



## Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Certificate)

The **post Master's Certificate in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing** is designed as a specialty within graduate nursing education to include programming that will assist a student to acquire advanced knowledge and clinical skills to provide best practice and comprehensive care to clients across the lifespan. The course work and practicum will focus on a range of mental health care needs of individuals and families whether in outpatient, inpatient or private practice settings. The foundation for advanced practice is focused on content included in core courses in physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics and health assessments.

**\*This program is offered 100% ONLINE**

### Admission Requirements

Apply to the UTRGV Graduate College:

**Step #1:** Submit a UTRGV Graduate Application at [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org). The university application fee of \$50 (\$100 for International Applicants) can be paid online by credit card or electronic check (in the online application). All application fees are nonrefundable.

**Step #2:** Register on the UTRGV Recommenders and Document Upload Webpage ([www.utrgv.edu/gradupload](http://www.utrgv.edu/gradupload)). This is where you will request recommenders and upload program requirement documents, and where the graduate office will upload your transcripts. If you do not complete this step, we will not be able to process your application.

**Step #3:** Request your transcripts and other supporting documentation to be mailed to:

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
The Graduate College  
Marialice Shary Shivers Bldg. 1.158  
1201 W. University Drive  
Edinburg, TX 78539-2999

**Review and submit all Program Requirements:**

- Master of Science in Nursing.
- Master of Science in Nursing in Nurse Practitioner
- Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0.
- Official transcripts from each institution attended (must be submitted directly to UTRGV).
- Successful completion of graduate-level courses in physical assessment, pharmacotherapeutics and pathophysiology.
- Licensed as a Registered Nurse in the State of Texas
- Criminal background check.
- Evidence of current immunizations required by the Texas Department of Health for students in health-related programs.

**Additional requirements for domestic applicants who attended foreign universities:**

- TOEFL or IELTS Language Proficiency Test with minimum scores: 550 on paper-based, 213 on computer based, or 79 on internet-based for the TOEFL; 6.5 for the IELTS. For additional information, [click here](#).
- English translation of educational records.
- Transcript Evaluation by the Foreign Credentials Service of America (FCSA). For additional information, [click here](#).

**Additional requirements for international applicants:**

- TOEFL or IELTS Language Proficiency Test with minimum scores: 550 on paper-based, 213 on computer based, or 79 on internet-based for the TOEFL; 6.5 for the IELTS. For additional information, [click here](#).
- English translation of educational records.
- Transcript Evaluation by the Foreign Credentials Service of America (FCSA). For additional information, [click here](#).
- Financial Documentation showing sufficient funds (minimum of \$25,000) to cover all expenses (living and academic) for the first year of study. For additional information, [click here](#).
- Immigration documents, including a current copy of your valid passport. For additional information, [click here](#).

### Program Contact

Program Director: Dr. Eloisa Tamez.  
Phone: (956)882-5079  
E-Mail: [eloisa.tamez@utrgv.edu](mailto:eloisa.tamez@utrgv.edu)

### Deadlines

	Fall	Spring	Summer I	Summer II
Domestic	July 17 <sup>th</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Recommenders and Document Upload Page

[Click here](#) to request recommendations and upload documents that are required.



**Degree Plan**

**Required PMHNP Practice Courses 18**

NURS 6260: Theoretical Diagnostics for Mental and Substance Use Disorders	2
NURS 6261: Clinical Diagnostics for Mental and Substance Use Disorders	2
NURS 6475: PMHNP 1: Diagnosis and Management across the Lifespan	4
NURS 6476: PMHNP 2: Diagnosis and Management across the Lifespan	4
NURS 6620: PMHNP 3: Clinical Therapeutics/Preceptorship	6

**Capstone Requirement 3**

<b>Project</b>	
NURS 7303: Evidence-Based Clinical Capstone Project	3

**Total hours required for completion: 21**

**Course Descriptions**

NURS 6260: Theoretical Diagnostics for Mental and Substance Use Disorders: [2-0]

This course focuses on the theoretical foundations of psychiatric and mental health care across the lifespan and the role of the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner in providing primary care in multiple settings. The theories will be examined for usefulness to various age and diverse population groups.

NURS 6261: Clinical Diagnostics for Mental and Substance Use Disorders [0-2]

This course focuses on application of theoretical foundations of psychiatric and mental health care across the lifespan and the role of the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner as provider of care. Comprehensive evaluation of patient symptoms, development of diagnostic skills using standard diagnostic frameworks and instruments to develop patient centered plans of care for various age and diverse populations groups will be demonstrated.

NURS 6475: PMHNP 1: Diagnosis and Management across the Lifespan [2-2]

This course provides the theoretical basis for the competencies of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) in health promotion, diagnosis and management in the psychiatric healthcare setting for infants, children, adolescents and their families. Problem-based and self-directed learning strategies are used to review acute and chronic psychiatric disorders in this group of patients and families. Emphasis is placed on differentiating signs and symptoms to formulate possible diagnoses and determining the effect of the illness on this diverse population. In addition, the nurse practitioner's role as a collaborative member of the inter-professional team will be evaluated.

NURS 6476: PMHNP 2: Diagnosis and Management across the Lifespan [2-2]

This course provides the theoretical basis for the competencies of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) in health promotion, diagnosis and management in the psychiatric healthcare setting for young and older adults and their families. Problem-based and self-directed learning strategies are used to review acute and chronic psychiatric disorders in this group of patients and families. Emphasis is placed on differentiating signs and symptoms to formulate possible diagnoses and determining the effect of the illness on this diverse population. In addition, the nurse practitioner's role as a collaborative member of the inter-professional team will be evaluated.

NURS 6620: PMHNP 3: Clinical Therapeutics/Preceptorship [0-6]

This course provides the clinical application of course content to develop the competencies of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) in health promotion, diagnosis and management in the psychiatric healthcare setting for infants, children, adolescents, young and older adults and their families. Problem-based and self-directed learning strategies in the clinical setting are used. Emphasis is placed on the implementation of the nurse practitioner's role as a direct care provider. In addition, the nurse practitioner's role as a collaborative member of the inter-professional team will be evaluated.

NURS 7303: Evidence-Based Clinical Capstone [1-2]

This course focuses on the theoretical foundations of psychiatric and mental health care across the lifespan and the role of the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner in providing primary care in multiple settings. The theories will be examined for usefulness to various age and diverse populations groups.

