Post-Graduate Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program
(Post-Graduate Certificate in Psychiatric/Mental Health)

Stephanie Richardson PhD, RN
Program Director
stephanie.richardson@rm.edu

Rebecca White, MSN, FPMHNP-BC, FNP-BC, NE
PMHNPC Track Director (Interim)
rebecca.white@rm.edu

Program Description ........................................................................................................... 1
Program Calendars ........................................................................................................... 3
Course Descriptions ........................................................................................................ 4
    Nurse Practitioner Core Courses ........................................................................... 4
    PMHNP Specialty Courses ...................................................................................... 4
Faculty ............................................................................................................................ 6
    Program Leadership .................................................................................................. 6
    Faculty ...................................................................................................................... 6

Program Description

The Post-Master's Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Certificate program
is completely online. It is designed for the registered nurse with a master’s degree or higher,
wishing to expand into advanced practice in the specialty of psychiatric-mental health.
Students complete 24 to 36 credit hours and 540 supervised clinical hours (over 4 semesters).
The program accepts students to begin the program in both Winter and Summer terms.

Our program develops clinicians who manage the care of patients and who participate in
system change. This is accomplished by identifying best practices for the psychiatric and
mental healthcare of the individual and family. Graduates will increase their contribution to
healthcare by applying the knowledge and skills developed in this program.

The program of study includes the Nurse Practitioner (NP) Core (separate courses in
advanced practice roles, advanced pathophysiology, advanced health assessment and
advanced pharmacology). The PMHNP specialty courses include content in advanced
psychopharmacology and the theory and practice of psychotherapeutic modalities. The
PMHNP Certificate program also contains content in health promotion, differential diagnosis,
disease management/prevention across the lifespan.
Applicants who are currently practicing in the NP role may submit transcripts and/or syllabi from the original NP program. Upon review, the university may waive DNP 630, DNP 656, DNP 654 and/or DNP 664. Contact us for more information.

Graduates of our certificate program are eligible to take the ANCC national certification exam for the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP, family). This program does not lead to a Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree.

As with the other nursing programs within the University, applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and hold a current unencumbered RN license in his/her state of residence. At least one year of clinical experience is preferred.

The *Population-Focused Nurse Practitioner Competencies* (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), 2013), the *Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs, 5th edition* (National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, 2016), and *The Essentials of Master’s Education in Nursing* (AACN, 2011) were used to frame the requirements of the PMHNP Certificate Program. The program of study includes courses in advanced psychopharmacology, and theory and practice of psychotherapeutic modalities. The PMHNPC program also contains content in health promotion, differential diagnosis, and disease management and prevention across the lifespan, as well as in selected settings and populations. Students complete 24 credit hours that include 540 clinical hours.

The PMHNP Certificate Program is committed to the development of the nursing professional who can:

- Assume a psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner role in a variety of health care settings;
- Assess, diagnose and manage common acute and chronic psychiatric and mental health care problems of individuals and families across the lifespan;
- Identify the epidemiologic roots of mental health problems affecting family/community systems;
- Evaluate the impact of environmental stressors on individual, family, and community mental health;
- Design and implement mental health promotion and psychiatric illness prevention strategies based on clinical evidence and best practice literature;
- Demonstrate analytical methodologies for the evaluation of clinical practice and the application of scientific evidence;
- Collaborate with interprofessional teams necessary to improve clinical care for select populations of clients and those in settings unique to mental health care.

Schedule and content subject to change.
## Program Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2019</td>
<td>PMH 682 Psychopharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DNP 630 Advanced Practice Roles†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DNP 656 Advanced Pathophysiology†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td>PMH 692 Psychotherapeutic Assessment &amp; Practice*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PMH 694 Specialty Focus I (Adults &amp; Older Adults) (180 clinical clock hours)*</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DNP 654 Advanced Health Assessment†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
<td>PMH 712 Specialty Focus II (Children, Adolescents, Families) (180 clinical clock hours)*</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DNP 664 Advanced Pharmacology I†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2020</td>
<td>PMH 734 Specialty Focus III (Setting &amp; Population Based Care) (180 clinical clock hours)*</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Required Credits:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Six-year deadline for program completion from start of program is January 7, 2025*

† NP Core courses

* Course includes pre-requisite and/or co-requisite requirement(s). Refer to course description below.
Course Descriptions

Nurse Practitioner Core Courses

DNP 630 Advanced Practice Roles (3 credits; Online)
This course will provide emphasis on the exploration of the advanced practice role as it relates to quality and delivery of health care in rapidly changing health care systems. Historical as well as current issues, which affect professional development including regulation of practice and professional responsibilities, will be included.

DNP 654 Advanced Health Assessment (3 credits; Online)
This course will focus on advanced physical assessment, communication and diagnostic reasoning skills for the advanced practice nurse to care for individuals and families across the lifespan. Skills obtained in this course will be used to analyze health and alterations in health for individuals and families and prepare the student for independent practice.

