



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS



DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE — ADVANCED PRACTICE PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER (PMHNP)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Fairfield University's Advanced Practice Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is specifically designed to prepare the next generation of Advanced Practice nurses at the doctoral level. Our two-year cohort program is delivered in a hybrid format (taught both online and on campus) – perfect for the clinical professional with a busy schedule.

The Advanced Practice MSN-DNP will give you the skills you need to excel in today's complex, challenging and ever-changing healthcare environment. Our goal is to prepare the next generation of Advanced Practice nurses with a greater breadth of expertise to be healthcare leaders working with our inter-professional clinical partners to enhance safety and quality for our patients. You will acquire the knowledge to create and evaluate innovations to improve healthcare, analyze and apply evidence to improve outcomes, use advocacy skills to affect policy that reduces health inequities, and integrate technology into patient care. Advanced coursework in leadership, systems management, evidence based practice, research translation, population health, informatics and health policy provide the foundation for developing new competencies. Students are required to complete a minimum of 32 credits for the Advanced Practice DNP with an additional 29 credits for the PMHNP concentration.

PMHNP CONCENTRATION

In response to the overwhelming demand for mental health care today and frequent requests from non-psychiatric Nurse Practitioners for education in psychiatric-mental health care to better meet the needs of their clients, the Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies offers an expanded MSN-DNP program that includes the didactic and clinical courses required to sit for ANCC certification as a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). Individuals who currently hold certification as a non-psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (e.g. FNP, ANP, PNP, etc.) and are interested in achieving additional certification as a PMHNP may apply to the Advanced Practice MSN-DNP program with a specialization focus in advanced practice psychiatric nursing.

CURRICULUM

YEAR 1

Fall Semester

- Role Reflective Practice for MSN-DNP Students
- Population Health
- Psychopathology
- Mental Health Nursing of Children and Adolescents

Spring Semester

- Foundational Clinical Skills for Advanced Psychiatric Nursing Practice
- Mental Health Nursing of Individuals
- DNP Seminar I

Summer Term

- Psychopharmacology
- Practicum I: PMHNP

YEAR 2

Fall Semester

- Research Methods for Evidenced-Based Practice
- Mental Health Nursing of Groups and Families Across the Lifespan
- Practicum II: PMHNP

Spring Semester

- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Primary Mental Health Nursing Across the Lifespan
- Practicum III: PMHNP

Summer Semester

- Healthcare Economics and Marketing
- Research Translation for Clinical Practice
- DNP Immersion

YEAR 3

Fall Semester

- Information Technology for Healthcare Improvement
- DNP Immersion
- DNP Seminar II

Spring Semester

- Leadership and Interprofessional Collaboration
- DNP Immersion

(continued on next page)

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Joyce M. Shea, DNSc, APRN, PMHCNS-BC
Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 2575
E-mail: jshea@fairfield.edu

Dr. Joyce Shea serves as the faculty advisor for the Advanced Practice MSN-DNP program and is the appropriate person to contact with questions or to learn more.

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

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for the Advanced Practice MSN-DNP must hold a master's degree in nursing from an accredited college or university (or the international equivalent), with a grade point average of 3.2 or higher.

In addition, applicants must currently hold certification as a non-psychiatric nurse practitioner.

FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Applications to the 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. Applicants are required to submit a current résumé that includes employment and educational history. 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 Advanced Practice DNP will help you reach your goals.
4. Official transcripts verifying completion of an undergraduate degree and master's 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.
5. 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.
6. Copy of current RN license.
7. 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

INTERVIEW PROCESS

Applicants who meet the above criteria may be invited for an admission interview on campus, online, or on the phone.

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. 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: \$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.

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

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE WEBSITE

www.fairfield.edu/dnp

ONLINE CATALOG

For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog

www.fairfield.edu/catalogs.