What is an executive nurse administrator?

An executive nurse administrator is a nurse who is responsible to lead and manage at all levels of healthcare organizations. Roles of the executive nurse administrator include Nurse Manager, Care Manager, Supervisor, Director of Nurses, Department Director, and Chief Nurse Executive. Executive Nurse Administrators apply administrative and management principles and leadership skills to influence system change and advance quality and safety within the workplace.

The role of the executive nurse administrator is guided by competencies defined by the American Organization of Nurse Executives and the American Nurses Association. Please see websites for more details:

http://www.aone.org/resources/leadership%20tools/PDFs/AONE_NEC.pdf

http://nursesbooks.org/Main-Menu/Magnet/Nursing-Administration-Scope-and-Standards-of-Practice.aspx

Is the entire program online or do I have to come to campus for some classes?

Classes are online. Orientation occurs through a synchronous web conference. Faculty remains engaged with students and preceptors during the program and available to assist meet course and program objectives.

Is there a required practice component for the degree? Can I complete clinical hours where I live and who arranges clinical sites?

There is a practice component for the nurse executive administration degree. Clinical experience most commonly occurs within the student’s community with driving distance from home. Students in remote areas have sometimes had to travel outside their communities to find clinical sites. Students are responsible for finding appropriate clinical sites. If a student cannot locate a clinical site in their home area, faculty may be able to provide names of nearby sites that have been used by previous Executive Nurse Administration students; however, it is ultimately the student’s responsibility to secure a site and preceptor. Students who are unsuccessful in being accepted by an agency in their home community may have to travel to another area to complete practice requirements or withdraw from the program.

Please review the list of clinical affiliations found on the College of Nursing website. If there is not a clinical site listed near you or you are interested in a site not listed, negotiations should be initiated as soon as you begin the program through the Specialty Track Coordinator.
**What type preceptor and clinical sites do I need and how many clinical hours are required?**

Preceptors for the Executive Nurse Administration field study/Internship clinical hours must possess a minimum of a master’s degree in nursing or other administrative field such as business or public health administration. Preferably, preceptors are nurses with a MSN, DNP, or PhD. Preceptors must be employed as a healthcare manager or administrator and possess enough expertise to provide safe guidance and appropriate education for the ENA student. If your preceptor is not a nurse, discuss your selection with your faculty.

The Executive Nurse Administration clinical experience consists of two consecutive semesters of study. One hundred eighty hours of the field study experience occurs in spring semester and the latter 240 internship hours occurs in the summer semester. Only one clinical site is needed to meet the executive nurse administrator clinical hour requirements.

Executive Nurse Administrator clinical courses are taken in sequence beginning fall semester.

NU 562 – Fall semester – 20 clinical hours (contracted clinical site and preceptor is NOT required)

NU 566 – Spring semester – 180 clinical hours (contracted clinical site and preceptor required)

NU 567 – Summer semester – 240 clinical hours (contracted clinical site and preceptor continue from spring semester)

**Can I complete clinical hours in the hospital, nursing home, home health agency, or other healthcare organization where I work for pay?**

The field study may occur in a student’s place of employment, but must be outside the normal paid activities of their role/job. For instance, if a student is employed as a nurse manager, the field study experience should broaden his/her management/administrative skills through experience with a Director of Nursing, the Chief Nursing Officer or Chief Executive Officer and should not include learning experiences routinely performed as a manager.

**What is the role of the faculty?**

Faculty has expertise in the area of nursing administration. Faculty establishes course objectives and learning activities. Faculty work closely with students during their field study to advise and direct. Students are expected to communicate regularly with faculty and to seek consultation appropriately. Conference calls with preceptor, student, and faculty are held at intervals in addition to frequent contact via email or phone.

**Is there a “state board” test for Executive Nurse Administrators?**

Nurse administrators must be licensed as an RN in the state of practice. No additional test is required for licensure. The program prepares graduates for national certification as a Nurse Administrator (executive or manager level) by the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American
Organization of Nurse Executives. Faculty encourage students to become board certified as a recognition of their specialty knowledge and skill.