



COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING – PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER (PMHNP-L)

Provide Support to Individuals with Mental Illness in Your Community

If you're a registered nurse with a bachelor's degree in nursing, the MSN-PMHNP program may be right for you. In the program, you'll learn the skills needed to take on a critical role in mental health care, collaborating with a team in providing safe, effective, coordinated care.

As a member of the team, you'll use evidence-based services and therapies to provide diagnoses and plan care for complex psychiatric and medical issues, including prescribing and managing relevant medications. Working as an advocate for patients and their families, you'll ensure that all are engaged and actively participating in a program of behavioral health care. By expanding your professional nursing skills, you'll be equipped to manage the acute and chronic behavioral health issues of those in need.

Upon graduation, you'll be eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Psychiatric MHNP competency-based examination.

Program Highlights:

- Entire program can be completed online
- No mandatory login time
- Degree can be completed in 12-18 months
- 12-week courses
- Board certification review course for nurse practitioner specialties
- Post-graduate nurse practitioner certificates available to students who already hold an MSN or who already hold an MSN or doctoral degree in nursing
- Program practicum is completed in faculty-approved clinical settings. One day onsite meeting for each nurse practitioner practicum course

**LEARN
MORE
TODAY**

MSNProgram@nu.edu



PLANETREE
Silver Designated
Person-Centered School

Hybrid Program

Start Every January and July

WSCUC Accredited

CCNE Accredited



**NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY**

Veteran Founded. Nonprofit. | NU.EDU

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Academic Program Director: Tina Ho;
(858) 309-3448; tho@nu.edu

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program is for Registered Nurses who hold a nursing diploma, or an associate nursing degree, or a Bachelor Degree in Nursing (BSN). In keeping with the standards for graduate education for advanced practice nursing delineated by the American Association of College of Nursing in the Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nurses, the purpose of the MSN program is to prepare students to assume leadership roles in their particular specialization. Masters level nursing education is the appropriate level of education for nursing professionals who are seeking roles that require advanced practice skills in order to function as providers and organizers of the health care delivery process.

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

MSN Admission Requirements

The following candidates are eligible for admission into the MSN program:

1. Candidates who hold a BSN degree from a nursing program that meets one of these criteria 1) State Board of Nursing approved, 2) Nationally accredited nursing program, 3) from a regionally accredited University/School, if applicable, and meet the University requirements for graduate study, listed in the General Catalog under Academic Information for Graduate Degrees.
2. Candidates who currently enrolled in the final course of their BSN degree program at National University or recently graduated from National University with their BSN. (Candidates in the RN-BSN Completion Program are eligible to take MSN courses in the last month of their RN to BSN Completion Program) and meet the University requirements for graduate study, listed in the General Catalog under Academic Information for Graduate Degrees including Admission in the Term prior to Bachelor's Degree Completion.

*Candidates will be conditionally accepted into the MSN program until the following proofs are provided.

Students may not begin specialization courses until the conditional acceptance is lifted, by providing proof of the following:

- Current, active and unencumbered RN license in the State of employment and/or residence
- Copy of BSN transcript
- Proof of Employment offer in the capacity of a registered nurse (RN)

If candidates are unable to show proof of BSN degree conferral, RN license and employment offer, admission to the MSN program will be rescinded.

RN to MSN Candidate Requirements

Candidates who hold a nursing diploma, or an associate nursing degree from a nursing program that meets one of these criteria 1) State Board of Nursing approved, 2) Nationally accredited nursing program, 3) from a regionally accredited University/School, if applicable and have completed a General Education curriculum or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) in these areas:

- Physical and Biological Sciences
- Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Arts, Humanities and Language
- Writing, Speech and Communication

***Exception:** Candidates do not need to have a Bachelor's degree for admission to the graduate program as specified in Academic Information for Graduate Degrees and Credentials, Admission procedures.

Candidates wishing to be admitted under the exception must select one of the RN-MSN pathway options, and successfully complete the required courses prior to beginning Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) core requirements. RN-MSN **Option 1** includes NSG 500 RN-MSN Portfolio Transition; **OR Option 2** includes NSG 444/444A Community Population Nursing with Lab, **and** NSG 442/442A Nursing Leadership and Management with Lab, **and** NSG 447/447A Quality Improvement with Lab).

All MSN Candidates including RN to MSN

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Candidates with a GPA of 2.5-2.99 will be

considered by the MSN Admission Committee on a case by case basis

- Have completed the MSN application packet

Candidates who graduated from a BSN program other than NU must

- Provide proof of current, active and unencumbered RN license in the State of employment and/or residence.
- Complete the university admission application
- Provide one official transcript from each college or university attended to the Registrar's office
- Provide two professional recommendation forms, preferably from individuals who hold graduate or doctoral degrees

Prior to the start of their specialization courses, all candidates must

- Provide evidence of current, active professional liability and malpractice insurance coverage throughout the program
- Provide evidence of specified immunizations, a report of a recent physical examination, a clear drug screen and background check and current BLS certification.

