

# Master of Science in Nursing: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner



SHENANDOAH<sup>®</sup>  
UNIVERSITY

Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing

A synchronous online, part-time, seven semester professional degree program (46 credits)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program consists of didactic and clinical course content essential to providing differential diagnosis, health promotion, psychotropic medication management and psychotherapy services across the lifespan in both hospital and community settings. Upon successful completion of the program, the student will be eligible to take the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) examination.

## PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

- A bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) from a CCNE or an ACEN accredited institution. Recommended 3.0 cumulative GPA.
  - Students whose prior degrees are from non-CCNE accredited schools, must have successful demonstration of AACN level 1 competencies (required by CCNE Accreditation) through Gap Analysis, Syllabi review, Independent Study and/or other observational method.
- Applicants must have completed or will complete the following prerequisite course requirements prior to enrolling at Shenandoah:
  - Undergraduate Health Assessment, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology courses. Recommended grade of "B" or better.
  - Undergraduate Statistics course with a grade of "C" or better.
  - Undergraduate Chemistry course with grade of "C" or better.

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate Application with \$30 application fee.
- Unofficial transcripts from all institutions for initial admission
- Unencumbered RN license (*multi-state preferred*) in state of residence.
- Current resume/C.V.
- [Documentation of one year of direct patient care](#) prior to specialty courses
- Essay (250-500 words): Why are you choosing to pursue the PMHNP role?
- Three letters of recommendation
  - One from previous faculty (if graduated in the last five years)
  - Two professional references to attest to clinical experience
- Language proficiency must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details: <https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students>
- A recorded video introduction/interview will be required.

*If admitted, the admission will be provisional until the completion of all required health records, documentation of up-to-date required immunizations, completion and acceptable Criminal Background Check and a negative urine drug screen. Proof of a valid CPR certification from AHA is also a requirement for admission.*

*For international students who require a visa, due to limited on-campus hours, F-1 visas are not issued for this program.*

## ADMISSION & APPLICATION

### Start Term

Fall (August)

### Admission Deadline

Priority: February 15

Final: April 15

*Applications are reviewed continuously starting in January until the cohort is full.*

### Format/Location

Synchronous online courses meet one day each week.

*One immersion will be required as part of the PMHNP Program.*

*The immersion will occur at the Winchester SU Campus.*

### How to Apply

Begin the online application process by going to [www.su.edu/sonapp](http://www.su.edu/sonapp)

### Foreign Transcripts

International transcript evaluation by an accredited agency is an admission requirement. Approved services are listed at [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org) and <http://aice-eval.org/>.

### Transfer Credits

A maximum of two courses with a grade of "B" or better are transferable. Upon admission, courses may be submitted for review and approval by the Program Director.

### Contact Us

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Practitioner Program  
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Office of Financial Aid  
<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/>  
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Dr. Paula Allocca  
Assistant Professor  
Director, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse  
Practitioner Program



Shenandoah University's baccalaureate degree in nursing, master's degree in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice and post-graduate APRN certificates are accredited by:

Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

655 K Street NW  
Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 887-6791

## CURRICULUM

The degree requirement is 46 total credit hours. Clinical practicum is approximately 600 clock hours.

Courses	Credits
Advanced Practice Roles, Ethics & Policy	3
Advanced Concepts in Physiology & Pathophysiology	3
Introduction to Graduate Writing	1
Advanced Pharmacology & Therapeutics	3
Advanced Health Promotion & Assessment Across Lifespan	4
Data Interpretation & Informatics	2
Behavioral Neuroscience & Psychopharmacology	3
Foundations of Psychotherapy	3
Management of PMH: Adult	2
Management of PMH: Clinical Practicum I (180 Clinical Hours)	3
Management of PMH: Geriatric	2
Management of PMH: Child & Adolescent	2
Management of PMH: Practicum II (180 Clinical Hours)	3
Research & Evidence-Based Research	4
Management of Complex Mental Health Across the Lifespan	2
Transition to APRN Practice	2
Management of PMH: Clinical Practicum III (240 Clinical Hours)	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>

## ABOUT THE ELEANOR WADE CUSTER SCHOOL OF NURSING

Graduate programs in the [Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing](#) are challenging, but the rewards of completing your degree are many. We are committed to providing an outstanding education to nurses at all levels. Our programs are dynamic and responsive to the needs of our students and the health care industry.

The curricula for the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Graduate Certificates, and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs combine important knowledge and skills with a friendly and caring spirit. Students share diverse backgrounds and professional experiences with seasoned teaching faculty and clinical preceptors, who contribute to robust classroom discussions and enrich clinical interactions. Our goal is to prepare and challenge you for that next step in your professional career.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Review our full FAQ section [on our program page](#).

- **How long will it take to complete the program?**  
MSN students typically graduate in seven semesters (including summers).
- **How does Shenandoah help with clinical placements?**  
Clinical placement is a collaborative process between the student and the faculty. We try to customize the clinical experience to your needs and wants as much as possible. We have current articulation agreements with several sites but will also look at starting up new contracts with sites if you have a relationship with them already.
- **Do applicants need a Virginia RN license?**  
You will need a license in the state where you will practice your clinicals. A multi-state license is recommended if possible.