



Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Clinical Nurse Specialist

An intensive Chapel Hill
“executive” learning experience
combined with practical
distance education technology
to learn from home.



*The only program of its
kind in North Carolina!*



There is a shortage of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners in North Carolina to provide care for people diagnosed with or vulnerable to psychiatric disorders.

Changes in health care delivery for underserved populations open new career opportunities for nurses.

Preparing you for practice with a range of options:

Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (PMH-CNS)

Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist/Nurse Practitioner (PMH-CNS and NP)

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner/Adult Focus

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner/Family Focus

Preparing you to meet community needs.

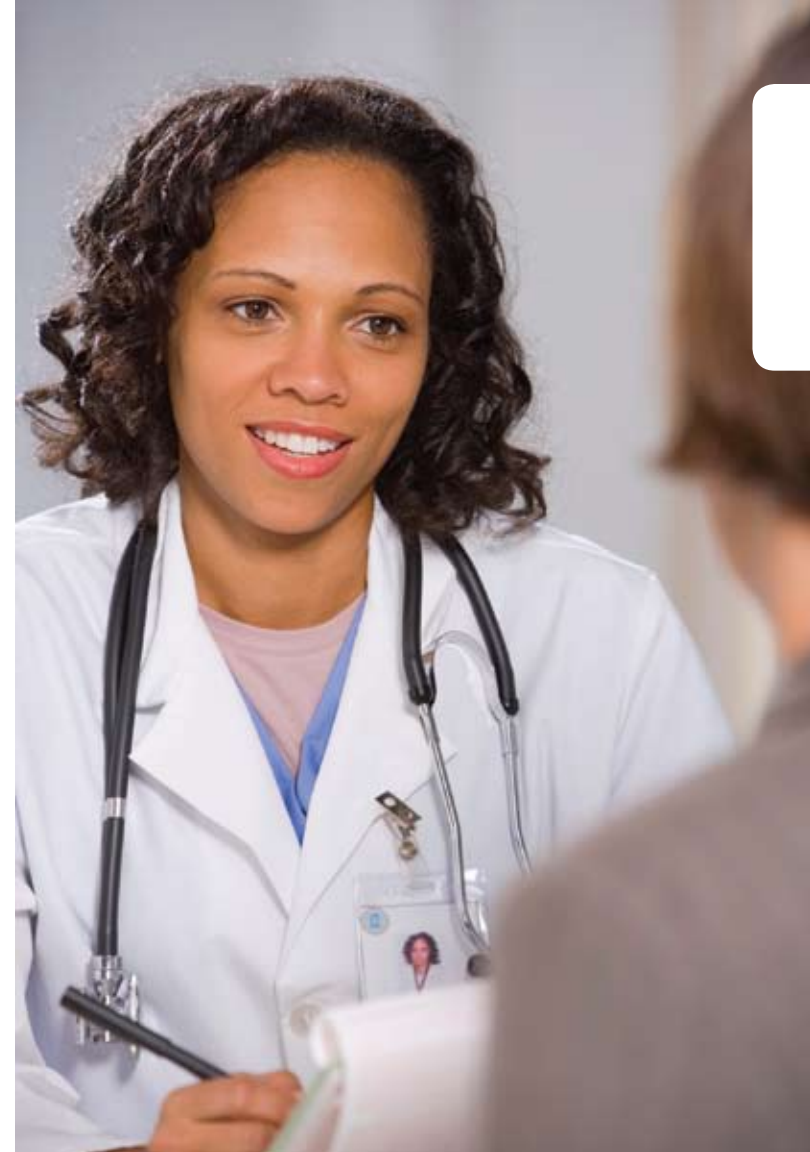
When you complete this program and gain psychiatric mental health advanced practice skills and competencies, you are prepared to independently manage the mental health care needs of clients. This enables you to function as a psychotherapist, case manager, or primary care psychiatric nurse practitioner in a variety of public, private, community, inpatient, and collaborative practice settings. Many who complete the program choose to serve as consultants for hospitals and community organizations. This program gives graduates an evidence-based framework for comprehensive mental health care, emphasizing the interaction and integration of common mental and physical health problems.

“Executive” Model of Learning

Students come to campus for intensive classroom instruction, attending once a month for an entire day, during the fall and spring semesters. This is instead of the traditional class meeting format of once a week over 15 weeks. While back in their home communities, students use web-based learning tools (such as Blackboard) and videoconferencing to complete the course of study. This format reduces travel time and expense, and allows students to continue their family and employment responsibilities back at home.

Course of Study Depends Upon Your Educational Level

Depending upon a student’s level of education when entering the program, it can take from one to four years to complete the program. A RN to MSN student will enroll in one year of bridge courses before beginning the master’s degree program. An entering MSN student who has completed the BSN usually takes three years plus one summer to finish. The post-MSN student who has completed Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) coursework will be able to complete this PMH-NP in one to two years plus one summer. Academic advisors work with students to develop a program that best meets their needs.



The curriculum emphasizes cultural competence & sensitivity.

Emphasizing Cultural Competency and Seeking Diversity

The curriculum emphasizes cultural competence and sensitivity. Students’ assumptions and value judgments are challenged as the learner explores and analyzes how racial and cultural biases in psychiatric diagnoses have led to disparities in care.

Through a Health Research and Services Administration (HRSA) grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) support, the program is able to recruit experienced nurses who are from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds, enabling them to remain in and serve their home communities. Known as NEMHO (Nurses Enhancing Mental Health Options for North Carolina), the program encourages and welcomes applications from experienced nurses from diverse backgrounds. The commitment is to provide better healthcare for underserved areas and populations with health needs, as we diversify the workforce to meet these needs.

Curriculum Overview

Research Core includes two courses, followed by a master's paper and a scholarly master's thesis developed under the guidance and supervision of a faculty mentor and advisory committee.

Specialty Area Courses include:

- Psychiatric mental health diagnostic reasoning Psychopharmacology
- Individual/group/family psychotherapies
- Policy
- Ethical and legal frameworks applied to the primary mental health care of underserved populations

Core Courses include:

- Advanced practice roles
- Research
- Advanced pathophysiology
- Advanced pharmacotherapeutics

Program Features

- Enhanced academic support services
- Tuition assistance in exchange for work pay-back
- Internet, computer hardware and software provided
- Mentoring and clinical placements

About the Faculty

The faculty members who teach in the graduate-level Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program at UNC Chapel Hill are Board Certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). In addition, each one has extensive clinical experience and maintains a clinical practice in order to provide the level of knowledge, teaching and practice expected for this outstanding program.



The coordinator of the program is **Victoria Soltis-Jarrett**, PhD, PMHCNS/-NP-BC, Clinical Associate Professor. She is board certified by the ANCC as a Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist. Dr. Soltis-Jarrett has practiced psychiatric nursing for over 25 years with a clinical and research interest in the concept of somatization in women and participatory research in psychiatric-mental health nursing. She currently has a busy private psychotherapy and medication management practice in Winston-Salem and Durham, NC. She consults widely on issues of rural care, women's mental health, management of personality disorders and treatment-resistant depression. Her background includes work in Australia in the development of distance curricula, mental health consultation to remote areas of the country and multicultural mental health.



School of Nursing faculty and staff involved in developing the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program.

To discuss this program or for complete program curriculum, admission and scholarship information, please contact:

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