



# FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS



## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE — PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Fairfield University's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a clinical doctorate in an advanced specialty of nursing practice. A DNP is comparable to clinical doctorates in other health disciplines such as pharmacy, physical therapy, and medicine. With a DNP, you'll be able to assume a leadership role in an increasingly complex healthcare system during this critical era of healthcare reform.

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.

DNP graduates are healthcare leaders who will care for a cohort of patients within their specialty, while using a cross-population perspective to assess, manage and evaluate common problems. Graduates will apply knowledge about organizations, business management, information technology and policy-making to improve systems of healthcare delivery. They are prepared for leadership roles as well as for advanced practice psychiatric nursing roles in a variety of settings.

### COURSE OF STUDY

Below are the required courses for the DNP. Students entering the program with a BSN are required to complete 76 credits for the DNP Psych Nurse Practitioner track. A total of 1000 practicum/immersion hours are required for the DNP (1 credit = 50 hours).

#### FOUNDATION CORE

- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice
- Advanced Nursing Roles and Reflective Practice
- Advanced Health Care Policy

#### ADVANCED PRACTICE CORE

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

#### DNP CORE

- Population Health
- Research Translation for Clinical Practice
- Finance & Quality Management in Health Care Organizations
- Information Technology for Health Care Improvement
- Leadership & Interprofessional Collaboration
- DNP Immersion
- DNP Seminar I and II

#### ADVANCED PRACTICE SPECIALTY: PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER

- Psychopathology
- Group Work: Theories and Practices
- 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 Across the Lifespan
- Practicum I: PMHNP
- Practicum II: PMHNP
- Practicum III: PMHNP
- Psychopharmacology
- Foundational Skills for Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses

For more information about the plan of study, course descriptions, or frequently asked questions, please visit our website at [www.fairfield.edu/dnp](http://www.fairfield.edu/dnp).



Fairfield University Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies

## 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](http://www.fairfield.edu/sonfaculty).

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Entry with a BSN: Applicants for the DNP at Fairfield must hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing from a regionally accredited college or university (or the international equivalent) with a grade 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 DNP program.

## FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Entry to the DNP program is once a year, in the fall semester. Applications to the program are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are reviewed by the Graduate Admission Committee. Applications for this program will be accepted for fall admission only.

Students seeking admission must submit the following online:

1. A completed application.  
(Apply online at [www.fairfield.edu/sonapp](http://www.fairfield.edu/sonapp).)
2. A non-refundable \$60 application fee.
3. A professional resume. Applicants are required to submit a current resume that includes employment and educational history.
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 a DNP will help you reach your goals.
5. Official transcripts verifying completion of an undergraduate degree in nursing. 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](http://www.fairfield.edu/eval).
6. Two recommendation forms and letters, one of which must be from a current supervisor or professor who can assess one's clinical expertise and potential, completed online.
7. Copy of current RN license to practice in the state of Connecticut will be required upon admission.
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](http://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

## INTERVIEW PROCESS

Applicants who meet the above criteria may be invited for an Admission interview.

## ADMISSION REVIEW

Once a candidate has successfully completed the interview process, all Admission files are then reviewed on a rolling basis by the Admission Committee and applicants will be notified as soon as possible.

## 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](http://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](mailto:health@fairfield.edu).

## TUITION/FINANCIAL AID

Academic Year 2019-20  
Tuition: \$1000 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.fairfield.edu/nursing)

## **ONLINE CATALOG**

For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog [www.fairfield.edu/catalogs](http://www.fairfield.edu/catalogs).