The University of New Mexico
College of Nursing

University of New Mexico College of Nursing
Masters of Science in Nursing
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
Admission Guide
Summer 2017 Application Cycle
August 25- November 1, 2016
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Program Information

The Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP) is a registered nurse who has completed an accredited graduate-level educational program that prepares him/her as a nurse practitioner with supervised clinical practice to acquire advanced knowledge, skills, and abilities. The purpose of the AG-ACNP is to provide advanced nursing care to across the continuum of health care services to meet the specialized physiologic and psychological needs of adult/gerontology patients with acute, critical, and/or complex chronic health conditions.

The focus of the AG-ACNP is the provision of restorative, curative, rehabilitative, palliative, and/or supportive end-of-life care as determined by patient needs. Goals include patient stabilization for acute and life-threatening conditions, minimizing or preventing complications, attending to co-morbidities, and promoting physical and psychologic well-being. Additional goals include the restoration of maximum health potential or providing for palliative, supportive, and end-of-life care, as well as an evaluation of risk factors in achieving these outcomes. The practice environment of the AG-ACNP includes any setting in which adult/gerontology patients experiencing acute, chronic, and/or complex chronic illnesses may be found.

Within the UNM College of Nursing structure, the AG-ACNP concentration is an intensive program in which the student is expected to complete the coursework and clinical experiences in six (6) terms. Financial aid is generally available. Applicants are encouraged to explore financial aid options and apply for financial assistance prior to admission to the program.

The student is eligible to take the Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certifying examination upon successful completion of the program.

Contact Information

UNM
College of Nursing
(505) 272-4223
HSC-CON-StudentServices@salud.unm.edu or jbelsher@salud.unm.edu
http://nursing.unm.edu

NursingCAS
(617) 612-2880
nursingcasinfo@nursingcas.org
www.NursingCAS.org
Minimum Application Requirements

To be considered for the UNM CON MSN AG-ACNP Concentration, applicants must:

- Hold a bachelor’s degree (e.g., Bachelor of Science in Nursing) from an accredited college or university, with an upper-division major in nursing.
  (Graduates from non-accredited programs [NLN or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education] and RNs with baccalaureate degrees in non-nursing fields are considered on an individual basis.)
- Have 1-2 years of experience working in an inpatient setting for AG-ACNP.
- Have a minimum grade point average for baccalaureate work of 3.0 (B) or better.
- ACLS certification is required before beginning clinical coursework.
- Submit evidence of RN licensure to NursingCAS.
- Submit one letter of intent to NursingCAS.
- Submit three letters of recommendation to NursingCAS.
- Submit one current professional resume or CV to NursingCAS.
- Submit the NursingCAS application from August 25-November 1, 2016. See the application guidelines for further information.
- Upload or send unofficial college transcripts from all institutions attended to NursingCAS for processing (see address on page 4).
- Submit a UNM Graduate Admission application by November 1, 2016. Visit www.unm.edu/apply to submit a graduate application to UNM Graduate Admissions.
- Send official college transcripts from all institutions attended to UNM Office of Admissions for verification and processing by November 1, 2016.

Failure to complete any of the above steps will result in ineligibility, and your application will not be processed.

New Mexico Residency

The UNM CON abides by the policies set forth by the UNM Office of the Registrar regarding all residency issues and decisions. For more information, visit www.registrar.unm.edu/residency

Timeline for Summer 2017 Admission

- November 1, 2016, by 9:59 MST: The MSN AG-ACNP summer 2017 NursingCAS application period closes, meaning that applications must be completed and paid for by the indicated day and time.
- November 1, 2016: Unofficial transcripts must be received by NursingCAS or uploaded. This is not a postmarked deadline.
- November 1, 2016: UNM Graduate Application must be submitted and paid for.
• November 1, 2016: Official transcripts must be received by UNM Office of Admissions. This is not a postmarked deadline.
• November 2016: Applicant Interviews by invitation and appointment
• December 2016: Applicants will be notified of the UNM CON admission decision via the email they used on their application to the UNM CON AG-ACNP program. All admission decisions are final.
• May 2017: Classes start.

How to Apply
The UNM CON utilizes NursingCAS for all MSN applications, including AG-ACNP.

We require:

• The applicant to submit or upload all unofficial transcripts to NursingCAS for processing and all official transcripts to UNM Office of Admissions. The UNM CON no longer accepts transcripts for applications.

We do not require:

• The applicant to enter any academic history under the “Academic History” section within NursingCAS.
• The applicant to take the GRE or any other entrance exam.

Transcript Requirements
NursingCAS: For the MSN AG-ACNP application, you must submit or upload unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended to NursingCAS for application purposes.

UNM Office of Admissions: For the UNM Graduate application, you must submit official transcripts from all institutions attended to UNM Office of Admissions for application purposes.

