



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING — PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner program prepares advanced practice nurses to sit for the ANCC exam for certification as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) so licensure as an advanced practice nurse can be obtained. Students learn to assess, diagnose, provide primary mental health care, and evaluate outcomes for individuals of all ages from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic groups suffering from a variety of mental illnesses including mood, substance abuse, anxiety, eating, trauma, and thought disorders. Psychotherapy and medication management are important components of the curriculum.

Clients range in age from children to older adults and are from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic groups. Clinical practice sites span the state and provide experiences in hospitals, community mental health clinics, private practices, palliative care, extended care, homecare, integrated behavioral care settings, correctional facilities, and schools.

COURSE OF STUDY

The Master of Science in Nursing, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Track, requires 55 credits of coursework including 12 credits of practicum experience. Please see the School of Nursing graduate catalog or visit www.fairfield.edu/nursing for full course descriptions.

GRADUATE CORE

- Nursing Leadership Roles for Systems Improvement
- Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice
- Information Technology for Healthcare Improvement
- Epidemiology & Biostatistics
- Advanced Healthcare Policy

PRACTICE CORE

- Advanced Health Assessment
- Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology
- Advanced Pharmacology

SPECIALTY COURSES

- Psychopathology
- Group Work: Theories and Practice
- Practicum I: PMHNP
- Practicum II: PMHNP
- Practicum III: PMHNP
- Mental Health Nursing of Children & Adolescents
- Mental Health Nursing of Individuals Across the Lifespan
- Mental Health Nursing of Groups and Families Across the Lifespan
- Primary Mental Health Nursing of At-Risk Populations Across the Lifespan
- Psychopharmacology
- Foundational Skills for Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses

PRACTICA

Each student works closely with a faculty member to choose a clinical site; all practicum placements are individualized to meet the student's learning needs. Agencies hosting placements in the psychiatric nursing program include a variety of settings: area hospitals, community health centers, private practices, and community-based mental health centers.

PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

Recent graduates of the School of Nursing's Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner track have entered specialty areas including oncopsychology, geropsychiatry, forensic psychiatry, psychiatric liaison, psychiatric home care, private practice, neurofeedback, integrated health settings, and palliative care. Other options pursued by psychiatric nurse practitioners are child psychiatry, psychiatric emergency room care and veterans behavioral health.

TRACK COORDINATOR

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ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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For a complete faculty listing, see
www.fairfield.edu/sonfaculty.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for a master's degree must hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing from a regionally accredited college or university (or the international equivalent) with a quality point average of 3.0 or higher preferred. RN applicants who have a non-nursing bachelor's degree will be considered on an individual basis and may be required to complete select prerequisites to be eligible for admission to the MSN program.

FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Applications to the graduate program are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are reviewed by the Graduate Admission Committee. Students seeking admission must complete and submit the following online:

1. A completed application.
(Apply online at www.fairfield.edu/sonapp.)
2. A non-refundable \$60 application fee.
3. A professional résumé.
4. A personal statement:
 - Discuss a practice problem in your field that, in your experience, has a broad impact on patient care outcomes.
 - State professional goals for the next 5-10 years.
 - Explain how the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner program will help you reach your goals.
5. Official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved evaluating service. A complete list of approved evaluators can be found at www.fairfield.edu/eval.
6. Two recommendations, one of which must be from a current supervisor or professor, accompanied by the University recommendation forms, completed online.
7. Copy of current RN license to practice in the state of CT.
8. All international students whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking either TOEFL or IELTS exams. For admission to the graduate school, a TOEFL composite score of 550 for the paper test, 213 for the computer-based test, 80 on the internet-based test or an IELTS score of 6.5 is strongly recommended. Scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (TOEFL) or www.IELTS.org. Fairfield's ETS code is 3390.

Submit transcripts and any other documents that cannot be uploaded to:

Fairfield University
Office of Graduate Admission
Kelley Center
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS

Connecticut State law requires each full-time or matriculated student to provide proof of immunity or screening against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis and tuberculosis. Certain exemptions based on age and housing status apply. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree seeking program. More detailed information and the required downloadable forms are available online at www.fairfield.edu/immunization. Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center. Although this

is not required to complete an application, you must provide proof of immunity/screening prior to course registration. Please consult your private health care provider to obtain the necessary immunizations. Questions may be directed to the Student Health Center: 203-254-4000 ext. 2241 or e-mail health@fairfield.edu.

TUITION/FINANCIAL AID

Academic Year 2018-19

Tuition: \$850 per credit hour

A graduate education can provide countless professional and personal rewards in the future. Many students need to look beyond their own financial resources or the resources of their employer for assistance. There are many ways to finance a graduate education, including graduate assistantships, federal direct loan programs and our Veterans Pride Program, which are all discussed at www.fairfield.edu/gradfa.

ADVANCED EDUCATION NURSE TRAINEESHIPS

A limited number of Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships are available through the School of Nursing, which provides funds to be used toward tuition and fees for full-time students. Please contact the School of Nursing at 203-254-4150 for more information.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Advisors from the Office of Financial Aid are committed to helping students find the options that best suit each of their needs. We encourage all Fairfield University graduate students to contact the Financial Aid office with any questions or to make an appointment to speak with a counselor.

FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 203-254-4125

Fax: 203-254-4008

E-mail: finaid@fairfield.edu

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

MORE INFORMATION

ADMISSION QUESTIONS

Questions about the application process should be directed to the **Office of Graduate Admission**.

Phone: 203-254-4184

Fax: 203-254-4073

E-mail: gradadmis@fairfield.edu

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

SCHOOL OF NURSING WEBSITE

www.fairfield.edu/nursing

ONLINE CATALOG

For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog www.fairfield.edu/catalogs.