

Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program, post-graduate

Cohort: FNPC-PMHNPC 15



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Program Description

The Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate (FNPC) Program/Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program (PMHNPC) (Post-Master's) was developed for registered nurses with a master's (or higher) degree in nursing or a health-related specialty who wish to expand their nursing practice to the role as an FNP/PMHNP. The FNPC/PMHNPC program develops clinicians who can manage care and participate in system change through identification of best practice in the care of the family as well as clinicians who can manage care and participate in system change through identification of best practice in primary care and psychiatric settings across the lifespan. Graduates of this program will increase their contribution to healthcare through the knowledge and skills developed in this program.

This program is a five-semester, 57 credit, primarily-online post-master's certificate program designed to allow students to continue to work as nurses in their communities while attending school and completing 1080 clinical contact hours (540 FNP, 540 PMHNP).

Academic Model. The curriculum blends asynchronous online delivery with a requirement that students visit the Utah campus for one week during the three semesters when they are in FNP clinical courses for skills acquisition and skills mastery.

The Population-Focused Nurse Practitioner Competencies (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), 2013), the Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs, 5th edition (National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, 2016), and The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing (AACN, 2011) were used to frame the requirements of the FNPC/PMHNPC Program. The FNPC program of study includes courses in advanced physical assessment, advanced pharmacology, and advanced pathophysiology. The program also includes content in health promotion and disease prevention, and differential diagnosis and disease management. The program of study also includes courses in care of individuals with cardiovascular, pulmonary, infectious disease, immunology, integumentary, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal, psychiatric, environmental, toxicology, traumatic, renal, genitourinary, reproductive health, endocrine, neurological, and head, eye, ear, nose, and throat presentations. The PMHNPC program of study includes courses in advanced psychopharmacology, and theory and practice of psychotherapeutic modalities. The PMHNPC program also contains content in health promotion, differential diagnosis, and disease management and prevention across the lifespan, as well as in selected settings and populations.

Successful graduates are eligible to sit for the Family Nurse Practitioner certification exam offered by either the American Association of Nurse Practitioner (AANP) or the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This program does not lead to a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

The FNP portion of the FNPC/PMHNPC program is committed to the development of the nursing professional who can:

1. Assume a family nurse practitioner role in a variety of health care settings
2. Assess, diagnose and manage common acute and chronic primary health care problems of individuals and families
3. Identify the epidemiologic roots of health problems affecting family/community systems
4. Evaluate the impact of environmental stressors on individual, family and community health
5. Design and implement health promotion and illness prevention strategies based on clinical evidence and best practice literature
6. Demonstrate analytical methodologies for the evaluation of clinical practice and the application of scientific evidence
7. Collaborate with interprofessional teams necessary to improve clinical care for populations of clients

The PMHNP portion of the FNPC/PMHNPC is committed to the development of the nursing professional who can:

1. Assume a psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner role in a variety of health care settings;

2. Assess, diagnose and manage common acute and chronic psychiatric and mental health care problems of individuals and families across the lifespan;
3. Identify the epidemiologic roots of mental health problems affecting family/community system.
4. Evaluate the impact of environmental stressors on individual, family, and community mental health;
5. Design and implement mental health promotion and psychiatric illness prevention strategies based on clinical evidence and best practice literature;
6. Demonstrate analytical methodologies for the evaluation of clinical practice and the application of scientific evidence;
7. Collaborate with interprofessional teams necessary to improve clinical care for select populations of clients and those in settings unique to mental health care.

Admissions Requirements:

- A master's (or higher) degree in nursing from an accredited institution (or foreign equivalent)
- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- At least one year of clinical experience is preferred
- An applicant must hold a current unencumbered RN license in her/her state of residence

Applicants who are currently practicing in the NP role may submit transcripts and/or syllabi from the original NP program. Upon review, the university may waive NUR 635, NUR 656, NUR 654, and/or NUR 740. Contact us for more information.

Program Outline

Course Code & Title	Credits
Nurse Practitioner Core Courses (4 courses, 12 credits required):	
NUR 635 Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 656 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 654 Advanced Health Assessment	3
NUR 740 Roles, Leadership, & Ethics	3
Nurse Practitioner Required Credits:	12
Family Nurse Practitioner Courses (6 courses, 18 credits/540 clinical clock hours required):	
FNP 710 FNP Practicum I: Primary Care & Prevention (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3
FNP 711 FNP Focus I: Primary Care & Prevention (Didactic)	3
FNP 720 FNP Practicum II: Adult & Geriatric (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3
FNP 721 FNP Focus II: Adult & Geriatrics (Didactic)	3
FNP 730 FNP Practicum III: Women & Children (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3
FNP 731 FNP Focus III: Women & Children (Didactic)	3
FNP Required Credits:	18
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Courses (9 courses, 27 credits/540 clinical clock hours required):	
PMH 650 Assessment & Diagnosis of Psychiatric Disorders Across the Lifespan	3
PMH 660 Psychotherapy Across the Lifespan	3
PMH 682 Psychopharmacology	3
PMH 708 PMHNP Practicum I: Adults & Older Adults (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3
PMH 709 PMHNP Focus I: Adults & Older Adults (Didactic)	3
PMH 718 PMHNP Practicum II: Children, Adolescents, Families (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3
PMH 719 PMHNP Focus II: Children, Adolescents, Families (Didactic)	3
PMH 728 PMHNP Practicum III: Setting & Population Based Care (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3
PMH 729 PMHNP Focus III: Setting & Population Based Care (Didactic)	3
PMHNP Required Credits:	27
Total Program Required Credits:	57

