Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The Psychiatric-Mental Health track is designed to prepare nurse practitioners to promote and maintain health and to prevent, detect, and treat-acute and chronic mental illnesses. The program emphasizes the preparation of nurses for advanced practice roles in the care of individuals across the lifespan with acute or chronic mental health psychiatric deviations in a variety of practice settings. Underserved populations and rural service delivery needs are highlighted throughout the program. Particular emphasis is placed on the integration of neuro-biologic, psychosocial and psychiatric nursing knowledge in delivery of care to individuals experiencing schizophrenic spectrum disorders, depression related syndromes and psychogeriatric illnesses.

PROGRAM FORMAT
- 49 credits for MSN; 18-31 credits for a Certificate (for those with a MSN in a different specialty).
- 20 months full-time; or 32 months part-time (at 2 courses/term) for MSN
  - The Certificate program can be completed part-time in 12-21 months depending on the MSN specialization.
- Preceptored experience in student’s geographic area
  - 500 clinical hours for PMHNP MSN;
  - 250-500 clinical hours for PMHNP Certificate.
- PMH courses offered in Charlottesville on Thursdays and broadcast live on the internet; students at a distance can participate in specialty seminars. Note: there are only 6 spaces available per year for distance PMH students, so applicants are encouraged to apply well before the deadline.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
Students who complete the Master’s Degree program in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing are able to:
- Synthesize and apply theories, models, and research relating to psychiatric-mental health nursing;
- Integrate of neurobiologic, psychosocial and psychiatric nursing knowledge in advanced practice;
- Perform advanced psychiatric skills for individuals and families, including those experiencing serious and persistent mental illness, depression related syndromes, and/or psychogeriatric illnesses;
- Fill advanced practice roles to meet the mental health care needs of underserved and rural populations;
- Register for ANCC certification examinations as appropriate.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
Students must meet all admissions requirements, including the completion of a course in statistics (within the past five years). Applicants must have a BSN degree from an accredited institution and should have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Enrolled students must have a current RN license and be eligible for a RN license in Virginia.

International students must demonstrate ability in English and must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores. The deadline for international students is February 1.

Application deadline:
  Fall Semester November 1
Psychiatric-Mental Health PMHNP
Sample Program of Study
(MSN student, full-time option)

Fall Semester
- Biological Basis of Mental Health (3)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Seminar (3)
- Advanced Pathophysiology (4)
- Role I: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
- Role Acquisition (2)

Spring Semester
- Theoretical Foundations in Nursing (3)
- Theoretical Foundations of PMH (3)
- Advanced Pharmacology (4)
- Advanced Health Assessment (3)

Summer Session
- Health Promotion/Health Behavior Research (3)
- Health Policy: Local to Global (3)

Fall Semester
- Epidemiology & World Health (3)
- Research Processes & Biostatistics (4)
- Psych-Mental Health NP Practicum I (5)

Spring Semester
- Psych-Mental Health NP Practicum II (5)
- Role II: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
- Role Transition (1)

Certificate in Psychiatric-Mental Health NP
Sample Program of Study
(For those with MSN in Psychiatric-Mental Health)

Fall Semester
- Advanced Pathophysiology (4)
- Biological Basis in Mental Health (3)

Spring Semester
- Advanced Pharmacology (4)
- Advanced Health Assessment (3)

Summer Session
- Psychiatric-Mental Health NP Practicum (5)

Certificate in Psychiatric-Mental Health NP
Sample Program of Study
(For those with MSN in another specialty)

Fall Semester
- Biological Basis of Mental Health (3)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Seminar (3)
- Advanced Pathophysiology (4)

Spring Semester
- Advanced Health Assessment (3)
- Theoretical Foundations of PMH (3)

Summer Session
- Advanced Pharmacology (4)
- Health Promotion/Health Behavior Research (3)

Fall Semester
- Psych-Mental Health NP Practicum I (5)

Spring Semester
- Psych-Mental Health NP Practicum II (5)

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