Additional Program Information

- A. Candidates are required to meet with their Admission Advisor to review the process for applying to and acceptance into the Nursing program. The specifics described are: program of study, schedules of courses, requirements for progression in the program. Note: Prospective students should review the MSN and Post-Graduate Certificate packet before submitting the application.
- B. 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.
- C. MSN program is 100% online with flexible course scheduling. All accepted applicants must attend one virtual online program orientation. In addition, students in the FNP and PMHNP specializations are required to attend four one-day Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) in Costa

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

- D. Students who request a change in specialization after they have been admitted to a prior specialization must resubmit 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 specialization. The new application will be re-submitted via the Graduate Nursing e-form Application in SOAR by the Admission Counselor.
- E. Students who withdraw from the program or withdraw their application prior to beginning the program will not need to reapply 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.

NOTE: Additional fees apply as described:

- RN-MSN students taking NSG 500 carry additional fee of \$3,280
- FNP and PMHNP Area of Specializations carry additional program fees of \$11,325
- NA and NI Area of Specializations carry additional program fees of \$475

Program Learning Outcomes

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

- Implement appropriate theories, models, frameworks and concepts for nursing and non-nursing disciplines when designing interventions that influence healthcare outcomes for diverse populations in a variety of settings
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams, to evaluate fiscally appropriate healthcare delivery systems that integrate research and clinical

expertise to provide evidence-based, patient-centered care

- Evaluate economic, policy, environmental and social forces that impact nursing practice, health care delivery and quality of health care
- Participate in the analysis, implementation and evaluation of strategies for improving nursing practice through the implementation of health information systems and technologies
- Demonstrate a professional commitment to creating an environment of lifelong learning for patients, families, communities and other healthcare practitioners

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Nursing requires a minimum of 49.5-82.5 quarter units of graduate credit, with a minimum of 40.5 quarter units completed at National University. Refer to the General Catalog section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding admission and evaluation. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must maintain a B (84%) in all core and specialization courses.

RN-MSN Pathway Options

Candidates that do not hold a Bachelor's degree for admission to the graduate program will follow one of the RN-MSN pathway. Candidates accepted into the RN-MSN must provide completion of an associate degree in nursing or diploma Nursing Program and hold an unencumbered Registered Nurse license.

Option 1 - Only if a student holds an associate degree in nursing or diploma in nursing and have at least one year of registered nursing experience in leadership, community health and quality improvement are eligible to complete NSG 500.

Option 2 - Student holds an associate degree in nursing or diploma in nursing with no registered nursing experience in leadership, community health and quality improvement.

RN-MSN Pathway Course Requirements

(1 course; 6 quarter units **OR** 6 courses; 25.5 quarter units)

Option 1

NSG 500 RN-MSN Portfolio Transition (6quarter units)

OR

Option 2

ALL the following **six (6)** courses

NSG 444	Community Population NSG (6 quarter units) <i>Corequisite: NSG 444A</i>
NSG 444A	Comm Pop NSG Practicum (3 quarter units) <i>Corequisite: NSG 444</i>
NSG 442	NSG Leadership and Management <i>Corequisite: NSG 442A</i>
NSG 442A	NSG LDRSHP & MGMT Practicum (3 quarter units) <i>Corequisite: NSG 442</i>
NSG 447	Qual Improvement <i>Corequisite: NSG 447A</i>
NSG 447A	Qual Improvement Practicum <i>Corequisite: NSG 447</i>

Core Requirements

(6 courses; 27 quarter units)

NSG 600	Advance Practice Nursing
NSG 620	Theory in Advanced Practice
NSG 623	Biomedical Statistics
NSG 606	Health Policy & Finance
NSG 622	QI & Project Management
NSG 607	EBP for Advanced NSG Practice

Students must pass all core courses before beginning specialization courses.

Specialization in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner – Lifespan

*Academic Program Director: Jovita Ezirim;
(310) 662-2181; jezirim@nu.edu*

The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse practitioner-Lifespan (PMHNP) is registered nurse prepared at the master's degree level and specializes in primary mental health care for individuals, groups and populations across the lifespan. The PMHNP Program is designed for nurses who hold a nursing diploma, or an associate nursing degree, or a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing (BSN), 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 PMHNP Program are eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Lifespan competency-based examination.

Admission Requirements

Students applying for the PMHNP area of specialization must be accepted to the MSN program.

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-needs 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

Students must complete a total of 55.5 quarter units for the PMHNP specialization. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must maintain a B (84%) in all courses. Students must obtain at least 510 hours at an approved practicum site with a designated approved preceptor during the practicum courses.

NOTE: Program Fees.....\$11,325

Total Specialization Requirements

(12 courses; 55.5 quarter units)

Preparation for PMHNP Specialization Courses

(3 courses; 15 quarter units)

Students must pass all MSN Core courses before beginning any Preparation for the PMHNP Specialization courses.

NSG 641*	Advanced Pharmacology I
NSG 681*	Advanced Physical Assessment (6 quarter units)
NSG 682*	Advanced Pathophysiology

*Students have the option of taking the preparation for MNP specialization concurrently with the 6 MSN core courses.

Specialization Requirements

(9 courses; 40.5 quarter units)

NSG 680	Diversity Issues in APN
MNP 643	Psychopharmacology in MH Care
MNP 694	MH Care: Adults/Aging Adults <i>Corequisite: MNP 696A</i>
MNP 696A	Adults/Aging Adults Practicum <i>Corequisite: MNP 694</i>
MNP 687	MH Care: Children/Adolescents <i>Corequisite: MNP 696B</i>
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>
MNP 697	PMHNP Capstone