

**Master of Science (MS) in Nursing
Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration**

Program Description

The psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner practice includes independent and interdependent decision making and has direct accountability for clinical judgments made. Within this role there is emphasis on differential diagnosis and management of psychiatric and mental health disorders, including the differential diagnosis of medical disorders with psychiatric symptoms, medication management, psychotherapeutic interventions, participation in the use of evidence based research, development and implementation of health policy, leadership, education, case management, and consultation.

The University of Illinois College of Nursing offers one of the most respected programs in advanced practice psychiatric-mental health nursing in the United States. The curriculum has a biopsychosocial orientation, addressing mental illness as a biological event, as a personal experience, and as a social and cultural phenomenon. Students can tailor their clinical practicum to work within the adult program or life span family program.

All students in adult psychiatric/mental health nursing complete a series of core mental health specialty courses that have a life span focus and include:

- current theories of psychiatric illness and health promotion and disease prevention
- advanced health assessment and psychiatric assessment
- advanced practice pharmacology and psychopharmacology
- advanced pathophysiology
- psychosocial and psychotherapeutic treatment modalities of group, family and individual or child therapies including techniques for problem resolution, symptom management, relapse prevention, and psychiatric rehabilitation.

Clinical experiences allow students to meet highly individualized learning objectives in a variety of mental health settings. These span the range of community mental health and substance abuse treatment services for children and adults. Recent graduates are practicing in institutions of higher education, hospital settings, community mental health centers, psychiatric home-care programs, and forensic mental health programs or with community based intensive case management teams.

Students who complete the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program are qualified to sit for either the Adult Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner or the Family Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner certification examination from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

Degree Requirements

Course #	Course Title	SH
Core Courses		
NURS 525	Intermediate Statistics	3
NURS 526	Nursing Inquiry I	2
NURS 527	Nursing Inquiry II	2
NURS 528	Health, Environment, and Systems	2
NURS 529	Issues in Advanced Practice in Nursing	1
NURS 531	Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice in Nursing	3
NURS 532	Comprehensive Health Assessment for Advanced Practice	2
NURS 533	Applied Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice in Nursing	1
NURS 535	Biological Basis of Disease	4
NURS 550	Evidence-Based Practice or	3
NURS 597	Master's Project or	3
NURS 598	Master's Thesis	5
Concentration Specialty Courses		
NUSP 525	Group Dynamics, Behavior and Intervention	3
NUSP 526	Development, Behavioral Health and Interventions with Youth	3
NUSP 527	Behavioral Health Care I	3
NUSP 528	Behavioral Health Care II	3
NUSP 529	Family Behavioral Health	2
NUPR 531	Clinical Practicum in Behavioral Health I	5
NUPR 532	Clinical Practicum in Behavioral Health II	5
NUPR 533	Clinical Practicum in Behavioral Health III	5
Total Degree Hours		52-54

Clinical credit hrs:	15	Clinical clock hrs:	675
Didactic credit hrs:	36	Didactic clock hrs:	540
Lab credit hrs:	1	Lab clock hrs:	30