DNP 656 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credits; Online)
This course is a system-focused pathophysiology course that includes advanced concepts of functioning as it relates the family nurse practitioner’s ability to manage illness across the lifespan. Special attention will be given to advanced concepts that correlate with clinical decisions related to diagnosis and therapeutic management. Genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors will also be included as they relate to the epidemiology of disease.

DNP 664 Advanced Pharmacology I (3 credits; Online)
This course is designed to provide the comprehensive pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic understanding required by advanced practice nurses to safely and appropriately utilize pharmacotherapeutics. Students acquire the knowledge needed for the promotion of health and treatment of illnesses encountered in various settings, diverse populations, and across the lifespan. Pre-requisite: DNP 656

PMHNP Specialty Courses

PMH 682 Psychopharmacology (3 credits; Online)
In this course, students focus on prescribing and monitoring psychopharmaceutical and alternative therapeutic agents in conditions commonly encountered by the psychiatric/mental health advanced practice nurse. This course focuses on advanced concepts in neuroscience, pharmacogenomics, pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics in the integration of evidence-based prescribing, as well as ethical and legal aspects of pharmacotherapeutics.

PMH 692 Psychotherapeutic Assessment & Practice (3 credits)
This course explores the theoretical foundations of psychotherapy and therapeutic modalities, and strategies to implement evidence-based therapeutic modalities in advanced nursing mental health practice. Learning focuses on advanced psychiatric assessment including mental status exam and psychiatric history and the application of
theory-directed implementation and evaluation of individual, family, and group therapies across the lifespan and in multiple settings.

PMH 694  **Specialty Focus I (Adults & Older Adults)**  (6 credits)
Students will apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, psychopathophysiology, psychopharmacotherapeutics, and psychotherapy/therapeutic modalities in the recognition and management of acute and serious mental illness in clinical settings. The population of interest for this course is adult women and men and the older adult (65 plus years of age). Genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences will be considered as differential diagnosis and treatment plans are proposed. Laboratory findings, diagnostic studies will be integrated into the plan of care. The physical, ethical, legal and social aspects of providing mental health care to adults and aging adults will be explored.  *(180 clinical clock hours)*

PMH 712  **Specialty Focus II (Children, Adolescents, & Families)**  (6 credits)
Students will continue to apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, psychopathophysiology, psychopharmacotherapeutics, and psychotherapy/therapeutic modalities in recognition and management of acute and serious mental illness, and mental health, most often seen in the pediatric and adolescent population aged 0-18 years of age. Differential diagnoses and treatment plans will include genetic, age, gender, cultural influences and developmental milestones, as well as laboratory findings, and diagnostic studies. Strategies and interventions in education, family support, and facilitated family and group communication specific to mental health will be included.  *(180 clinical clock hours)*

PMH 734  **Specialty Focus III (Setting & Population-Based Care)**  (6 credits)
Students will develop and apply knowledge in the recognition & management of acute and serious mental illness to individuals, families, and groups in specific settings and populations. Settings include but are not limited to prisons, addiction and pain clinics, homes, and student health clinics. Populations include but are not limited to the marginalized or underserved, e.g., homeless, immigrant, refugee, and veteran populations. These settings and populations are unique to those experienced in previous clinical courses, giving the students exceptional experience in interprofessional communication and resource procurement, and a broad range of application of evidence-based practice in the most current and critical of acute and serious mental illness management.  *(180 Clinical Clock Hours)*

Schedule and content subject to change.
Faculty

Program Leadership
Stephanie Richardson, PhD, RN, FAHSE
Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Director
Nursing Department Chair
stephanie.richardson@rm.edu

Rebecca White, MSN, FPMHNP-BC, FNP-BC, NE
PMHNPC Track Director (Interim)
rebecca.white@rm.edu

Kristen Cox, DNP, ACNP-BC
Director of Clinical Education
kristen.cox@rm.edu

Kristina Davis, DNP, ENP-C, FNP-C, AGACNP-BC
Director of Clinical Education
kristina.davis@rm.edu

Megan O’Neil, DNP, RN, OCN
Director of Clinical Education, Pre-admission
megan.oneil@rm.edu

Faculty
Laura Anderson, DNP, WHNP-BC-CNM
laura.anderson@rm.edu

Kevin Ballard, DNP, FNP
kevin.ballard@rm.edu

Kelly Bitter, PMHNP, MS
kelly.bitter@rm.edu

Rhone D’Errico, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNPC-BC, ENP-C
rhone.derrico@rm.edu

Mark Hardy, PharmD
mark.hardy@rm.edu

Allyce Jones, DNP, MSN, PMHNP-BC, APRN, CNE, NCMP
allyce.jones@rm.edu

Timothy Legg, PhD, PsyD, MSN, PMHNP-BC, FAHCA
timothy.legg@rm.edu

Jason Nupdal, FNP-C, DNP, PMHNPC
jason.nupdal@rm.edu

Stacey Pfenning, DNP, APRN, FNP
stacey.pfenning@rm.edu

Rebecca White, MSN, FPMHNP-BC, FNP-BC, NE
rebecca.white@rm.edu