APPLYING INSTRUCTIONS:
ADULT GERO ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER
(MASTER OF NURSING, POST MASTER, OR DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE)

The Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG ACNP) program prepares students to manage adults, including the frail elderly, who have acute, critical and complex chronic conditions. These include patients that are physiologically unstable, technologically dependent, and/or are susceptible to complications. The skills gained will allow graduates to provide a spectrum of care ranging from disease prevention to acute and critical care management, including stabilizing the patient’s condition, preventing complications, restoring maximum health and/or providing palliative and end of life care.

Students in this program can either take two years of full-time study and complete the MN degree or may attend for three years of full-time study to complete a DNP degree. Either option offers a practice-focused curriculum that will support the career trajectory for those pursuing expert clinical practice and leadership as an acute care nurse practitioner. A post master’s certificate option is also available in this area.

Course Delivery: This program is offered in a face-to-face format on the Portland campus with some courses provided online.

Note: This is a new program offering at OHSU and it is still undergoing final program review and approval by OUS and NWCCU.

Application Deadlines & Decisions

- This program begins in the fall and is offered full time at the OHSU Marquam Hill campus in Portland, OR.
- Application Deadlines:
  - Please visit our deadlines webpage for specific dates: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/deadlines.cfm
  - All materials must be submitted by the identified deadline in order to receive priority consideration.

*Late applications may be accepted after the priority deadline if seats are still available but this is not guaranteed. Applicants wanting to receive full consideration should submit all materials by the identified deadline(s).*
Interview Dates
Interviews are anticipated to occur for those invited applicants and candidates will be notified after the application deadline of interview dates.

Admissions decisions are strongly based on the following criteria:
- Cumulative GPA and Science GPA
- Essay and Interview Responses
- GRE scores (not required for Post Master applicants)
- Scholarly sample of work (DNP applicants)

Admission Requirements & Eligibility
Applicants should review and provide the following materials as part of the application. Please see the international applicant web page for additional requirements if you are a resident of a country other than the United States.

Prior Degree
It is expected that applicants to the nursing graduate programs have a bachelor degree in nursing from an institution accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education.

R.N. Status
- Must have or be eligible for an Oregon registered nurse license upon application.
- Must be licensed in the state of Oregon prior to matriculation.

Work Experience & Resume
It is strongly recommended that applicants complete at least one year of experience in an acute care setting before applying to this program. Applicants will need to provide curriculum vitae or resume as part of the application.

Grade Point Average
Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a minimum science GPA of a 3.0 (this includes coursework from departments such as anatomy, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, physiology, etc.).

Statistics
Applicants must have successfully passed a basic statistics course with a grade of "B" or better within five years prior to entry.
Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores
Applicants to the MN or Post Baccalaureate to DNP options are required to submit official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores from the general test from ETS. The OHSU School of Nursing GRE code is 4900. OHSU recommends a minimum score of 500 in each section (verbal and quantitative) as well as a minimum analytic writing score of 4.0 for the scoring scale used prior to August 2011 or a 144 in the quantitative section, 153 in the verbal section, and a minimum analytic writing score of 4.0 to be competitive.

- Applicants to the Post Master Certificate Option (PMCO) are not required to complete the GRE

Letters of Recommendation

- Applicants must submit three letters of reference using the designated recommendation form in Nursing CAS as a part of the application process. OHSU prefers that applicants submit references from the following:
  - A supervisor
  - An instructor
  - A co-worker or other

Sample of Scholarly Work
Applicants to the DNP program track are required to submit a sample of scholarly writing. This can include a professional work sample that is evidence based, with citations and references, an article you have authored (and if co-authored highlight the sections that you contributed to) or, a paper from your undergraduate program that synthesizes evidence, using citations and references (this should not be a reflection type paper). If you do not have this type of work to submit, please let us know; we can arrange for you to write an article analysis in response to an article that we provide you.
Applying to OHSU School of Nursing Via Nursing CAS (NCAS)

STEP 1: Set up a Nursing CAS account and start your application for the program/campus to which you are applying.

- All students applying to any of the OHSU Nursing programs must submit an application through Nursing CAS by the stipulated deadline date.
- The NCAS application fee is $45.00.
- NCAS runs on Eastern Standard Time and applications will close on the designated date at 12:00 PM EST.

