

# CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST ADULT-GERONTOLOGY



## ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE

Clinical Nurse Specialists are licensed registered nurses (RNs) who have completed master's or doctoral education as clinical nurse specialists (CNS). According to the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, these specially trained nurses offer advanced knowledge in physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, health assessment, clinical knowledge, and education, to patients and other clinicians.

## CONVENIENT SCHEDULE

The 18-month track consists of 20 units that can be completed in five semesters, attending class one evening per week and Saturdays.

## PREREQUISITES

- Applicants for the Post-Master's CNS certificate program must have a completed master's degree in nursing
- Clear and current registered nurse license



*The master's program at Vanguard University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education ([www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation)).*



**VANGUARD  
UNIVERSITY**

*School for Graduate and Professional Studies*



## FOCUS

The purpose of the Vanguard University Post-Master's CNS certificate program is to prepare the graduate for the role of an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). The curriculum will prepare each student to meet all the criteria required from the California Board of Nursing (BRN) to practice as an APRN in the state of California and will also prepare the graduate to take the certification exam offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

## CURRICULUM

### FIRST SEMESTER

- Advanced Health Assessment for the CNS (2 units)
- Pathophysiology Concepts for CNS Practice (2 units)

### SECOND SEMESTER

- Pharmacotherapeutics for CNS Practice (2 units)
- Preparation for CNS Role as Leader, Educator, and Clinician (2 units)

### THIRD SEMESTER

- Clinical Practicum I: Expert Clinical Practice and Education (4 units)  
(minimum 167 hours of practice)

### FOURTH SEMESTER

- Clinical Practicum II: Research Competency in CNS Role (4 units)  
(minimum 167 hours of practice)

### FIFTH SEMESTER

- Clinical Practicum III: Consultation and Clinical Leadership (4 units)  
(minimum 167 hours of practice)

#### CONTACT:

55 FAIR DRIVE, COSTA MESA, CA 92626

[vanguard.edu/nursing](http://vanguard.edu/nursing)

[gpsadmissions@vanguard.edu](mailto:gpsadmissions@vanguard.edu)

877.669.8872