

**WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Nursing**

**Course Number:** NUR 587

**Course Title:** The Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist: Management of the Chronically Ill Adult Populations

**Credits:** 5 credits

(12 hour practicum per week (minimum 180 hours per semester and demonstration of competency),  
5 (five) 3-hour clinical seminars per semester.  
Grading: Pass/Fail.

**Placement:** ROLE REQUIREMENT

**Pre-requisites:** NUR 501, NUR 504, NUR 511,  
NUR 515; NUR 570; NUR 575, NUR 580, NUR 583

**Course Description:**

Development of nursing knowledge in assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and evaluation of patients to prevent, remediate, and alleviate illness and to promote health throughout the lifespan of young adults to older adults with chronic health issues. Standards of CNS practice and the three spheres of CNS role, patient/client, nurses and nursing practice, and organization/system, will be emphasized.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of the semester, the CNS student will demonstrate progression from advanced beginner to competency in:

1. The delivery of direct clinical care to the chronically ill patient.
2. The integration of care across the health-illness continuum with chronically ill patients.
3. The use of research based evidence to design, revise, and evaluate innovations in clinical practice affecting chronically ill patients, populations of patients, and/or care delivery systems to improve outcomes in a cost-effective manner.
4. The development of innovative educational programs for patients, families, nursing personnel and other health care providers, and communities to meet the needs of chronically ill patients.
5. Collaboration with multiple disciplines to facilitate intra- and interdisciplinary best practice for the chronically ill patient including the examination of ethical , legal and cultural considerations.
6. Facilitation and management of care needs of patients and families experiencing chronic illness.
7. The identification of ways the CNS can create environments, through mentoring and system

changes, that empower nurses to develop caring practices, alleviate patient suffering, facilitate ethical decision making, respond to diversity, and serve as a strong patient advocate for patients with a chronic illness.

### **Seminar Outline:**

#### Seminar # 1 (first week of class)

- I. The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Role
  - A. Accrediting bodies and the CNS role
    1. AACN *Essentials for Graduate Education in Nursing*  
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/>
    2. National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
<http://www.nacns.org>
    3. Certification and licensure requirements: <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/Licensure/apps/aprnapp.pdf>  
<http://www.nursingworld.org/ancc/certification/cert/certs/advprac/cns.html>
- II. The spheres of CNS practice
  - A. Patient/client
  - B. Nurse and nursing practice
  - C. Organization/system
- III. Course expectations
  - A. Selecting a preceptor
  - B. Clinical hours and competence: 180 hrs. and demonstration of competence
  - C. Course requirements
    1. Designing a learning contract
    2. Clinical encounters
    3. Clinical portfolio
    4. Clinical project
    5. Outcomes and the CNS

#### Seminar # 2 (week 2)

- I. Chronic health problems and the nation's health goals: Healthy People 2010 and the CNS
- II. Learning Contracts due
- III. Transitioning to the CNS role
- IV. Sphere of practice: nurse/nursing practice
  - A. Staff development
  - B. Practice mandates
  - C. Orientation

#### Seminar # 3 (week 5)

- I. Update on clinical activities
- II. Sharing successes and challenges in the clinical practicum

III. Sphere of practice: organization

Seminar # 4 (week 9)

- I. Update on clinical activities.
- II. Sharing successes and challenges in the clinical practicum: problem solving.
- III. Evaluation of clinical learning
  - A. Using the clinical log as an evaluative tool
  - B. Evaluating a clinical site

Seminar # 5 (week 14-15)

- I. Update on clinical activities
- II. Evaluation of preceptor and clinical site
- III. Self-evaluation
- IV. Course evaluation

Approved: Jan 2006 Grad Council

Programs Committee 2/20/13

Department of Nursing 2/27/13

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