

Psychiatric-Mental Health

Clinical Nurse Specialist or Nurse Practitioner

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Psychiatric-Mental Health track is designed to prepare advance practice nurses 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 adults 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 neurobiologic, psychosocial and psychiatric nursing knowledge in delivery of care to individuals experiencing schizophrenic spectrum disorders, depression related syndromes and psychogeriatric illnesses.

Programs of study offer flexibility based on your career goals, previous education and experience. Two program tracks are available at the MSN level: Clinical Nurse Specialist MSN or Psychiatric-Mental Health NP. At the Post-Master's level, you can be prepared to be a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) or a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). The CNS program at the University of Virginia is ranked #5 in the country by US News & World Report.

PROGRAM FORMAT

- 49 credits for MSN; 18-31 credits for a Post-Master's certificate
 - Students who complete the MSN with a CNS focus can then complete the Post-Masters PMHNP with 1 additional 4-credit class. These students are thus eligible for dual certification.
- 20 months fulltime; or 32 months parttime (at 2 courses/term) for MSN
 - Post-Master's programs can be completed part-time in 12-20 months
- Preceptored experience in student's geographic area
 - 500 clinical hours for CNS or PMHNP MSN;
 - 250 clinical hours for Post-Master's PMHNP
- PMH courses are offered in Charlottesville on Thursdays and broadcast live on the internet; students at a distance can participate in specialty seminars.

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 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, unencumbered RN license. Prior work experience as a RN is not required; new BSN grads may enroll as part-time students.

Full-time students should start their studies in the Fall; part-time students may begin any term.

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

Application deadlines:

Fall Semester	April 1
Summer Term	April 1
Spring Semester	November 1



Psychiatric-Mental Health CNS

Sample Program of Study

(MSN student, full-time option)

Fall Semester

Biological Basis of Mental Health (3)
Psychiatric Mental Health Seminar (3)
Pathophysiology (4)
Advanced Practice Role I: Acquisition (2)

Spring Semester

Theoretical Foundations in Nursing (3)
Theoretical Foundations of PMH (3)
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 Practicum I (5)

Spring Semester

Psych-Mental Health Practicum II (5)
Advanced Practice Role II: Transition (1)

Post-Master's Psychiatric-Mental Health NP

Sample Program of Study

(Post-Master's student for those with MSN in Psychiatric-Mental Health)

Fall Semester

Pathophysiology (4)
Biological Basis in Mental Health (3)

Spring Semester

Pharmacology (4)
Advanced Health Assessment (3)

Summer Session

Psychiatric-Mental Health NP Practicum (5)

Post-Master's Psychiatric-Mental Health NP

Sample Program of Study

(Post-Master's student for those with MSN in another specialty)

Fall Semester

Biological Basis of Mental Health (3)
Psychiatric Mental Health Seminar (3)
Pathophysiology (4)

Spring Semester

Advanced Health Assessment (3)
Theoretical Foundations of PMH (3)

Summer Session

Pharmacology (4)
Health Promotion/Health Behavior Research (3)

Fall Semester

Psych-Mental Health Practicum I (5)

Spring Semester

Psych-Mental Health Practicum II (5)