

PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER

The Psychiatric–Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) specialty prepares graduates for advanced practice promoting mental health and providing therapeutic interventions across the lifespan to individuals living with mental health and substance use disorders. Coursework focuses on integrating theory and evidence-based practice into clinical applications including mental health assessment, risk prevention, differential diagnosis, treatment planning, and outcome management. Both pharmacologic and psychotherapy-based interventions are explored over a series of courses, acknowledging the importance of both in this specialty program. PMHNPs serve vulnerable populations through the core values of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in identifying and addressing structural and sociocultural determinants of health. They also evaluate systems of care, design evidence-based practice solutions, and work in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team.

PMHNPs provide care to children, adolescents, adults, and older adults in a wide range of clinical settings, including acute emergency psychiatric services, community mental health centers, private practice, school- or home-based care, integrated psychiatric and primary care, substance abuse and forensic sites, and acute and long-term care facilities. Many sites utilize a combination of in-person care and telepsychiatry to enhance accessibility.

Upon completion of the required curriculum, students are prepared to apply for certification as a psychiatric–mental health nurse practitioner across the lifespan through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The PMHNP curriculum is offered in two formats, a residential and an online program.

PMHNP courses are only open to students enrolled in the specialty. Students from other specialties who are interested in taking a PMHNP specialty course must consult with the specialty director. A post-master’s psychiatric–mental health nurse practitioner certificate option is also available (see the chapter Post-Master’s Certificates).

Year One

Fall Term

NURS 6000	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS 6010	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 6020	Advanced Pharmacology	2
NURS 7605	Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Clinical Reasoning	3
NURS 7615	Psychotherapeutic Interventions I: Principles and Theory	2
NURS 7625	Skills I: PMHNP Role Development	1

Spring Term

NURS 6040	Statistics and Research for Evidence-Based Practice Nursing	3
NURS 7626	Skills II: Clinical Decision Making and Treatment Planning	1

NURS 7635	Psychopharmacologic Interventions I: Foundations in Psychopharmacology	2
NURS 7787	Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Practice I	6.5

Year Two

Fall Term

NURS 6050	Transitions to Professional Practice	2
NURS 6060	Promoting Health in the Community	2
NURS 7715	Psychotherapeutic Interventions II: Application and Special Populations	2
NURS 7735	Psychopharmacologic Interventions II: Application and Special Populations	2
NURS 7788	Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Practice II	6.5

Spring Term

NURS 7716	Psychotherapeutic Interventions III: Complex Cases and Systems of Care	2
NURS 7736	Psychopharmacologic Interventions III: Complex Cases and Systems of Care	2
NURS 7789	Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Practice III	6.5

PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER SPECIALTY ONLINE PART-TIME PLAN OF STUDY

Year One

First Term

NURS 6010O	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 6060O	Promoting Health in the Community	2

Second Term

NURS 6000O	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS 6020O	Advanced Pharmacology	2

Third Term

NURS 6040O	Research Methods and Statistics for Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS 7605O	Psychopathology: Diagnosis and Clinical Reasoning	3

Year Two

First Term

NURS 7615O	Psychotherapeutic Interventions I: Principles and Theory	2
NURS 7625O	Skills I: PMHNP Role Development	1
NURS 7635	Psychopharmacologic Interventions I: Foundations in Psychopharmacology	2

Second Term

NURS 7715O	Psychotherapeutic Interventions II: Application and Special Populations	2
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NURS 7785O	Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Practice I	3
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Third Term

NURS 7735O	Psychopharmacologic Interventions II: Application and Special Populations	2
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NURS 7786O	Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Practice II	3
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*Year Three***First Term**

NURS 7626O	Skills II: PMHNP Clinical-Decision Making and Treatment Planning	1
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NURS 7716O	Psychotherapeutic Interventions III: Complex Cases and Systems of Care	2
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NURS 7795O	Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Practice III	3.5
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Second Term

NURS 7736O	Psychopharmacologic Interventions III: Complex Cases and Systems of Care	2
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NURS 7796O	Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Practice IV	5
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Third Term

NURS 6050O	Transitions to Professional Practice	2
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NURS 7797O	Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Practice V	5
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