Advanced Nursing Practice (Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner), DNP

Program Description

Degree Awarded: DNP Advanced Nursing Practice (Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner)
This DNP program, accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Education, provides a foundation for the specialty through graduate courses in the application of theory to advances practice. The focus is on development of expertise in providing mental health care to individuals of all ages within traditional, nontraditional and culturally diverse families.

Courses are designed to prepare students for certification in advanced nursing as a family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. This Doctor of Nursing Practice program specialty as a family psychiatric nurse practitioner emphasizes the assessment, diagnosis and evidence-based management of common and complex mental health disorders across the lifespan. Valid and reliable tools for screening and identification of mental health disorders as well as early interventions for these problems are highlighted. Content for each disorder include epidemiology, incidence, early signs and symptoms, differential diagnosis and sociocultural variations in evidence-based management and treatment. Management includes psychopharmacologic and therapeutic skills building that are based in motivational interviewing, mindfulness, cognitive behavioral therapy and dialectical behavior therapy. Individual, group and family therapy techniques are emphasized.

This program is offered in a hybrid iCourse format that requires students to travel to campus for up to a week for orientation at the beginning of the program and then two or three times per semester.

Focused clinical experiences are arranged with appropriate preceptors and administrators for students residing in Arizona. In-state students who live in Maricopa County are assigned clinical experiences in that geographic area. In-state students who live outside of Maricopa County may be assigned clinical placements in other areas of Arizona based on the college's ability to secure clinical agreements with
those sites. In the event that clinical sites are unavailable in the student's geographical area or if the faculty determines the student needs additional faculty supervision for clinical progress in their program, the student is required to complete their clinical experience in the Phoenix area.

Students residing outside of Arizona are responsible for identifying one or more clinical sites in their area of residence. These sites must be approved by Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation before starting any clinical experience. Experiences with disadvantaged and multicultural populations are encouraged as are experiences in rural areas when sites are available for these experiences.

As a participating National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements member since May 5, 2015, Arizona State University is authorized to offer distance education to persons located in individual states in accordance with the council's established policies and standards; program exceptions are noted on the ASU Authorizations website (https://asuonline.asu.edu/about-us/authorizations/). A program exception means that the listed programs are not available to students located within the state.

The Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation prepares graduates for excellence upon entering the workplace. Since certification and licensure requirements vary by profession and from state-to-state, students should review professional licensure information (https://asuonline.asu.edu/about-us/licensure/) to determine the requirements of individual state licensures or national certifications.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours including the required applied project course (DNP 707)

**Required Core (21 credit hours)**

DNP 604 Advanced Human Pathophysiology Across Lifespan (4)  
DNP 605 Advanced Health Assessment Across Lifespan (3)  
DNP 608 Applied Pharmacotherapeutics Across Lifespan (3)  
DNP 609 Advanced Practice Nursing Role (1)  
DNP 704 Principles of Evidence-Based Care in Advanced Practice (4)  
DNP 705 Health Care Outcome Management (3)  
DNP 708 Systems Thinking in a Complex Healthcare Environment (3)

**Concentration (41 credit hours)**

DNP 660 Advanced Neuropsychopathology Lifespan (2)  
DNP 671 Advanced Mental Health Assessment Across the Lifespan (2)  
DNP 672 Psychopharmacology Across the Lifespan (3)
DNP 673 Mental Health Promotion Across the Lifespan (3)
DNP 674 Mental Health Promotion Across the Lifespan Practicum (3)
DNP 675 Management of Common Mental Health Disorders Across the Lifespan (3)
DNP 676 Management of Common Mental Health Disorders Across the Lifespan Practicum (5)
DNP 677 Management of Complex and Chronic Mental Health Disorders Across the Lifespan (3)
DNP 678 Management of Complex and Chronic MH Disorders Across the Lifespan Practicum (5)
DNP 712 Clinical Residency and Management (12)

Other Requirement (20 credit hours)
DNP 601 Theoretical Foundations for Advance Practice Nursing (3)
DNP 602 Evaluating Research for Practice (3)
DNP 679 Biostatistics: Principals of Statistical Inference (3)
DNP 703 Innovation in Communication: Scholarly and Professional Writing (2)
DNP 709 Individual and Innovation Leadership in Healthcare Practice (3)
DNP 711 Healthcare Policy and Innovation (3)
DNP 715 Dynamics and Principles of Information in Health Care (3)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
DNP 707 Disseminating Evidence to Advance Best Practice in Health Care and Health Policy (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
Completion of an evidence-based doctoral applied project focused on a clinical issue relevant to advanced practice nursing is required.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center has recommended a minimum of 1,000 postbaccalaureate practicum hours for all students completing a Doctor of Nursing Practice. This program includes 1,125 practicum hours, exceeding the ANCC requirement.

When approved by the student's supervisory committee and the Graduate College, this program allows up to 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree to be used for this program.

Other requirement coursework may be substituted with approval of the academic unit if the student is in an approved concurrent program.

Admission Requirements
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in nursing from a nationally recognized, regionally accredited institution.
Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. three professional letters of recommendation
4. resume
5. goal statement
6. admission essay
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency per the Graduate College requirement and all requirements for the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools.

A current unencumbered RN license in the state in which the student plans to do clinical practicums is required. All students are also required to have an unencumbered Arizona RN license or an unencumbered compact state RN license as mandated by the Arizona State Board of Nursing. The RN license must remain unencumbered throughout enrollment in any nursing program.

An interview with program faculty is required.

One year of clinical experience working in the student's specialty population is preferred.

Health and safety requirements include passing disposition on a background clearance and satisfactory completion of a substance screen.

No admission examination is required.

Application Deadlines

Fall

Career Opportunities

Doctor of Nursing Practice graduates are prepared to practice at the most advanced level of nursing.

Graduates have the knowledge and training to provide health care for patients across the lifespan in a wide variety of settings. This broad base of comprehension and clinical expertise enables them to effectively participate and lead within clinical, community and academic arenas.

Career examples:
• business owner
• community advocate
• nurse practitioner
• professor

Contact Information

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