

Post-Master’s Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program

Cohort: AGACNP 1



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Program Description

The Post-Master’s Certificate in Adult Gerontology Acute Care prepares certified NPs to transition into acute and critical care roles through intensive clinical training and advanced didactic content. Students learn to manage complex conditions, lead interprofessional teams, and apply evidence-based interventions in hospital and specialty care settings. Graduates will increase their contribution to healthcare by applying the knowledge and skills developed in this program.

Students complete 30 credit hours and 540 supervised clinical hours. The program accepts students to begin the program in Winter, Summer, and Fall terms. The program of study includes the Nurse Practitioner (NP) Core (separate courses in advanced practice roles, advanced pathophysiology, advanced health assessment and advanced pharmacology).

Applicants who are currently practicing in the NP role may submit transcripts and/or syllabi from the original NP program. Upon review, the university may waive NUR 635, NUR 654, NUR 656, and/or NUR 740. Contact us for more information.

Applicants who successfully complete the course work will be eligible to sit for the national AGACNP certification examination through the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board.

As with the other nursing programs within the University, applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and hold a current unencumbered RN license in his/her state of residence. At least one year of clinical experience is required.

Rocky Mountain University's AGACNP program stands out for its clinical rigor and immersive training experiences that go beyond the standard curriculum. Key differentiators include:

- **Cadaver Lab Experience:** During onsite skills intensives, students receive hands-on anatomical training in a cadaver lab—offering rare, high-fidelity procedural and anatomical learning not available in most programs.
- **Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Training:** Ultrasound is integrated throughout clinical coursework, preparing students for advanced diagnostics and bedside procedures in acute and critical care settings.
- **Simulation-Based Intensives:** Onsite simulation immersions include code scenarios, airway management, central line insertion, and other high-acuity procedures.
- **Hybrid Flexibility with High Faculty Access:** While coursework is delivered online, faculty maintain strong availability for mentorship and one-on-one clinical support.
- **Rural and Critical Access Readiness:** The curriculum prepares graduates to lead care in rural or underserved areas where AGACNPs must practice across emergency, inpatient, and transitional care roles.
- **Employer-Preferred Graduates:** RMU graduates are highly sought after for hospitalist, ICU, and specialty roles, especially in high-acuity and rural practice environments.

Who Should Apply?

This track is ideal for NPs working in rural healthcare settings or looking to pivot into hospitalist, ICU, or specialty inpatient roles. Candidates must hold a graduate nursing degree and national NP certification.

Application requirements:

- MSN from an accredited institution
- Graduate-level transcripts for MSN or DNP coursework (if certificate)
- Minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Current, unencumbered RN license
- Two years of full-time RN experience in an acute care setting.
- Two letters of recommendation
- Statement of professional goals
- Current resume or CV
- Interview with program faculty (if applicable)

Program Outline

Course Code & Title	Credits
Nurse Practitioner Core Courses (4 courses, 12 credits required):	
NUR 635 Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 656 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 654 Advanced Health Assessment	3
NUR 740 Roles, Leadership, & Ethics	3
Nurse Practitioner Core Required Credits:	12
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) Courses (6 courses, 18 credits/540 clinical clock hours required):	
AGA 710 Acute Care Practicum I (180 clinical clock hours)	3
AGA 711 Acute Care Focus I (Didactic)	3
AGA 720 Critical Care Practicum II (180 clinical clock hours)	3
AGA 721 Critical Care Focus II (Didactic)	3
AGA 730 Complex & Chronic Disease Practicum III (180 clinical clock hours)	3
AGA 731 Complex & Chronic Disease Focus III (Didactic)	3
AGACNP Required Credits:	18
Total Program Required Credits:	
	30

Program Calendar

Semester	Course	Credits	On-Site dates
Semester 1 Fall 2026	NUR 635 Advanced Pharmacology	3	
	NUR 654 Advanced Health Assessment	3	
	NUR 656 Advanced Pathophysiology	3	
	NUR 740 Roles, Leadership & Ethics	3	
Semester Totals:		12	Online
Semester 2 Winter 2027	AGA 710 Acute Care Practicum I (180 clinical clock hours)	3	
	AGA 711 Acute Care Focus I (Didactic)	3	
	Semester Totals:		6
Semester 3 Summer 2027	AGA 720 Critical Care Practicum II (180 clinical clock hours)	3	3 days
	AGA 721 Critical Care Focus II (Didactic)	3	
	Semester Totals:		6
Semester 4 Fall 2027	AGA 730 Complex & Chronic Disease Practicum III (180 clinical clock hours)	3	3 days
	AGA 731 Complex & Chronic Disease Focus III (Didactic)	3	
	Semester Totals:		6
Total Program Required Credits:		30	
<i>Four-year deadline for program completion from start of program.</i>			