Program Calendar

(Semesters in **Blue** include required on-site class sessions)

Semester	Course	Credits	On-site Dates	
Semester 1 Summer 2026	NUR 635 Advanced Pharmacology	3		
	NUR 654 Advanced Health Assessment	3		
	NUR 656 Advanced Pathophysiology	3		
	PMH 650 Assessment & Diagnosis of Psychiatric Disorders Across the Lifespan	3		
	Semester Totals:		12	Online Only
Semester 2 Fall 2026	FNP 710 FNP Practicum I: Primary Care & Prevention (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3	3 days on-site	
	FNP 711 FNP Focus I: Primary Care & Prevention (Didactic)	3		
	PMH 660 Psychotherapy Across the Lifespan	3		
	PMH 682 Psychopharmacology	3		
	Semester Totals:		12	TBD
Semester 3 Winter 2027	FNP 730 FNP Practicum III: Women & Children (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3	3 days on-site	
	FNP 731 FNP Focus III: Women & Children (Didactic)	3		
	PMH 708 PMHNP Practicum I: Adults & Older Adults (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)**	3		
	PMH 709 PMHNP Focus I: Adults & Older Adults (Didactic)	3		
	Semester Totals:		12	TBD
Semester 4 Summer 2027	FNP 720 FNP Practicum II: Adult & Geriatric (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)	3	3 days on-site	
	FNP 721 FNP Focus II: Adult & Geriatrics (Didactic)	3		
	PMH 718 PMHNP Practicum II: Children, Adolescents, Families (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)**	3		
	PMH 719 PMHNP Focus II: Children, Adolescents, Families (Didactic)	3		
	Semester Totals:		12	TBD
	Semester Totals:		12	TBD
Semester 5 Fall 2027	NUR 740 Roles, Leadership, & Ethics	3		
	PMH 728 PMHNP Practicum III: Setting & Population Based Care (Clinical) (180 clinical clock hours)**	3		
	PMH 729 PMHNP Focus III: Setting & Population Based Care (Didactic)	3		
	Semester Total:		9	Online Only
Total Program Required Credits:		57		
<i>Four-year deadline for program completion from start of program.</i>				

**Course includes pre-requisite and/or co-requisite requirement(s). Refer to course description below.

Course Descriptions

Nurse Practitioner Core Courses

NUR 635 Advanced Pharmacology (3 credits; Online)

This course is designed to provide the advanced practice nurse with evidence-based knowledge for the safe and appropriate pharmacotherapy in various settings and for diverse populations across the lifespan. Basic and advanced pharmacology principles will be applied to the prescribing and monitoring of agents/drugs utilized in health promotion and the treatment of conditions commonly encountered, including client education and legal and ethical considerations.

NUR 654 Advanced Health Assessment (3 credits; Online)

The course will focus on advanced physical assessment, communication, and diagnostic reasoning skills for the advanced practice nurse to care for individuals and families across the lifespan. Skills obtained in this course will be used to analyze health and alterations in health for individuals and families and prepare the student for independent practice.

NUR 656 Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credits; Online)

This course is a system-focused pathophysiology course that includes advanced concepts of functioning as it relates the family nurse practitioner's ability to manage illness across the lifespan. Special attention will be given to advanced concepts that correlate with clinical decisions related to diagnosis and therapeutic management. Genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors will also be included as they relate to the epidemiology of disease.

NUR 740 Roles, Leadership, & Ethics (3 credits; Online)

This course examines principles of leadership and role development of the advanced practice nurse and incorporates ethical decision-making, interprofessional collaboration, and navigating evidence-based system changes. The exploration of leadership models, styles, strategies, and roles will provide a foundation for establishing professional leadership goals. Examining practice regulations; professionalism and ethical practices; and interprofessional collaborations will provide a multi-dimensional view of the role and contributions of the advanced practice nurse to safe, high-quality, and cost-effective healthcare.

