

NURSE PRACTITIONER PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL HEALTH PRIMARY CARE

Distance Accessible

What is a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMH-NP)?

The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMH-NP) is prepared at the Master's level to be an advanced practice nurse. 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.

The PMH-NP is 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. Clinical emphasis is on promoting self-care through prevention and recovery to decrease health complications by involving both the patient and the families in clinical decisions.

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 kind of experience do I need prior to entering the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialty Track?

There are no requirements for clinical experience prior to admission to the program. However, faculty strongly encourage students admitted to the psychiatric nurse practitioner specialty track to have at least one year of professional nursing experience in an area of psychiatry. Your program of study can be planned so that you gain the required experience while taking prerequisite courses. Before beginning clinical courses, students must verify professional nurse licensure by the board(s) of nursing in the state(s) in which they will contract for clinical preceptorships.

What are the admission criteria?

- A nursing degree (BSN or higher) from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to the one offered by UAB School of Nursing
- Possess an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum
- An undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale either cumulatively or on the last 60 semester credit hours
- (3) Letters of professional reference attesting to the applicant's potential for graduate study
- Standardized test score (MAT, GRE, GMAT)* A minimum score of 410 on the MAT; or a minimum score of 480 on the GMAT; or a combined score of 297 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Additional – Selected options may require experience prior to enrollment in a specialty courses.

* GRE/GMAT/MAT Waiver Process: https://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/images/stories/info_sa/GRE_MAT_Waiver.pdf Approval for the GRE/GMAT/MAT Waiver does not imply or guarantee admission to the MSN program. When all of your transcripts are evaluated, if you do not meet the requirements, you will be notified that you need to take the GRE/GMAT/MAT. Candidates not approved for the GRE/GMAT/MAT waiver will be required to take the GRE/GMAT/MAT before final action on their application for master's study. The School of Nursing at UAB must receive the official score by the posted materials deadline. Applicants for the GRE/GMAT/MAT waiver must meet the same requirements for admission to the MSN program as all other applicants.

*****The following individuals are not eligible for the GRE waiver process:**

- International applicants
- Non-Native English speaking applicants
- Dual degree seeking program applicants MSN/MPH

For International Students:

- This program is distance-accessible and therefore ***not*** eligible for applicants who plan to enter the US in F-1 or J-1 student status.
- If you plan to enroll in the MSN program in an immigration status other than F or J, please email International Student & Scholar Services at iss@uab.edu for confirmation of your eligibility for the program.
- All foreign transcripts evaluated by the Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc www.ece.org OR the World Education Services www.wes.org, sent from the evaluators directly to the School of Nursing
- A degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited educational institution in the United States
- A score of 500 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, TOEFL
- Standardized test score. A minimum combined score of 297 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- Possess an unencumbered nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum

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

You will be notified of your acceptance or denial within 60 days after the application submission deadline.

What are the classroom and clinical requirements:

Total credit hours: 45 hours; didactic hours: 32; clinical hours: 13; total hours of direct patient care: 600

Descriptive narrative: Didactic content is provided in 3 specialty courses and provides the student with a strong advanced primary care base for caring for patients with common psychiatric/mental health problems. Clinical experiences in a variety of primary care and specialty clinic settings offer extensive preparation for the advanced practice role. Students are required to visit the campus in Birmingham, AL for orientation and three multiday intensives, and students must pass a comprehensive examination in order to graduate. Should academic problems arise, an additional on-campus visit may be required.

How many semesters are required in the Psychiatric-Mental Health NP specialty track?

Students who start course work in the summer semester will take seven semesters to complete the program. Students starting in the fall semester will take six semesters to complete the program. The programs of study are listed below.

Distance Accessibility

Applicants to any of our distance-accessible programs should become familiar with the regulations governing distance accessible programs in their state. Prospective students residing in states other than Alabama should contact their state’s Board of Nursing and Department of Education for specific rules and regulations pertaining to completion of clinical learning experiences in that state when enrolled in a distance accessible program. The ability to conduct course work is only guaranteed for student is Alabama and in states with an established agreement.

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

Once you successfully complete the program, you will be awarded a Master of Science in Nursing degree and be eligible to take the national certification examination for 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 state in which practice occurs and is 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 is a typical program of study like?

Program of Study Options

Coursework

NUR 604	Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice Roles.....	3
NUR 606	Translating Evidence into Practice	3
NUR 610	Health Care Systems for Adv. Nursing Practice	3
NUR 612	Advanced Pathophysiology.....	3
NUR 613	Pharmacology and Therapeutics	3
NUR 614	Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing Practice.....	3
NPN 618	Focus on Adv. Nursing Practice Specialization	3
NPN 621	Advanced Psychiatric Nursing I	5
NPN 685	Practicum I: Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner	3
NPN 622	Advanced Psychiatric Nursing II	5
NPN 686	Practicum II: Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner	3
NPN 623	Advanced Psychiatric Nursing III	4
NPN 692	Residency: Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner.....	4
	Total	45 credits

Summer	Fall
<u>Summer Year 1</u>	<u>Fall Year 1</u>
NUR 604	NUR 604
NUR 612	NUR 612
<u>Fall Year 1</u>	<u>Spring Year 1</u>
NUR 606	NUR 606
NUR 613	NUR 613
<u>Spring Year 1</u>	<u>Summer Year 1</u>
Leave of absence	NUR 610
<u>Summer Year 2</u>	NUR 614
NUR 610	NPN 618
NUR 614	<u>Fall Year 2</u>
NPN 618	NPN 621
<u>Fall Year 2</u>	NPN 685
NPN 621	<u>Spring Year 2</u>
NPN 685	NPN 622
<u>Spring Year 2</u>	NPN 686
NPN 622	<u>Summer Year 2</u>
NPN 686	NPN 623
<u>Summer Year 3</u>	NPN 692
NPN 623	
NPN 692	

Where can I get more information?

Internet website: <https://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/>

General information about the application process

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For More Information About the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track

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