



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:**

- Courses can be completed online, apart from practicum courses
- Degree can be completed in as few as 18 months if you already have a BSN, or 21 months if you have a ADN or diploma
- Course lengths range from 4-12 weeks
- Board certification review course for nurse practitioner specialties
- Post-graduate nurse practitioner certificates available to students who already hold an MSN or doctoral degree in nursing
- Program practicum is completed in faculty-approved clinical settings. One-day on-site meeting for each nurse practitioner practicum course
- One-on-one faculty advising and consultation with industry experts

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## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING, PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER

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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's 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. Master's 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.

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.

### 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 are 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 RNBSN 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
- Proof of Employment offer in the capacity of a registered nurse (RN)

If candidates are unable to show proof of RN license and employment offer, admission to the MSN program will be rescinded.

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

### 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 RNMSN 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
- Have completed the NU Graduate admission application

### 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
- 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
- Provide one professional goal statement

### 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 can be completed online, apart from practicum courses. All accepted applicants must attend one virtual online program orientation. In addition, students in the PMHNP specializations are required to attend four one-day Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) in Costa Mesa. The cost of travel to the OSCE at Costa Mesa, CA campus is up to the student. 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 completed recommendation form addressing the new specialization area. A new resume is not required. All

prerequisites must be met prior to admission 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 reapplication. Students requesting to be readmitted 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. Reapplication 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
- RN-MSN students taking NSG 442/A and NSG 444/A carry additional fee of \$260
- PMHNP Area of Specializations carry additional program fees of \$11,325
- PMHNP Area of Specialization requires travel to OSCE at Costa Mesa, CA campus, at student expense

**MSN 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 health care outcomes for diverse populations in a variety of settings
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to evaluate fiscally appropriate health care delivery systems that integrate research and clinical expertise to provide evidence-based, person-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 health care practitioners

**Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner 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 health care 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**

The Master of Science in Nursing requires a minimum of 82.5-108 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. Students must obtain at least 510 hours at an approved practicum site with a designated approved preceptor during the practicum courses.

**RN-MSN Pathway Options and Course Requirements**

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

Candidates that do not hold a Bachelor's degree for admission to the graduate program will follow one of the RN-MSN pathways. Candidates accepted into the RNMSN must provide completion of an associate degree in nursing or diploma Nursing Program and hold an unencumbered Registered Nurse license. Prospective students will meet with nursing program leadership to discuss and identify the pathway required based on individual background.

**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.

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

**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.

ALL the following six (6) courses (25.5 quarter units)

NSG 444 Community Population NSG  
(6 quarter units)  
Corequisite: NSG 444A

NSG 444A Comm Pop NSG Practicum  
(3 quarter units)  
Corequisite: NSG 444

NSG 442 NSG Leadership and Management  
Corequisite: NSG 442A

NSG 442A NSG LDRSHP & MGMT Practicum  
(3 quarter units)  
Corequisite: NSG 442

NSG 447 Qual Improvement  
Corequisite: NSG 447A

NSG 447A Qual Improvement Practicum  
Corequisite: NSG 447

**MSN 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.

**Total Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization Requirements**

(12 courses; 55.5 quarter units)

**Preparation for PMHNP Specialization Courses**

(3 courses; 15 quarter units)

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.

**Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner  
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