All questions regarding transcripts must be directed to NursingCAS or the UNM Office of Admissions, as the UNM CON does not have access to them until they have been received and processed by NursingCAS or the UNM Office of Admissions.

NursingCAS Address for Transcripts
To send your unofficial transcripts directly to NursingCAS. Their address is:

NursingCAS Transcript Processing Center
P.O. Box 9201
Watertown, MA  02471

UNM Office of Admissions Address for Transcripts
You will be sending your official transcripts directly to UNM Office of Admissions. Their address is:
Letter of Intent

Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent that outlines and conveys the experiences and events in your academic and professional life that have led you to desire an academic graduate education. It should be no more than two pages in length. Your letter of intent will be uploaded in the “Program Materials” section of the NursingCAS application, under the “Documents” tab.

Letters of Recommendation

Applicants are required to submit three letters of recommendation with their MSN AG-ACNP NursingCAS application. The letters of recommendation need to be from professional contacts and need to convey your maturity and experience in pursuing graduate education. The contact information for the individuals providing the letters of recommendation will be entered in the “Supporting Information” section of the NursingCAS application, including: first name, last name, email address, and the due date of 11/01/16.

Resume or CV

Applicants are required to submit either a current resume or CV with their MSN AG-ACNP NursingCAS application. This will be uploaded under the “Program Materials” section of NursingCAS.

Interview

Top scoring applicants will be invited to participate in an interview. Interviews will be held at the UNM CON with dates and times to be determined.

Licensure and Certifications

Applicants are required to submit a copy of their current RN license under the “Supporting Information” section of NursingCAS.

FAQs Regarding the NursingCAS Application

Do I have to enter my entire academic history?

No, you do not need to enter your academic history for the MSN AG-ACNP application.

If I have already sent my official transcripts to UNM, do I still need to send them to NursingCAS?
No, you will only need to upload or submit all unofficial transcripts to NursingCAS. The UNM CON will not accept application transcripts under any circumstances. Transcripts sent to NursingCAS can be unofficial or official.

**Do I have to submit my high school transcript?**

No, we do not require high school transcripts. The only transcripts we require are unofficial college transcripts sent or uploaded to NursingCAS. See above for the official transcript requirements.

**FAQs Regarding the MSN AG-ACNP Program**

**What does an AG-ACNP do?**

The adult/gerontology acute care nurse practitioner (AG-ACNP) is educationally prepared to provide advanced nursing care to patients with complex acute, critical and chronic health conditions, including the delivery of acute care services. The role of the AG-ACNP is to provide advanced nursing care across the continuum of health care services to meet the specialized physiologic and psychologic needs of patients with complex acute, critical, and chronic health conditions. This care is continuous and comprehensive.

The population in acute care practice includes acutely and critically ill adult and geriatric patients experiencing episodic illness, exacerbation of chronic illness, or terminal illness. The AG-ACNP practices in any setting in which patient care requirements include complex monitoring and therapies, high-intensity nursing intervention, or continuous nursing vigilance within the range of high-acuity care. 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. 

(Source: American Academy of Colleges of Nursing – AG-ACNP Competencies)

**Are there jobs for AG-ACNPs in NM?**

Yes.

**Can I do the program part-time?**

The program is designed for full-time commitment of the student. Students take the core and clinical core courses two or three courses per term. Once you start with the AG-ACNP courses, arranged clinical experiences are time-intensive and geared to the needs of the clinical agencies, and there is little flexibility. Application of knowledge in clinical settings requires coordination between classroom learning and clinical time.

**If I am an FNP or CNS, how can I become an AG-ACNP?**

On review of your transcripts from your master’s program, it will be determined if any graduate core courses need to be completed. To be eligible for the national certification
examination, you must complete a minimum of 500 clinical hours in the acute care setting.

**What does malpractice insurance for AG-ACNPs cost?**

Malpractice rates vary with the issuing companies. On graduation, AG-ACNPs typically pay approximately $1,200 per year.

**Do AG-ACNPs function independently?**

The scope of practice in New Mexico is very supportive for nurse practitioners and allows them to function independently. This is not true in all states. If you are planning to practice in a state other than New Mexico, you must become familiar with that particular state’s scope of practice, which can be obtained from the state Board of Nursing.

**Is this concentration offered online?**

The courses are designed as either online or hybrid (online & face-to-face) course. Clinical courses take place in a supervised clinical setting to provide the student with the experience necessary for the AG-ACNP role.

**Can I do my clinical experiences in my home town?**

Yes, if appropriate clinical sites and preceptors can be arranged. Clinical experiences have been arranged at various sites around the state.

**If I have a Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree, how can I become an AG-ACNP?**

Students with an MSN will have already completed the core courses. They will be responsible for taking the remaining Master’s clinical core courses and the AG-ACNP courses and completing the clinical requirements. They must have taken advanced pathophysiology and graduate pharmacology within the past 5 years. Faculty will review any advanced health assessment courses on a case-by-case basis.