

NURSING PRACTICE (PSYCHIATRIC/MENTAL HEALTH)- DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (ONLINE)

The **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)** is a doctoral degree for nurses at the highest level of nursing practice. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has proposed that the DNP degree will be the level of entry for all advanced practice nurses by 2020. Practice-focused doctoral nursing programs prepare leaders for the highest level of practice and is the terminal practice degree. The core DNP courses prepare the DNP graduate for Population Health Leadership. Although the coursework for these programs is web-based, the clinical component consists of over **1000 contact hours**. Anyone interested in pursuing a nurse practitioner doctorate must ensure they can accommodate the intensive time commitment these programs require.

The **Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner** track prepares nurses for advanced practice focusing on mental health issues across the lifespan. The curriculum builds upon four core PMHNP competencies: advanced health assessment (physical and psychosocial); diagnosis (diagnosis of mental disorders, pathophysiology, and neurophysiology); psychotherapy (individual, group, and family); and medication management (pharmacology and psychopharmacology). Other courses develop competencies in healthcare systems, best-practice research utilization and translation, and healthcare quality improvement. Graduates are prepared to sit for the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Exam.

To complete the DNP program, each student is required to generate a project that reflects their advanced coursework in leadership, research translation, and clinical knowledge and skills.

New Mexico State University is a full member of the National Council of State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements consortium (SARA). Students will need to check the NMSU SARA website (<https://global.nmsu.edu/check-your-state/>) before applying to determine if NMSU has a reciprocity agreement with their home state before applying. State Boards of Nursing may regulate NMSU's ability to have APRN students in clinical practice in the home state of out-of-state students. Please refer to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's APRN Distance Education Requirements (<https://www.ncsbn.org/13662.htm>) website and contact Nursing Graduate Advisor to confirm eligibility for clinical training in states outside of New Mexico.

For application information, visit the School of Nursing website (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/>) or contact the Nursing Graduate Advisor for more information about application and admission requirements at (575) 646-2772.