

# Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Distance Accessible

## **What is an Family Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (PMH-NP)?**

The Family Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (PMH-NP) is prepared at the Master's level to be an advanced practice nurses. The PMH-NP works interdependently with other health professionals to provide primary mental health care to patients of all ages in communities. The focus of the class content and clinical experience is on health promotion through identification of health risks, education and counseling for development of health promoting lifestyles, identification and management of acute, episodic mental health problems, management of persistent mental illness, and appropriate and effective collaboration and referral.

Graduates are prepared to obtain and assess health history and physical examination data, order and interpret appropriate diagnostic tests, identify actual and potential health problems, and formulate with the client a comprehensive plan of therapeutic measures that promote, maintain, or restore health. This plan may include consultation with other health professionals or referral for treatment in a continuum of care.

Emphasis is placed on putting prevention into practice, involving clients and their families in decision making as self responsible health care consumers; education, and client follow-up to decrease health complications, economics of health care; and recognition of the importance of the community in psychiatric care.

## **Who employs PMH Nurse Practitioners?**

PMH-NPs are employed by physicians, mental health clinics, primary care clinics, general hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, state mental health departments, day treatments, partial hospitalization programs, long term care, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, and correctional settings to evaluate and treat patients with mental health concerns.

## **What are the classroom content and clinical requirements for the PMH-NP student?**

Content is distance accessible in all courses and provides the student with a strong advanced generalist base for caring for patients with common psychiatric disorders. Students will gain knowledge through experiences in working with interdisciplinary teams and in offering culturally responsive services to diverse populations. Practice settings vary, but are primarily community based. Students complete a minimum of 650 preceptor hours of clinical practice. Clinical experiences may be done with an approved nurse practitioner or physician in your home locality. Students come to the UAB campus for an intensive three day experiences and a final exam.

## **Who will serve as my preceptor in the clinical courses?**

Either a faculty-approved nurse practitioner or physician with appropriate credentials may serve as a preceptor. The preceptor may be someone identified by the student, the UAB faculty or an agency.

## **How long is the program of study?**

This PMH-NP program of study requires a minimum of 17 months (4 semesters) of full-time study. However, some students will choose to complete the program in 24 to 36 months (6-9 semesters) of part-time study.

## **Will I be eligible to take a nurse practitioner certification examination if I complete this program?**

Graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examinations for family psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

## How do I become eligible to practice as an NP in my state of residence?

The PMH-NP is licensed by the states in which they practice and are subject to the rules and regulations of that state's practice act. You will need to contact your state's board of nursing to learn their particular requirements.

## **What are the admission criteria?**

- BSN degree from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by the School of Nursing at UAB
- A grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale either cumulative or on the last 60 semester credit hours
- Letters of professional reference attesting to the applicant's potential for graduate study
- A minimum of 410 on the MAT, or a minimum of 480 on the GMAT or a combined score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)\*

\*An interview may be required. All students need to be prepared to schedule an interview.

**\*GRE, MAT, or GMAT is waived for students with a 3.2 or better GPA.** For complete details, please visit [http://www.uab.edu/images/sonimg/PDF/GREMAT\\_waiver.pdf](http://www.uab.edu/images/sonimg/PDF/GREMAT_waiver.pdf)

## If I do not meet the requirements, can I be admitted on probation?

No, probationary admission is not available to students who do not meet these requirements.

## When will I receive confirmation that I have been accepted into the program?

You will be notified by Email of your acceptance or denial within 30 days after the application submission deadline.

**For International Students: If your Visa status is F1 or J1, make an appointment with your course faculty by week 2 of each semester to plan how you will meet Federal Regulations.**

## What is a typical program of study like?

### **Fall – Year I**

NUR 600	Research and Statistics for Advanced Practice .....	4
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology .....	3
NUR 614	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Practice .....	4

### **Spring – Year I**

NPN 621	Advanced Psychiatric Nursing I.....	5
NPN 685	Practicum: Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner .....	3
NUR 613	Pharmacology and Therapeutics.....	3

### **Summer – Year I**

NPN 622	Advanced Psychiatric Nursing II.....	4
NPN 686	Practicum II: Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner .....	3
NUR 601	Role Development in Advanced Nursing Practice .....	3

### **Fall – Year II**

NPN 692	Residency: PMH Nurse Practitioner.....	6
NUR 602	Issues Affecting Advanced Nursing Practice .....	3

Total:..... 41 credits

### **Where can I get more information?**

Internet website: <http://www.uab.edu/son>

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### **For More Information About the Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Distance Accessible Program**

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