

Psych-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program

FAQ for First-Time Masters

1. When do you admit students? We admit in the spring to start in the fall semester. **However, suppose you are not ready to apply for our degree-seeking program. In that case, you can apply to the Non-degree option to take core courses before starting the program. For more information on the requirements and application process, visit <https://lewis.gsu.edu/admissions/graduate/> (under the Special Status tab).**
2. How many students are admitted each semester? Although we have no set number, we do have to limit our admissions based on resources. We will admit the most qualified students. We base our decision on GPA, GRE or MAT, experience, references, personal statement and interview.
3. How long does it take to complete the program? Based on the semester you are admitted, the part time programs run 7 semesters; the full time is 5 semesters.
4. If I am admitted full time, can I change to part time? Yes, absolutely. But keep in mind the pre-requ. If you drop a course, it could lengthen your program plan by a year.
5. How many years of clinical experience are required to start the program? We require at least one year of recent general psychiatric clinical experience either in the hospital or the community setting or 250 - 500 volunteer hours in a specific psychiatric site. Remember this is an Advanced Psych program. We expect you to have a solid RN psych foundation before you start the program.
6. How much of my program is clinical? We have four clinical courses- NURS 7340 (Adult Medical – 135 clinical hours; NURS 7171 – Adult Psych – 180 clinical hours; NURS 7172 – child medical and psych – 140 clinical hours; and Integrative Management – 45 clinical hours). It is a minimum of 500 clinical hours.
7. Do I have to find my own preceptors? No, following AACN guidelines we assist with clinical paperwork and do have contacts with major agencies to place our students. Do to the limited number of available preceptors in the metro area, students are asked to assist to find an appropriate preceptor for their clinical courses. This can be done by networking in the PMHNP community, talking with colleagues, and working with our clinical placement coordinator. Students are not allowed to pay preceptors or use a program or agency which requires a fee to find a preceptor. Joining psychiatric association such as

the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (students have a reduced rate) is another way to network.

8. Is this program an on-line program? We are what is considered a web enhanced program/Distance learning program. The first class of each semester is onsite and mandatory. Each month each class will have at least one synchronous class. Advanced Assessment (NURS 7500) requires students to be on campus for lab several days, this is the only class which is outside the model. The other weeks students meet with their faculty via a program called WebEx which is synchronous on-line learning or may have asynchronous assignments. Students are required to have a working computer with high speed internet service. On site and synchronous class days are mandatory.
9. Do students continue to work while in the program? Yes, the majority of our students continue to work during their graduate program. Many change to a weekend or per diem option in order to facilitate class time and clinical hours. We do not encourage a full time employment commitment while in the full-time program.
10. Are scholarships and financial aid available? Yes, financial aid is determined through the University's financial aid office, and scholarships are available through the school of nursing and information is available on the school of nursing website. Please note post master's certificate students may not be eligible for financial aid since they are not degree seeking. Students may also apply for scholarships from professional organizations or other agencies. Many students use tuition reimbursement programs from their employers.
11. Go to the iCollege Graduate Resources page after you are admitted. This site has important announcements and information. Read the Masters Student Handbook for information.
12. What are other expenses in the program? (approximate, subject to change)

Expenses per Semester

- * Tuition - For more details go to: <http://www.gsu.edu/tuition>
- * Books \$50 to \$1500 per semester, depends on class load
- * Clinical agency badges, parking \$1 - \$50.00
 - * Immunizations & Medical Tests Varies

Expenses per Year

- * Liability Insurance \$ 35
- * American Heart Association CPR (**every other year**) \$35 - \$100
 - Nursing license state of Georgia (**every other year**) \$65.00

One Time Expense~~ Price subjected to change

- * Drug Screening/Criminal Background Checks \$85.00 ~~
- * Typhon Tracking System Database \$80~~
- * ACEMAPPING ~\$85
- * NURS 7500 Supplies (diagnostic set, stethoscope, etc.) \$400 - \$800
- * GSU Student Name Tag \$8~~

Courses:

Core courses – see next page. These courses may be offered in fall, spring or summer. They are pre-requ. to the specialty courses except NURS 7940 (Roles Course) which should be taken the last semester or the semester before.

