

Advanced Practice Nurse CNS and NP Courses

■What is an Advanced Practice Nurse?

Advanced practice nurses are registered nurses with a high degree of specialization and advanced practical nursing skills. There are two types of advanced practice nurses: certified nurse specialists (CNS) and nurse practitioners (NP).

How to Become an Advanced Practice Nurse

Candidates must meet the following requirements.

■Earned the required credits and obtained a master's program from a graduate school with an educational curriculum for advanced practice nurses.

*Presently, educational curricula for certified nurse specialists are offered in 14 fields: Cancer Nursing, Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, Community Health Nursing, Gerontological Nursing, Child Health Nursing, Women's Health Nursing, Chronic Care Nursing, Critical Care Nursing, Family Health Nursing, Infection Control Nursing, Home Care Nursing, Genetic Nursing, Disaster Nursing, and Radiological Nursing.

*Currently, an educational curriculum for nurse practitioners offered in Japan is Primary Care Nursing.

■More than five years of practical nursing experience, of which more than three years were spent specializing in a certain field.

■Certified nurse specialists must have passed the certification test held by the Japanese Nursing Association.

Even after certification, re-examination for renewal is required every five years.

A certification system is currently being reviewed for nurse practitioners in Japan.

■JANPU specifies and accredits educational curriculums, while the Japanese Nursing Association specifies and accredits individual's nurse specialist field.

■What Do Advanced Practice Nurses Do?

Advanced practice nurses carry out the following tasks to provide high quality nursing care.

Practice

Provide direct and specialized high quality nursing care to persons with health problems and their families.

Education

Has an educational role to those involved in care such as nursing staff and other medical staff.

Consultation

Provide consultation to those involved in care such as families, nursing staff, etc.

Coordination

Provide coordination between those involved in care to ensure that the required care is provided smoothly.

Research

Carry out research activities to enhance expertise and skills, and for development.

Ethical Coordination

Carry out adjustments regarding ethical issues related to care such as providing opportunities for discussions between related parties.