FNP Courses

FNP 710 FNP Practicum I: Primary Care & Prevention (Clinical) (3 credits; 3 days on-site)

This course is the first clinical practicum in a series of three practicum courses in the FNP Program that prepares the student for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. The three practicum courses should show patient interactions across the lifespan including pediatrics, adult, geriatrics and women's health. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan

with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner. (180 clinical clock hours) *Pre-requisites: NUR 635, NUR 654, NUR 656*

FNP 711 FNP Focus I: Primary Care & Prevention (Didactic) (3 credits; Online)

This course is the first clinical didactic in a series of three clinical didactic courses in the FNP Program that prepares the student for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. The three didactic courses will include lifespan care including pediatrics, adult, geriatrics and women's health. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner.

FNP 720 FNP Practicum II: Adult & Geriatrics (Clinical) (3 credits; 3 days on-site)

This course is the second of three practicum courses in the FNP Program that prepares the student for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. The three practicum courses should show patient interactions across the lifespan including pediatrics, adult, geriatrics and women's health. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner. (180 clinical clock hours) *Pre-requisites: NUR 635, NUR 654, NUR 656*

FNP 721 FNP Focus II: Adult & Geriatrics (Didactic) (3 credits; Online)

This course is the second clinical didactic in a series of three clinical didactic courses in the FNP Program that prepares the student for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. The three didactic courses will include lifespan care including pediatrics, adult, geriatrics and women's health. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner.

FNP 730 FNP Practicum III: Women & Children (Clinical) (3 credits; 3 days on-site)

This course is the third practicum course in the FNP Program that prepares students for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner. (180 clinical clock hours) *Pre-requisites: NUR 635, NUR 654, NUR 656*

FNP 731 FNP Focus III: Women & Children (Didactic) (3 credits; Online)

This course is the third clinical didactic in a series of three clinical didactic courses in the FNP Program that prepares the student for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. The three didactic courses will include lifespan care including pediatrics, adult, geriatrics and women's health. Students will further their skill development in the

recognition and management of acute and serious mental illness. The population of interest for this course is adult women and men and the older adult (65 plus years of age). Topics will include the genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences on psychiatric and mental health of older adults, as well as laboratory findings and diagnostic studies. The physical, ethical, and social aspects of providing mental health care to adults and aging adults will be explored.

PMH 718 PMHNP Practicum II: Children, Adolescents, & Families (Clinical) (3 credits; Online)

This course is the clinical companion to PMH 719 (didactic). In clinical settings, students will continue to apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, psychopathophysiology, psychopharmacotherapeutics, and psychotherapy/therapeutic modalities in recognition and management of acute and serious mental illness, and mental health, most often seen in the pediatric and adolescent population aged 0-18 years of age. Differential diagnoses and treatment plans will include genetic, age, gender, cultural influences and developmental milestones, as well as laboratory findings, and diagnostic studies. Strategies and interventions in education, family support, and facilitated family and group communication specific to mental health will be incorporated into the plan of care. (180 clinical clock hours)
Prerequisites: PMH 650, PMH 682, PMH 708

PMH 719 PMHNP Focus II: Children, Adolescents, & Families (Didactic) (3 credits; Online)

This course is the didactic companion to PMH 718 (clinical). Students will continue to apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, psychopathophysiology, psychopharmacotherapeutics, and psychotherapy/therapeutic modalities in recognition and management of acute and serious mental illness, and mental health, most often seen in the pediatric and adolescent population aged 0-18 years of age. Topics will include genetic, age, gender, cultural influences and developmental milestones, as well as laboratory findings, and diagnostic studies. Strategies and interventions in education, family support, and facilitated family and group communication specific to mental health will be included.
Prerequisites: PMH 709

PMH 728 PMHNP Practicum III: Setting & Population Based Care (Clinical) (3 credits; Online)

This course is the clinical companion to PMH 729 (didactic). In clinical settings, students will develop and apply knowledge in the recognition & management of acute and serious mental illness to individuals, families, and groups in specific settings and populations. Settings include but are not limited to prisons, addiction and pain clinics, homes, and student health clinics. Populations include but are not limited to the marginalized or underserved, e.g., homeless, immigrant, refugee, and veteran populations. These settings and populations are unique to those experienced in previous clinical courses, giving the students exceptional patient-care experience in interprofessional communication and resource procurement, and a broad range of application of evidence-based practice in the most current and critical of acute and serious mental illness management. (180 clinical clock hours)
Prerequisites: PMH 650, PMH 682, PMH 708, PMH 718

PMH 729 PMHNP Focus III: Setting & Population Based Care (3 credits; Online)

This course is the didactic companion to PMH 728 (clinical). Students will develop and apply knowledge in the recognition & management of acute and serious mental illness to individuals, families, and groups in specific settings and populations. Settings include but are not limited to prisons, addiction and pain clinics, homes, and student health clinics. Populations include but are not limited to the marginalized or underserved, e.g., homeless, immigrant, refugee, and veteran populations. These settings and populations are unique to those experienced in previous courses, and focus on a broad range of application of evidence-based practice in the most current and critical of acute and serious mental illness management. *Prerequisites: PMH 709*