



SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

# PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE

## Melding the Art and Science of Professional Nursing

The Post-Graduate PMHNP Certificate program will prepare advanced practice nurses to provide primary mental health care for individuals, groups, and populations across the lifespan. This certificate program is designed for nurses who hold a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) who wish to advance their knowledge, education, and skills to practice in an advanced practice role as a PMHNP.

As an independent member of the health care team, and in partnership with patients, the PMHNP provides a variety of evidence-based services and therapies. The PMHNP assesses, makes diagnoses, and plans care for complex psychiatric and concomitant medical issues, including the prescription and management of psychopharmacologic agents.

The PMHNP also advocates for patients and their families within a recovery and trauma-informed paradigm, ensuring patients and their families are

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engaged and actively participate in their behavioral health. Graduates of this post-graduate PMHNP Certificate Program are eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner competency-based examination.

### Program highlights:

- Devise evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention strategies to improve healthcare outcomes
- Utilize current technologies to deliver, enhance, and document care to achieve optimal outcomes across multiple settings
- Develop skills to apply organizational & systems leadership to current healthcare issues
- Understand how to collaborate with interprofessional teams delivering care

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## POST-GRADUATE PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL-HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE

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The Post-Graduate PMHNP certificate program will prepare advanced practice nurses to provide primary mental health care for individuals, groups and populations across the lifespan. This Certificate Program is designed for nurses who hold a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) who wish to advance their knowledge, education, and skills to practice in an advanced practice role as a PMHNP. This advanced practice nurse maintains a critical role in the health care team and ensures collaboration and the provision of safe, effective, coordinated care. As an independent member of the health care team, and in partnership with patients, the PMHNP provides a variety of evidence-based services and therapies. The PMHNP assesses, makes diagnoses and plans care for complex psychiatric and concomitant medical issues, including the prescription and management of psychopharmacologic agents. The PMHNP advocates for patients and their families within a recovery and trauma-informed paradigm. The PMHNP ensures that patients and their families are engaged and actively participate in their behavioral health (mental health and substance use) care as they respond to the illness experience. The PMHNP continuously enhances their care through quality improvement and safety efforts and influences policy at the local, regional and national levels. The PMHNP melds the art and science of professional nursing and skillfully manages the acute and enduring issues posed by people with behavioral health issues across the lifespan. Graduates of this Post-Graduate PMHNP Certificate Program are eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - Lifespan (formerly known as Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner) competency-based examination.

\*This certificate program is a non-degree, graduate-level program. Upon completion of the program, participants receive a PMHNP Certificate of Completion.

This program is approved by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

### Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the Post-Graduate FNP certificate program at National University, candidates must:

- Meet the University requirements for graduate study, listed in the General Catalog under admission requirements.
- Hold a master's or doctoral degree in nursing meeting these criteria 1) State Board of Nursing approved, 2) Nationally accredited School of Nursing, 3) Regionally accredited University.
- Provide proof of current, active, and unencumbered RN license in the state of residence.
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with a GPA of 2.5-2.99 will be considered by the MSN Admissions Committee on a case-by-case basis.
- Have 1-year recent clinical practice as a professional nurse.
- Have completed the University Application for Graduate Admissions, including the application fee.
- Have completed the post-graduate certificate application packet.
- Provide one official transcript from each college or university attended to the Office of the Registrar.
- Have three professional recommendation forms, preferably from individuals who hold graduate or doctoral degrees.
- Mandatory Pre-MSN & Post Graduate Certificate Forum: View the Pre-MSN & Post Graduate Certificate Program Information Forum which will describe the process for applying to and acceptance into the Nursing Program. The specifics described are: number of nursing courses, sequence of courses, requirements for progression in the program.

**Note:** Prospective Students must have viewed the Pre-MSN & Post Graduate Certificate Forum before submitting the application packet.

### Additional Prerequisite Requirements

Students should be proficient in operating a personal computer, including: demonstrated competency in standard computer operating systems and electronic filing systems, basic keyboarding skills, organizing and sorting electronic documents; demonstrated knowledge of standard computer applications to include Microsoft Word and Excel; familiarity with using internet browsers and standard email systems such as MS Outlook.

This is a hybrid program that includes online, onsite and clinical preceptored learning activities. It is offered at an accelerated pace of full-time study using an executive weekend format once per month (e.g. Thursday - Saturday). All accepted applicants must attend all orientation activities, including virtual online meetings and a one-day mandatory campus orientation. Students in the FNP and PMHNP specializations are required to attend once every three months onsite Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). In addition,

FNP and PMHNP practicum courses are offered as immersion practicum experiences, conducted in faculty approved, in-person, preceptored clinical settings.

### Additional Information

Students who request a change in certificate program after they have been admitted to a prior certificate must re-submit an application packet including a new goal statement, and one recommendation form completed addressing the new specialization area. A new resume is not required. All prerequisites must be met prior to admissions into the new certificate program. The new application will be re-submitted via the Graduate Nursing Application E-form in SOAR by the admissions advisor.

Students who withdraw from the program or withdraw their application prior to beginning the program will not need to re-apply if the point of initial application occurred within one year of re-application. Students requesting to be re-admitted after one year of initial application for admissions will need to resubmit a new application packet including all required items needed for the application packet and drug screening, background check, immunizations and physical examination. Re-application to the program does not guarantee acceptance or provide an advantage to being accepted.

### Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge derived from the physical and behavioral sciences and humanities as a basis for professional advanced clinical nursing practice.
- Devise evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention strategies at the patient, family, organizational, community, and population levels for the purpose of improving health-care outcomes.
- Utilize current technologies to deliver, enhance, and document care across multiple settings to achieve optimal outcomes.
- Apply organizational and systems leadership to current healthcare issues for the promotion of quality, effective and safe patient care, including the emphasis on ethical and critical decision making, effective working relationships, and a systems-perspective approach.
- Model collaboration and coordination with interprofessional teams in health care systems delivering care to complex, multi-need patients, families and communities.
- Synthesize broad organizational, client-centered, and culturally appropriate concepts in the planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of evidence-based clinical prevention and population behavioral health care and services to individuals, families, and identified populations.

### Degree Requirements

The Post-Graduate PMHNP Certificate Program of Study includes 46.5 quarter units. Refer to the General Catalog section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding admission and evaluation.

Students must obtain 555 hours at an approved practicum site with a designated approved preceptor during the practicum courses. Student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must maintain a B average (84%) in all courses.

**Note:** Program Fees.....\$10,125

### Certificate Requirements

(10 courses; 46.5 quarter units)

NSG 681	Advanced Physical Assessment (6 quarter units)
NSG 641	Advanced Pharmacology I
NSG 682	Advanced Pathophysiology
MNP 643	Psychopharmacology in MH Care
MNP 694	MH Care: Adults/Aging Adults
MNP 696A	Adults/Aging Adults Practicum <i>Corequisite: MNP 694</i>
MNP 687	MH Care: Children/Adolescents
MNP 696B	Children/Adoles. Practicum <i>Corequisite: MNP 687</i>
MNP 688A	Introduction to Psychotherapy <i>Corequisite: MNP 688B</i>
MNP 688B	Intro Psychotherapy Practicum <i>Corequisite: MNP 688A</i>

Experienced, practicing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) can waive NSG 641, NSG 681, and NSG 682. All others can waive NSG 641 and NSG 681 if taken less than five (5) years prior to application to the Certificate Program, and NSG 682 if taken less than seven (7) years prior to application to the Certificate Program. Doctoral-level courses may be used to waive these courses.

For complete program information, see the National University Catalog 82, effective 10/2018.