Course Descriptions

Nurse Practitioner Core Courses

NUR 635 Advanced Pharmacology (3 credits; Online)

This course is designed to provide the advanced practice nurse with evidence-based knowledge for the safe and appropriate pharmacotherapy in various settings and for diverse populations across the lifespan. Basic and advanced pharmacology principles will be applied to the prescribing and monitoring of agents/drugs utilized in health promotion and the treatment of conditions commonly encountered, including client education and legal and ethical considerations.

NUR 654 Advanced Health Assessment (3 credits; Online)

The course will focus on advanced physical assessment, communication, and diagnostic reasoning skills for the advanced practice nurse to care for individuals and families across the lifespan. Skills obtained in this course will be used to analyze health and alterations in health for individuals and families and prepare the student for independent practice.

NUR 656 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credits; Online)

This course is a system-focused pathophysiology course that includes advanced concepts of functioning as it relates the family nurse practitioner's ability to manage illness across the lifespan. Special attention will be given to advanced concepts that correlate with clinical decisions related to diagnosis and therapeutic management. Genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors will also be included as they relate to the epidemiology of disease.

NUR 740 Roles, Leadership, & Ethics (3 credits; Online)

This course examines principles of leadership and role development of the advanced practice nurse and incorporates ethical decision-making, interprofessional collaboration, and navigating evidence-based system changes. The exploration of leadership models, styles, strategies, and roles will provide a foundation for establishing professional leadership goals. Examining practice regulations; professionalism and ethical practices; and interprofessional collaborations will provide a multi-dimensional view of the role and contributions of the advanced practice nurse to safe, high-quality, and cost-effective healthcare.

AGACNP Courses

AGA 710 Acute Care Practicum I (3 credits; 3 days onsite)

This practicum introduces students to the foundational skills required for acute care practice. Emphasis is placed on conducting comprehensive assessments, formulating differential diagnoses, and initiating evidence-based management plans for adult and geriatric patients presenting with acute and emergent conditions. Students will engage in supervised clinical experiences to develop proficiency in patient evaluation and interprofessional collaboration. *(180 Clinical Hours)*

AGA 711 Acute Care Focus I (3 credits; Online)

This didactic course delves into the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying acute illnesses in adult and geriatric populations. Students will explore the clinical manifestations, diagnostic evaluations, and evidence-based treatment strategies for a range of acute conditions, enhancing their clinical reasoning and decision-making skills.

AGA 720 Critical Care Practicum II (3 credits; 3 days onsite)

This advanced practicum immerses students in the care of critically ill adult and geriatric patients. Emphasis is placed on rapid assessment, stabilization, and management of life-threatening conditions. Students will gain experience in high-acuity settings, enhancing their skills in critical thinking, procedural interventions, and interprofessional collaboration. (180 Clinical Hours)

AGA 721 Critical Care Focus II (3 credits; Online)

This capstone didactic course synthesizes knowledge and skills acquired throughout the AGACNP program. Students will engage in complex case analyses, focusing on advanced clinical decision-making, ethical considerations, and leadership in critical care settings. The course prepares students for transition into autonomous practice.

AGA 730 Complex & Chronic Disease Practicum III (3 credits; 3 days onsite)

In this practicum, students will manage adult and geriatric patients with complex chronic conditions. The focus is on longitudinal care, including disease progression monitoring, management of comorbidities, and coordination of care across healthcare settings. Students will refine their skills in developing and adjusting comprehensive care plans. (180 Clinical Hours)

AGA 731 Complex & Chronic Disease Focus III (3 credits; Online)

This course provides an in-depth examination of chronic diseases prevalent in adult and geriatric populations. Students will study the epidemiology, pathophysiology, and management strategies for conditions such as heart failure, diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphasizing evidence-based practice and patient education.