NURS 6660: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Role I: Child and Adolescent

Program Overview

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) is an advanced practice registered nurse trained to provide a wide range of mental health services to patients and families in a variety of settings. PMHNPs diagnose, conduct therapy, and prescribe medications for patients who have psychiatric disorders, medical organic brain disorders, or substance abuse problems. They are licensed to provide emergency psychiatric services, conduct psychosocial and physical assessment of their patients, develop and manage treatment plans, and provide ongoing manage patient care. They may also serve as consultants or as educators for families and staff. The PMHNP has a focus on making a psychiatric diagnosis, differentiates between medical disorders with psychiatric symptoms, and orders appropriate medications to treat various psychiatric disorders. A PMHNP can often practice autonomously, depending on state licensure laws.

Course Description

Working from a lifespan approach, this first practicum course for the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) is an introduction for the learner to child and adolescent psychiatry. Emphasis is placed on the psychiatric and/or mental health disorders that begin in childhood and adolescence and topics include psychiatric assessment, differential diagnosis, application of diagnostic criteria, appropriate diagnostic testing, and diagnostic formulation. The learner will select a combination of psychotherapeutic modalities coupled with psychopharmacologic approaches to treat common psychiatric mental health conditions of children and adolescents. The focus of the practicum experience is on application of didactic concepts to actual patient care situations.

Credit & Practicum Hours

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 credits
- Didactic – 3 credits
- Practicum – 2 credits

Practicum Hours:
Students Enrolled Before Spring 2018: This course requires a minimum of 144 practicum hours.
Students Enrolled After Spring 2018: This course requires a minimum of 160 practicum hours.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Evaluate clients using comprehensive integrated psychiatric assessments
- Apply appropriate diagnostic criteria to psychiatric and mental health disorders in children and adolescents
- Evaluate efficacy of treatment approaches to psychiatric and mental health disorders in children and adolescents
- Analyze roles of professional development in the field of psychiatric mental health
- Evaluate the ethical and legal issues concerning the treatment of mental health disorders among children and adolescents
- Implement evidence-based treatment approaches for psychiatric and mental health disorders among children and adolescents
- Assess knowledge of concepts and principles related to treatment of children and adolescents with mental health disorders

MSN Learning Outcomes

At the end of this program, students will be able to:

1. Synthesize organizational/systems leadership for cost-effective specialist nursing practice that contributes to high-quality healthcare delivery, advancement of the nursing profession, and social change.
2. Critique evidence-based literature drawing from diverse theoretical perspectives and pertinent research to guide decision making that demonstrates best practices for specialist nursing practice in a global society.
3. Integratively assess, diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate cost-effective healthcare strategies that reduce health disparities by patient/population advocacy for access to specialist nursing care.
4. Demonstrate ability to effectively communicate using audience-specific oral, written, and information technology for professional delivery of specialist nursing care.
5. Evaluate health needs of diverse populations for necessary teaching/coaching functions based on specialist nursing knowledge to restore/promote health and prevent illness/injury.
6. Exhibit ongoing commitment to professional development and value of nursing theories/ethical principles (altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity, social justice) in accordance with ethically responsible, legally accountable, specialist nursing practice.
7. Implement specialist nursing roles to promote quality improvement of patient-centered care in accordance with professional practice standards that transform health outcomes for diverse populations.