Specialty Courses:

1. NURS 7120: Psychiatric Theories: OFFERED IN FALL ONLY

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Admission to the PMH program.

Pre/Corequisites: [NURS 7310](#), [NURS 7320](#), [NURS 7500](#), [NURS 7550](#), [NURS 7900](#).

Description

This course provides concepts critical to the advanced practice of psychiatric nursing. Critical analysis of historic psychiatric thought will be done in the context of current research findings and sociocultural trends. Concepts that provide a basis for caring and humanistic approaches to mental health and mental illness will be explored.

2. NURS 7170 - Advanced Psychopharmacology: OFFERED IN SPRING ONLY

2 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: [NURS 7000](#), [NURS 7120](#), [NURS 7310](#), [NURS 7320](#), [NURS 7340](#), [NURS 7500](#), [NURS 7600](#), [7750](#), [NURS 7900](#).

Corequisites: [NURS 7140](#), [NURS 7420](#).

Description

This course is designed to provide the advanced practice health care provider with knowledge of effect of pharmacological agents on the behavioral and central nervous system, the application of these agents in prevention and treatment of psychopathological dysfunction, and developing skills in the use of prescriptive drug protocols for adult populations.

3. NURS 7340 – Adult Health: OFFERED IN FALL

5 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: [NURS 7310](#) OR [NURS 7320](#), [NURS 7500](#), [NURS 7550](#).

Pre/Corequisites: [NURS 7310](#), [NURS 7320](#).

Description

In this course the student will provide health promotion and maintenance activities for adult clients and their families either through direct intervention or by appropriate referral. The student will assess for and manage common health problems of adult clients across the lifespan in ambulatory health care settings. Nursing assessment and management competencies will include the selection of appropriate diagnostic studies, pharmacological and other treatment interventions in collaboration with the responsible primary health care providers. Content this semester also focuses on nurse practitioner role socialization.

4. NURS 7171 - Advance Psych Across Adult Lifespan: OFFERED IN SPRING ONLY

6 Credit Hours

Description

It also focuses on current treatment modalities including groups. Students will engage in nursing and psychosocial diagnostic decision making in a variety of hypothetical and clinical scenarios. National priorities for mental health care and a critical analysis of the current delivery system will be discussed.

5. NURS 7172 - Advanced Medical and Psychiatric Care for Children: OFFERED IN FALL ONLY

6 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: Admission to graduate PMHN Program, [NURS 7000](#), [NURS 7120](#), [NURS 7140](#), [NURS 7170](#), [NURS 7310](#), [NURS 7320](#), [NURS 7340](#), [NURS 7420](#), [NURS 7500](#), [NURS 7550](#), [NURS 7600](#), [NURS 7900](#).

Description

This course focuses on the integrative (physical and mental health assessment of the individual child, adolescents, and family group that supports the child. The course will examine national priorities for integrative mental and physical health care and a critical analysis of the current delivery system. This course will also focus on the role of the advanced practice nurse in caring for children and adolescents and their family constellations with common health and mental health problems in collaboration with the family including anticipatory guidance and parenting behaviors. Students will engage in nursing and psychosocial diagnostic decision making in a variety of clinical scenarios. Current treatment modalities diagnostic reasoning and management based on patho-physiological findings in the integrative care of children and adolescents will be examined.

**6. NURS 7173 - Integrative Management of Complicated Psychiatric Cases:
OFFERED IN FALL ONLY**

4 Credit Hours

Prerequisites: [NURS 7171](#) and [NURS 7172](#).

Description

This course provides the student with the opportunity to explore psychiatric disorders along with complex medical problems while implementing psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner roles. These various roles will be explored in consultation, education, liaison, administration, and independent practice. Concepts related to the selected problem are identified and critically appraised. Methodologies to generate evidence will be presented to examine knowledge related to the selected problem and make practice recommendations. Interprofessional collaboration with other health care providers is emphasized.