STEP 2: Upload all required items into your Nursing CAS account and select the designated OHSU program to which you would like to apply.

- All application materials (official transcripts, essay responses, vitae, letters of reference, nursing license, scholarly writing sample) must be received by Nursing CAS by the designated application deadline in order to have your application considered. See the full list and instructions below.
- Nursing CAS will not forward incomplete files for review. Please make sure to check your Nursing CAS account to ensure that you have provided all required materials.

STEP 3: Done. Check back to your NCAS account often as we will e-mail you with status updates and additional information requests.

- You will be notified when admission decisions have been made.

Additional materials that will be submitted as part of your Nursing CAS Application

- Complete the essay question (located below) and upload your essay response to the appropriate location in your Nursing CAS application. Note: There is a specific “essay response” dialogue box that you will copy and paste your essay response(s) into.
- You will be asked to submit 3 letters of reference as part of your application. You will be asked to send an electronic reference form your Nursing CAS account to those that you are asking to provide a reference to. They will be able to respond electronically and your NCAS account will be automatically updated when these items are completed.
- You will be asked to submit a resume or vitae as part of your application. Please PDF this item(s) and upload them to your Nursing CAS account.
- You will be asked to submit official transcripts from ALL institutions that you have ever attended as part of your application. Follow the instructions provided in your Nursing CAS application to submit your official transcripts to Nursing CAS directly.

OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.
**Additional Resources**

A sample program of study can be found online:
http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/programs/programs-of-study-page.cfm

Prerequisites:  http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/masters_prereqs.cfm

Application Deadlines:  http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/graduate_deadlines.cfm

Tuition and Fees:  http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/index.cfm

Financial Aid and Scholarship information: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/scholarships.cfm

This document is a guide; final decisions regarding the acceptance of prerequisite course work is made by the OHSU Registrar's Office. The OHSU School of Nursing reserves the right to make changes to the academic program structure.

Please send questions about program information to proginfo@ohsu.edu.
Essay Instructions for
Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Applicants

Instructions:

As part of your application to the OHSU School of Nursing you must complete and submit a personal statement. Please review and prepare a response to the following question. Type your response in Microsoft Word using single spaced 12pt font. When ready, copy and paste your essay response(s) to your NursingCAS application by the designated application deadline. Please limit your response to 700 words for each question.

Application Essay Question #1: Please respond in 700 words or less to the following:

1. Refer to specific information about the specialty area of your interest for specific areas to discuss: your rationale for selecting the graduate program and specialty area for which you are applying, your understanding of the advanced practice nursing role the specialty would prepare you for, what you hope to derive from the program, your particular areas of interest and concern, and your aspirations following graduation including career goals and plans.

Application Essay Question #2: Please respond (about a paragraph for each item below) in 700 words or less to the following:

2. Functional Role Experiences: Describe your experience in the roles of practice, teaching and administration. Include evidence of certification, innovations, organizational responsibilities, and independent roles.
3. Leadership Experiences: Describe elected or appointed positions in professional, political, students, or community organizations. Discuss your performance as a change agent in an organization.
4. Other Experiences: Describe any significant life experiences that have contributed to your choice in pursuing graduate nursing education, such as cross-cultural experiences and community involvement.

Optional Background Essay Questions: We are interested in knowing about your experiences and potential for contributing to the diversity of our campus community. Diversity at OHSU means creating a community of inclusion. We honor, respect, embrace and value the unique contributions and perspectives of all employees, patients, students, volunteers and our local and global communities. Diversity includes age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, diversity of thought, ideas and more. Diversity maximizes our true potential for creativity, innovation, quality patient care, educational excellence and outstanding service.

Questions:

1. Would you identify yourself as being an underrepresented minority? Please explain.
2. Would you identify yourself as being from a small town or an isolated rural area? Please explain.
3. How would you describe your current or previous experience with economic and educational adversity? Please evaluate (none, slight, moderate, or severe) and explain.
4. Including your native language, how many languages do you speak fluently and in what settings do you use your language skills?
5. Describe your cultural/ethnic experience.

