



UNIVERSITY of
SAN FRANCISCO

Santa Rosa Campus

MSN-Clinical Nurse Leader

New Role in Nursing

The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) is a new nursing role that was developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in collaboration with leaders from the practice environment. The CNL role emerged as a way to engage highly skilled clinicians in outcomes-based practice and quality improvement strategies. The CNL oversees the care coordination of a distinct group of patients and actively provides direct patient care in complex situations. Functioning as part of an interdisciplinary team the CNL excels in planning, communicating, and implementing care with other health care professionals to improve patient outcomes.

3 ways in....1 way out

RN/ADN to MSN

is an accelerated degree program designed for the registered nurse who holds an Associate's Degree in Nursing or a Hospital Diploma and has now decided to pursue graduate nursing education.

The program builds upon the student's prior training, provides content and clinical experiences in community health nursing and leadership/management and moves the student directly into graduate nursing education. Students do not earn a BSN degree but progress directly to the MSN. The program is designed to be completed in eight semesters.

The total curriculum is 57 units: 27 pre-MSN/30 units requirement for MSN.

RN/BA-BS to MSN

This track is designed for the RN with a bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing and seeks to complete a graduate nursing education. Students enter the program at Semester Three of the accelerated degree program. They benefit from interactions with a cohort of RN/ADNs who have completed two semesters of the CNL program and add their own experiences to class discussions.

Beginning with Community Nursing, the program is six semesters including an RN-CNL internship at the end of the program.

The total curriculum is 36 units: 6 pre-MSN plus the 30 units required for MSN.

RN/BSN to MSN

This track is designed for the RN with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing who wishes to obtain a master's degree in nursing as a Clinical Nurse Leader. The CNL is a generalist; major roles are expected to be clinical care coordinator, outcomes manager, patient advocate, educator, information manager and care team leader.

The total curriculum requirement is 30 graduate units for MSN. The program is designed to be completed in five semesters or 1.5 years.

All graduates of the MSN program will meet the AACN CNL master's degree outcome competencies and practice standards and be eligible for certification by the national American Nurses' Credentialing Center (ANCC) as a Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL).

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