

# School of Nursing

## Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

### Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner DNP

*5<sup>th</sup> in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research dollars awarded  
7<sup>th</sup> in U.S. News & World Reports "America's Best Graduate Schools"  
Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)*

#### OVERVIEW

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) DNP is a practice-focused doctoral program that prepares nurses to be leaders at the highest level of clinical nursing practice. Graduates function as principal providers of primary health care who treat psychiatric clients in a variety of settings on an episodic and chronic basis.

The curriculum includes primary and psychiatric care content providing students with advanced practice skills to effectively manage common medical and psychobiological problems of psychiatric clients across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on psychobiologic diagnosis and treatment, including psychotherapies for clients and their families to promote mental health and prevent subsequent mental disorders. Clinical practice hours focus on providing comprehensive physical and psychiatric management to clients in various settings.

Additional course/clinical work provides further knowledge focusing on using evidence in clinical decision-making, developing leadership skills, implementing viable clinical innovations and applying research and theoretical understanding to facilitate changes in practice. A culminating capstone project reflects the student's application of knowledge gained throughout the curriculum.

Graduates are eligible to sit for the national certification examination in Psychiatric-Mental Health offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). After passing the exam, the graduate may apply for certification as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) in Psychiatric-Mental Health by the State Board of Nurse Examiners of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

#### CURRICULUM FORMAT

##### **BSN to DNP**

- Admit annually Fall Term only
- Onsite / Full-time (3 years) or Part-time (varies)
- Curriculum
  - ✓ 93 credits (includes 1,120 clinical residency hours)
  - ✓ Full-time curriculum: available at [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu)
  - ✓ Part-time curriculum: planned individually with program coordinator

##### **MSN to DNP**

- Admit annually Fall Term only
- Onsite or online\* / Full-time (1.5 years) or Part-time (varies)
  - \* View a Virtual Post-Master's DNP Open House at [www.online.pitt.edu](http://www.online.pitt.edu).
  - \* Please refer to PittOnline ([www.online.pitt.edu](http://www.online.pitt.edu) / 412-648-9499) for states in which the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing is authorized to enroll online students.
- Curriculum
  - ✓ 36-45 credits (includes 1,120 clinical residency hours post-BSN) Faculty will review graduate academic transcript for clinical hours that may apply towards the 1,120 hours
  - ✓ Full-time curriculum: available at [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu)
  - ✓ Part-time curriculum: planned individually with program coordinator

## **OBJECTIVES**

Graduates of the PMHNP DNP are prepared to:

- Assume independent responsibility for promoting, maintaining and restoring health while diagnosing and managing health problems in individuals with episodic and chronic mental disorders
- Conduct psychotherapies for psychiatric clients and their families
- Participate in multi-disciplinary research and provide leadership in mobilizing health services

## **ADMISSION CRITERIA**

### **BSN to DNP Applicants:**

- Valid RN license (all students must obtain a Pennsylvania license)
- Competitive GPA in highest nursing degree (from CCNE, NLN, ACICS or ACEN accredited program)
- Official GRE scores
- Pre-requisite statistics course (within 5 years)
- Minimum of one year relevant nursing experience recommended

### **Post-MSN to DNP Applicants:**

- Valid RN license and Psychiatric-Mental Health NP licensure from U.S. state/territory or geographical area (online students) where student intends to complete clinical practice requirements/Capstone Project
- Competitive GPA in MSN (from CCNE, NLN, ACICS or ACEN accredited program)
- Official GRE scores (may be waived if MSN GPA  $\geq 3.5$ )
- Pre-requisite statistics course (within 5 years)
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for a telephone interview)

## **APPLICATION**

- Complete online application: [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu)
- International applicants: additional information at [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu) (DNP page) and [www.ois.pitt.edu](http://www.ois.pitt.edu)
- **Deadlines:** **February 15** or **May 1** (*international applicants are advised to apply by Feb. 15*)  
Complete applications received by **Feb. 15** - admission decision expected by **June 1**  
Complete applications received by **May 1** - admission decision expected by **June 30**
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for a telephone interview)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Heeyoung Lee, PhD, APRN-BC  
Coordinator, PMHNP Area of Concentration  
412-624-5073 or [leehee@pitt.edu](mailto:leehee@pitt.edu)

Donna G. Nativio, PhD, CRNP, FAAN  
Director, DNP Program  
412-624-3827 or [dgn@pitt.edu](mailto:dgn@pitt.edu)