NURS 6670: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Role II: Adults and Older Adults

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
Continuing from the lifespan approach, the learner in this final course for the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) focuses on psychiatric mental health issues that occur in adults and older adults. Selection of assessment approaches for the adult and older adult as well as differential diagnosis, application of diagnostic criteria, appropriate diagnostic testing, and diagnostic case formulation will be undertaken. The learner will use both psychotherapeutic approaches coupled with psychopharmacologic approaches to treat common psychiatric mental health conditions of adults and older adults. Through these practicum experiences, learners will focus on the application of didactic concepts to 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 in adults and older adults
- Apply appropriate diagnostic criteria to psychiatric and mental health disorders in adults and older adults
- Evaluate efficacy of treatment approaches to psychiatric and mental health disorders in adults and older adults
- Apply strategies for engaging in professional practice for PMHNP
- Implement evidence-based treatment approaches for psychiatric and mental health disorders in adults and older adults
- Assess knowledge of concepts and principles related to treatment of psychiatric and mental health disorders in adults and older adults

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.