

This post graduate certificate program prepares advanced practice nurses to meet the needs for advanced psychiatric mental health nursing care in their communities. Graduates of this program will meet all requirements to sit for national certification in psychiatric mental health and are formally prepared to offer care at the advanced practice level specific to this select population.

The program includes 510 practicum hours (and an additional 30 hours in psychotherapy modalities). National certification requires at least 500 clock hours of direct patient care in the advanced role. However, some students may have accrued appropriate hours prior to admission. Any hours accrued prior to admission must have been academically supervised and completed in an approved psychiatric mental health care setting. To have previous MSN or DNP level practicum hours considered for credit, the applicant must submit a portfolio including the items listed below. Applicants may also be asked to participate in a recorded interview regarding his or her experience in psychiatric mental health including medication management, psychotherapies, and other roles and responsibilities. Each applicant's portfolio should contain following:

- Specific prior academic practice site information and number of hours at each site
- A description of prior academic practice experience
- A letter from a program director and/or associate dean of the previous graduate level APRN program verifying clinical hours and sites

Fall		Spring		Summer	
NSG 774 Neuro-Psychopharmacology	3	NSG 777 PMHNP Management of Adults	3	NSG 779 PMHNP Management of Child/Adolescent	3
NSG 775 PMHNP Role and Foundations	3	NSG 778 PMHNP Clinical Practicum I*	3 - 5	NSG 780 PMHNP Clinical Practicum II*	3 - 5
NSG 776 Psychotherapy Modalities - 30 clinical hours	3	(180-300 clinical hours based on GAP analysis)		(180-300 clinical hours based on GAP analysis)	
Total	9	Total	6 - 8	Total	6 - 8

* Throughout the program, students will be required to complete a minimum of 21-25 credit hours, of which 6 -10 will be practicum credits. The program includes 540 total clinical hours (30 in NSG 776 and 510 hours in the practicum courses). The program will be personalized via gap analyses to determine the number of clinical practicum hours required of each student (minimum 360 hours).

Post Graduate Certificate Program – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Course Descriptions

NSG 774 Neuro-Psychopharmacology - Students will focus on principles of neurobiology including neurodevelopment, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neurochemistry, and advanced theories in the neuroscience of psychiatric illnesses. Psychopharmacologic agents, their clinical uses in psychiatric illness, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacogenomics will be reviewed in depth. Students will learn to synthesize information through a case-based method related to psychopharmacological treatment of mental disorders across the lifespan.

NSG 775 PMHNP Role and Foundations - The focus of this course is on the scope and standards of practice and prescriptive authority for the PMHNP. Students will obtain an overview of the classification system in the DSM-5, an introduction of psychiatric disorders, and levels and standards of the PMHNP role, including the Standards of Profession Performance for the PMHNP.

NSG 776 Psychotherapy Modalities - This course will provide students with a comprehensive exploration of selected evidence-based psychotherapeutic concepts, modalities, and interventions for individuals, families, and groups across the lifespan. Students will learn to integrate various psychotherapeutic approaches into a model that will guide their practice. Course content will include therapeutic alliance development and management skills, trauma-informed care, clinical intervention strategies, motivational interviewing, and the promotion of recovery and resilience. The clinical practicum allows the student to integrate assessment skills and psychotherapeutic interventions into the clinical environment. Students will apply their knowledge in developing appropriate evidence-based psychotherapeutic treatment interventions in a coherent and practical manner for their identified patient, family, or group. Course includes 30 clinical hours of psychotherapy.

NSG 777 PMHNP Management of Adults – This course focuses on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to perform advanced clinical differential diagnoses and management of adults and geriatrics with mental health disorders utilizing the diagnostic criteria of the DSM-5. Students will learn to apply the principles of psychopharmacology and psychotherapies to the care of adults of all ages.

NSG 778 PMHNP Clinical Practicum I - This clinical course allows students to practice the knowledge, skills, and attitudes attained in foundational PMHNP courses. It focuses on the application of neuro-psychopharmacology, assessment, and psychotherapeutic treatment. Students perform advanced clinical differential diagnoses and management of adults with mental health disorders utilizing the diagnostic criteria of the DSM-5. 180 - 300 Clinical hours based on gap analysis.

NSG 779 PMHNP Management of Child/Adolescent - This course focuses on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to perform advanced clinical differential diagnoses and management of children and adolescents with mental health disorders utilizing the diagnostic criteria of the DSM-5. Students will learn to apply the principles of psychopharmacology and psychotherapies to the care of children and adolescents.

NSG 780 PMHNP Clinical Practicum II - This clinical course allows students to practice the knowledge, skills, and attitudes attained in foundational PMHNP courses. It focuses on the application of neuro-psychopharmacologic, assessment, and psychotherapeutic treatments. Students perform advanced clinical differential diagnoses and management of patients across the lifespan with mental health disorders utilizing the diagnostic criteria of the DSM-5. Students will develop treatment plans that incorporate evidence-based interventions. 180 - 300 Clinical hours based on gap analysis. Hours must include care of child and adolescent patients.