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 Winter, Summer, and Fall 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, and 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.
# Program Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summer 2020</strong></td>
<td>PMH 682 Psychopharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May 4-Aug. 21</strong></td>
<td>DNP 630 Advanced Practice Roles†</td>
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<td>DNP 656 Advanced Pathophysiology†</td>
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<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Semester 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall 2020</strong></td>
<td>PMH 692 Psychotherapeutic Assessment &amp; Practice*</td>
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<td><strong>Aug. 31-Dec 18</strong></td>
<td>PMH 694 Specialty Focus I Clinical (Adults &amp; Older Adults) <em>(180 clinical clock hours)</em></td>
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<td>PMH 695 Specialty Focus I Didactic (Adults &amp; Older Adults)</td>
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<td>DNP 654 Advanced Health Assessment†</td>
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<td><strong>Semester 3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Winter 2021</strong></td>
<td>PMH 712 Specialty Focus II Clinical (Children, Adolescents, Families) <em>(180 clinical clock hours)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Jan. 4-Apr. 23</strong></td>
<td>PMH 713 Specialty Focus II Didactic (Children, Adolescents, Families)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DNP 664 Advanced Pharmacology I†*</td>
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<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Semester 4</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Summer 2021</strong></td>
<td>PMH 734 Specialty Focus III Clinical (Setting &amp; Population Based Care) <em>(180 clinical clock hours)</em></td>
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<td><strong>May 3-Aug. 20</strong></td>
<td>PMH 735 Specialty Focus III Didactic (Setting &amp; Population Based Care)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Required Credits:</strong></td>
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*Six-year deadline for program completion from start of program is May 4, 2026*

† NP Core courses

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

Schedule and content subject to change.
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; Online)
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. Pre-requisite: PMH 682

**PMH 694  Specialty Focus I Clinical (Adults & Older Adults) (3 credits)**
This course is the clinical companion to PMH 695 (didactic). In clinical settings, 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. 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 and implemented. Laboratory findings, diagnostic studies will be integrated into the plan of care. The physical, ethical, and social aspects of providing mental health care to adults and aging adults will be incorporated into the plan of care. (180 clinical clock hours)

**PMH 695  Specialty Focus I Didactic (Adults & Older Adults) (3 credits)**
This course is the didactic companion to PMH 694 (clinical). Students will transfer knowledge of advanced health assessment, psychopathophysiology, psychopharmacotherapeutics, and psychotherapy/therapeutic modalities to the recognition and management of acute and serious mental illness. The population of interest for this course is adult women and men and the older adult (65 plus years of age). Topics will include the genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences on psychiatric and mental health of older adults, as well as laboratory findings and diagnostic studies. The physical, ethical, and social aspects of providing mental health care to adults and aging adults will be explored.

**PMH 712  Specialty Focus II Clinical (Children, Adolescents, & Families) (3 credits)**
This course is the clinical companion to PMH 713 (didactic). In clinical settings, 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 incorporated into the plan of care. (180 clinical clock hours)

**PMH 713  Specialty Focus II Didactic (Children, Adolescents, & Families) (3 credits)**
This course is the didactic companion to PMH 712 (clinical). 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. Topics 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.

PMH 734  Specialty Focus III Clinical (Setting & Population-Based Care)  
(3 credits)

This course is the clinical companion to PMH 735 (didactic). In clinical settings, 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 patient-care 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)

PMH 735  Specialty Focus III Didactic (Setting & Population-Based Care)  
(3 credits)

This course is the didactic companion to PMH 734 (clinical). 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 courses, and focus on a broad range of application of evidence-based practice in the most current and critical of acute and serious mental illness management.
Faculty

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