

# ELM-MSN: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Specialty

This specialty master's program (<https://www.apu.edu/nursing/programs/entry-level-masters-in-nursing/>) prepares students for roles as psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners for clients with psychiatric and mental health problems across the lifespan. Students learn to work respectfully and collaboratively with clients/consumers who are experiencing severe or chronic mental illnesses to determine biopsychosocial healthcare needs within a complex and changing environment. Theory and clinical coursework focuses on assessment; differential diagnosis and disease management; intervention planning; individual, family, and group psychotherapy; health promotion; and disease prevention. Mental-health-related policy, and the application of research and evidence-based practice, informs the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner.

The inherent equality and worthiness of those who are vulnerable and disenfranchised; the role of spirituality; the value of diversity; and the ability to engender hope, empowerment, self-responsibility, and a meaningful role in life are threaded throughout the program. Graduates are eligible to apply to the California Board of Registered Nursing for certification as a nurse practitioner, and may apply for national PMHNP certification through examination.

Contact the School of Nursing (<https://www.apu.edu/nursing/>) for specific program availability and locations. Prelicensure coursework (<http://catalog.apu.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/school-nursing/graduate-nursing-programs/entry-level-masters/elm-msn/>) must be completed prior to beginning advanced practice nursing coursework.

## Requirements

Code	Title	Units
<b>Academic Core Courses</b>		<b>10</b>
GNRS 506	Spiritual Concept Analysis in Health Care	3
GNRS and/or GSPH XXX Electives		7
<b>Academic and Advanced Practice Core Courses</b>		<b>14</b>
GNRS 510	Family Theory in Health Care	2
GNRS 513	Advanced Nursing Practice Role	2
GNRS 610	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
GNRS 611	Advanced Pharmacology	3
GNRS 612	Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning <sup>1</sup>	4 (3/1)
<b>Advanced Practice Specialty Courses</b>		<b>29</b>
GNRS 533	Psychiatric Theories across the Life Span	2
GNRS 534	Integrated Psychiatric and Health Assessment across the Life Span	2
GNRS 535	Psychiatric Interventions and Health Promotion across the Life Span	6 (3/3)
GNRS 536	Psychiatric Mental Health Care with Adults and Older Adults	6 (3/3)
GNRS 537	Psychiatric Mental Health Care with Children and Adolescents	6 (3/3)
GNRS 538	Psychiatric Mental Health Care with Selected Populations	5 (2/3)
GNRS 539	Psychopharmacology	2
<b>Concluding Course(s)</b>		<b>1-3</b>
GNRS 597	Comprehensive Examination Directed Study	1
- or -		
GNRS 598 & GNRS 514	Thesis and Research Proposal Writing	3
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>54-56</b>

<sup>1</sup> Units in parentheses are classroom/clinical units.

## Admission

University graduate admission and program-specific requirements must be met before an application is complete (see Admissions Information (<http://catalog.apu.edu/admissions/>)). **Program-specific application requirements are available online (<https://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/apply/>).**

International students should contact Graduate and Professional Admissions (<https://www.apu.edu/graduateprofessional/apply/>) for application procedures.