

ELM-MSN: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Specialty

This specialty master's program (<https://www.apu.edu/nursing/programs/entry-level-masters-in-nursing/>) prepares students for roles as psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners for clients with psychiatric and mental health problems across the lifespan. Students learn to work respectfully and collaboratively with clients/consumers who are experiencing severe or chronic mental illnesses to determine biopsychosocial healthcare needs within a complex and changing environment. Theory and clinical coursework focuses on assessment; differential diagnosis and disease management; intervention planning; individual, family, and group psychotherapy; health promotion; and disease prevention. Mental-health-related policy, and the application of research and evidence-based practice, informs the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner.

The inherent equality and worthiness of those who are vulnerable and disenfranchised; the role of spirituality; the value of diversity; and the ability to engender hope, empowerment, self-responsibility, and a meaningful role in life are threaded throughout the program. Graduates are eligible to apply to the California Board of Registered Nursing for certification as a nurse practitioner, and may apply for national PMHNP certification through examination.

Contact the School of Nursing (<https://www.apu.edu/nursing/>) for specific program availability and locations. Prelicensure coursework (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/school-nursing/graduate-nursing-programs/entry-level-masters/elm-msn/>) must be completed prior to beginning advanced practice nursing coursework.

Requirements

| Code | Title | Units |
|--|---|--------------|
| Academic Core Courses | | 10 |
| GNRS 506 | Spiritual Concept Analysis in Health Care | 3 |
| GNRS and/or GSPH XXX Electives | | 7 |
| Academic and Advanced Practice Core Courses | | 14 |
| GNRS 510 | Family Theory in Health Care | 2 |
| GNRS 513 | Advanced Nursing Practice Role | 2 |
| GNRS 610 | Advanced Pathophysiology | 3 |
| GNRS 611 | Advanced Pharmacology | 3 |
| GNRS 612 | Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning ¹ | 4 (3/1) |
| Advanced Practice Specialty Courses | | 29 |
| GNRS 533 | Psychiatric Theories across the Life Span | 2 |
| GNRS 534 | Integrated Psychiatric and Health Assessment across the Life Span | 2 |
| GNRS 535 | Psychiatric Interventions and Health Promotion across the Life Span | 6 (3/3) |
| GNRS 536 | Psychiatric Mental Health Care with Adults and Older Adults | 6 (3/3) |
| GNRS 537 | Psychiatric Mental Health Care with Children and Adolescents | 6 (3/3) |
| GNRS 538 | Psychiatric Mental Health Care with Selected Populations | 5 (2/3) |
| GNRS 539 | Psychopharmacology | 2 |
| Concluding Course(s) | | 1-3 |
| GNRS 597 | Comprehensive Examination Directed Study | 1 |
| - or - | | |
| GNRS 598 & GNRS 514 | Thesis and Research Proposal Writing | 3 |
| Total Units | | 54-56 |

¹ Units in parentheses are classroom/clinical units.

Admission

University graduate admission and program-specific requirements must be met before an application is complete (see Admission to the University (<http://catalog.apu.edu/admissions/>)). **Program-specific application requirements are available online (<https://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/apply/>).**

International students should contact Graduate and Professional Admissions (<https://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/apply/>) for application procedures.