

CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST (CNS) PROGRAMS

MSN CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST SPECIALTY (CNS) TRACKS:

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist

Clinical nurse specialists are prepared to make several important contributions to the health care field:

- Serve as clinical experts in the delivery of evidence-based nursing interventions
- Develop, influence, and evaluate population-based programs of care
- Educate nurses and health care professionals in solving patient care problems
- Implement improvements in the health care delivery system
- Collaborate on interdisciplinary teams to coordinate care and execute best practice models

Before becoming a CNS, you must complete graduate-level coursework, pass the national certification exam, and gain advanced practice state licensure.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- The degree offers full-time enrollment.
Average time to completion (full time): 2–3 years
- Full-time enrollment requires at least eight credit hours per fall and spring semester and six hours in the summer semester.
- The degree offers part-time enrollment.
Average time to completion (part time): 3–5 years
- This degree offers select online courses.

The Adult-Gerontology CNS and Acute Care CNS tracks are offered in a blended online and on-site format.

INTERNSHIPS/RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Loyola has collaborative partnerships across health care settings. Many sites are in medically underserved areas. Faculty members guide students in the selection of appropriate clinical sites for clinical practical experiences.

Clinical placements for students in the Adult-Gerontology CNS and Acute Care CNS programs are in the Chicagoland area. Clinical placements can be arranged near where students live or work.

EXPECTATIONS AFTER GRADUATION

- Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist graduates are eligible to apply for the ANCC certification examination.
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist graduates are eligible to apply for the AACN certification examination.

Pass rates for all APRN exams are at or near 100% over the past several years.

Career services are available at LUC.edu/career.

PROGRAM DISTINCTIONS

The Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing has been successfully educating graduate nurses for more than 50 years. The school is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

STUDENT LIFE

- **STUDY ABROAD:** The School of Nursing offers MSN students an opportunity to study abroad on an annual trip to Belize.
- **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:** Graduate Student Nursing Association (GSNA), Student Committee on InterProfessional Education (SCIEPC)
- **SERVICE LEARNING:** You may have an opportunity to participate in an International Service Immersion as part of a collaboration between Campus Ministry and the School of Nursing. Opportunities for community service at local schools and community organizations may also be available.

FACULTY

Our faculty and clinical preceptors are experts in their fields and hold national certifications in their areas of specialization. They have a wide variety of clinical and research interests, and are highly respected in their areas of professional specialty.

PREREQUISITES

You must be a Registered Professional Nurse in the United States. Additionally, 2,000 hours of recent clinical nursing experience is required prior to beginning the first practicum in your chosen advanced practice specialty.

Prior to graduating, you'll complete a comprehensive exam comprising two parts: a paper of publishable quality that demonstrates your theoretical/clinical expertise and an oral presentation of your paper.

FINANCIAL AID

Begin the financial aid process by completing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov.

Learn more about financial aid opportunities at LUC.edu/nursing/admission/tuition-finaid.

LEARN MORE

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

gpem.LUC.edu/apply

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information about academic programs, or to arrange a visit, please contact:

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Loyola University Chicago

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Send all supporting documents to:

Graduate and Professional
Enrollment Management
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