care and nursing practice and serves in a multitude of roles. AGCNSs can provide highly specialized, expert nursing care, serve as the clinical specialty expert for a particular unit or service line, or serve in other roles such as clinical coordination, case management, staff and patient education, or hold staff roles in nursing research. Coursework, field experience, and research allow you to acquire the knowledge necessary for advanced practice nursing roles, including treatment, diagnosis, and prescriptive writing authority. Upon graduation from the program, you will be eligible for certification as an AGCNS.

In conjunction with the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital we have developed an Oncology CNS concentration. Upon completing the concentration, you can be certified as an Advanced Oncology Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist by the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation.

**Where do CNSs practice?**
AGCNSs may practice in hospitals, community health centers, educational institutions, long term care facilities, occupational health, or private practices. An AGCNS may also be in charge of case management for an entire office.

**Is your program accredited?**
Graduates in this specialty can be certified as a CNS in adult health by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

**What skills will I need to become an AGCNS?**
After graduation, you will enter the workforce with the skills and competencies to:
- assume an advanced practice role
- apply theory and research in practice with individuals and families
- develop, implement, and assess nursing strategies to assure quality of care
- utilize leadership skills for positive change at the local, regional, and national levels
- adapt professionally to the constantly changing healthcare environment
- contribute to the advancement of the profession

**Is this specialty available to Graduate Entry students?**
Due to the specificity of study, this specialty is reserved for Traditional Master students only. While nursing experience is not required to apply, Traditional Master students with nursing experience can be more competitive applicants.
How long will it take to complete the program?
As a Traditional Master student pursuing the AGCNP specialty, you can complete the program in two years of full-time or three years of part-time study.

Is there a distance-learning option for this specialty?
Currently, the AGCNS specialty is offered as an on campus program only. You will, however, have the opportunity to take online courses throughout the program.

What will my clinical experience be like?
During the final year of the program, you will work with nurse practitioners and collaborating physicians in ambulatory primary care settings at clinical sites throughout Ohio. Most of the primary care sites are available only during daytime and/or weekdays. You should plan to meet your clinical rotation goals during these times. You will be required to complete at least 500 precepted clinical hours in order to be eligible for advanced certification. We will work to place you at a site and will also handle all contracts.

Is healthcare experience required?
Healthcare experience is not required for admission, however professional experiences and observations can help you determine your career goals. The CNS role is specialized and while nursing experience is not a requirement, applicants with some years of experience will be more competitive.

How much does the program cost?
As a student, you will pay tuition and fees every semester. Traditional Master students can either be full-time or part-time, so tuition will be dependent on the number of credits taken. Please visit the website for specific details on tuition, however any financial aid options can be explored at www.nursing.osu.edu.

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.

Is financial aid available?
Yes, in very limited amounts. You can apply for financial assistance in the form of scholarships and loans. Please visit www.nursing.osu.edu/finaid to learn more.

Core curriculum
- N7228.01 Advanced Practice Adult Nursing Clinical Practicum I
- N7328.02 Oncological Clinical Nurse Specialist Clinical Practicum
- N7403 Innovation Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice
- 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

Oncology elective Course

How can I find out more?
For more information please explore www.nursing.osu.edu. Additional questions can be sent to nursing@osu.edu.

Sample full-time Traditional Master curriculum

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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.