Submitting your Essay Response(s):

Remember to copy and paste your essay response to your NursingCAS application by the appropriate application deadline.

Questions:

Contact the Office of Admissions at the OHSU School of Nursing at proginfo@ohsu.edu with any additional questions.
Frequently Asked Questions

What can I do with a graduate nursing degree?

There are many opportunities and options for advanced practice nurses. Nurses are discovering the path to ensuring continued upward mobility in their profession, greater personal satisfaction and, not the least, a greater impact on the lives of patients. That path is the professional credential of a graduate degree in nursing. A graduate degree in nursing can open career doors and unlock personal potential.

What is an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner?

An AGACNP is a nurse practitioner who is specialized in caring for patients with unstable chronic, complex acute and critical conditions. The AGACNP scope of practice ranges through late adolescents, adulthood, and the frail elderly. Most AGACNPs practice in specific adult medical specialties, such as cardiology, critical care medicine, hospital medicine, emergency medicine, pulmonology, neurology and many others. AGACNPs are not trained to practice in primary care settings such as family medicine/family practice.

What clinical experiences may be available to me during the program?

Students in the ACNP program will receive a broad range of clinical experiences. These may include rotations in internal medicine, hospital medicine, emergency medicine, critical care medicine, general surgery, trauma surgery, neurology and many others. Since ACNPs are trained to provide care to patients throughout chronic, acute and critical care, students must experience of variety specialty areas.

Who are my faculty and lecturers?

Faculty bio’s are available here: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/faculty-staff/index.cfm for the AGACNP academic faculty. Numerous NP and physician faculty act as preceptors during the course of the program.

Do I need work experience to apply to the master's program?

It is strongly recommended that applicants complete at least one year of experience in an acute care setting before applying to this program.

How long does the master's program take?

The estimated length of time to complete the master's degree is two years full time.
Can I take classes’ part time?

Due to limited space, course schedules in the Adult Gero Acute Care NP program are for full-time study only. In special circumstances, faculty advisors may be able to work out a part time option in designated terms.

How many students do you accept per year?

OHSU SON is committed to producing advanced practice nurses of the highest quality. Student to faculty ratios are kept low to ensure that students have the opportunity to interact with faculty for education and mentorship. Approximately 10-15 students are accepted each year based on the applicant pool.

Do most students work during the AGACNP program?

Working during graduate school is highly discouraged. Since ACNPs are specialized in the care of highly complex patients, the workload for the program is substantial. Full time students should assume that the program will take approximately 30-50 hours per week, inclusive of class, reading and studying.

Are there courses required prior to admission?

Yes. Master's students must have successfully passed a statistics course within five years prior to entry into the program. If this requirement has not been met at the time of application, the student will be required to take a statistics course (graduate or undergraduate) prior to the first quarter of the program. Check your local community college or university for course offerings, or review the course equivalency guide page.

Can I take courses without being admitted into the graduate nursing program?

Possibly. This depends on pre-approval from our Program Director for the specific coursework that you would like to take. You may take up to nine (9) credits total as a non-degree student on the OHSU main campuses if you are a registered nurse with a bachelor's degree, with the permission of the course faculty. For example, some students have elected to take required courses such as Pathophysiology prior to matriculating. Close communication with a faculty advisor is recommended prior to enrolling as a non-degree student. Tuition and fees apply to non-matriculated students including insurance coverage.

Is there a matriculation (enrollment) deposit?

Yes, once you have received a letter of acceptance to the program, you must submit a deposit of $200.00 to the OHSU School of Nursing in order to hold your place in the cohort. Failure to do
so in the time allotted may forfeit your place and an alternate will be selected. The matriculation fee is applied towards payment of tuition for the first term of the program.

**Is financial aid available?**

The OHSU Office of Financial Aid assists students in locating scholarships and loans to cover educational expenses. A Web site with helpful financial aid information and links to scholarship and aid search engines is [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org).

For specific information about scholarships and financial aid offered at OHSU, visit the School of Nursing’s [financial aid Web page](http://www.finaid.org) and click on “Financial Aid”. Or, call the OHSU Registrar and Financial Aid office at 503 494-7800 or 800 775-5460.