

# School of Nursing

## Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

### Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner DNP

*9<sup>th</sup> in DNP & 12<sup>th</sup> in MSN, U.S. News & World Report's 2020 Best Nursing Grad Schools  
4<sup>th</sup> in NIH funding (2018) among schools of nursing  
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 individuals with psychiatric disorders across the lifespan in a variety of settings.

Core courses include content on physical diagnosis, health promotion, pharmacology, pathophysiology, and management of acute, episodic, and chronic health problems. Psychiatric primary care content directly builds on these core concepts to provide students with advanced practice skills to effectively manage complex psychobiological problems of people across the lifespan. Clinical practice hours focus on providing comprehensive physical and psychiatric management to clients in various settings. A culminating DNP Project reflects the practice interest of the student and synthesis and application of knowledge gained through the curriculum.

Graduates are eligible to sit for the national certification exam in Psychiatric-Mental Health offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). After passing the exam, the graduate should consult the licensing board of the state in which they intend to practice for legal (credentialing) and practice information.

#### CURRICULUM FORMAT

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

Onsite

Full-time (3 years) / Part-time (varies)

93 credits (includes 1,120 clinical practicum hours)

Curriculum Plans: Full-time ([nursing.pitt.edu](http://nursing.pitt.edu)) / Part-time (individualized with program coordinator)

Fall Term admission

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

Onsite (**online\*** with master's degree in PMHNP)

Full-time (1.5 years) / Part-time (varies)

36 - 45 credits (includes 1,120 clinical practicum hours post-BSN)<sup>+</sup>

Curriculum Plans: Full-time ([nursing.pitt.edu](http://nursing.pitt.edu)) / Part-time (individualized with program coordinator)

Fall Term admission

<sup>+</sup> Upon admission, faculty will review official master's transcript for:

- clinical hours completed for applicability toward 1,120 clinical practicum hours
- coursework for permissible transfer credits (additional coursework may be required)

**\*PittOnline** ([online.pitt.edu](http://online.pitt.edu) / 412-648-9499)

- View Virtual Open House
- 24/7 access to library, computing resources, & virtual tech support

## ADMISSION CRITERIA

### BSN to DNP

- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- $\geq 3.0$  GPA in BSN (from ACEN [NLN], ACICS, or CCNE accredited program)
- Competitive GRE scores
- Prerequisite statistics course grade of B or better
- RN Options-Early Admission to DNP available for graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs

### MSN to DNP

- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- $\geq 3.0$  GPA in MSN (from accredited program)  
or  
 $\geq 3.0$  GPA in master's in related field (must have BSN from accredited program)
- Competitive GRE scores (may be waived if MSN GPA  $\geq 3.5$ )
- Prerequisite statistics course with grade of B or better

## APPLICATION (Holistic Review Process)

- Online application: [nursing.pitt.edu](http://nursing.pitt.edu)
- International applicants: [nursing.pitt.edu](http://nursing.pitt.edu) & [ois.pitt.edu](http://ois.pitt.edu)
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for a telephone interview)
- 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**

## Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) Option

- Prospective applicants may enroll in a maximum of 12 core, non-clinical graduate credits before beginning the program
- Submit an [application](#) to the [Non-Degree Seeking \(Graduate\) option](#) at [nursing.pitt.edu](http://nursing.pitt.edu)
  - Application fee waived if previous applicant within one year
- After receipt of the application, an academic advisor will contact student regarding course selection/enrollment

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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