



Dear Prospective Post-Master's Certificate PMHNP Student:

We are pleased that you are interested in applying for admission into the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program at Wilmington University. Applications for the PMHNP Program are accepted from individuals who have a current FNP license and board certification. The program is available online.

Application deadlines are explained on the attached sheet. No admission decisions will be made until after the application deadline has passed. All applications are reviewed at that time and those candidates selected to continue the admission process with individual interviews will be notified. Candidates who are not selected to continue the process will also be notified. Candidates are invited for interviews based on the quality of their admissions documentation, previous experience/employment, and their potential for academic success as indicated by their undergraduate grade point average.

You are encouraged to submit your applications materials early so that you can follow-up in a timely manner if anything is missing or delayed in arrival at the Graduate Admissions Office.

This packet contains several important items:

- Application Instructions (includes deadlines)
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Statement of Goals (thought questions)

You are encouraged to review these materials carefully as you determine your interest in pursuing admission to the program.

If you decide to apply for the PMHNP Program, you should follow the Application Instructions for the PMHNP Program. These directions supersede any conflicting directions in the other application materials.

If you need clarification of any information contained in this packet, please call Graduate Admissions at (302) 295-1184 or the Graduate Administrative Assistants for the College of Health Professions at (302)356-2480. Best wishes as you take the next step in your education.

Sincerely,

Lori Ireland

Lori Ireland, DNP, FNP, APRN-BC
Regional Chair of MSN Nurse Practitioner
Program and PMHNP Program
lori.s.ireland@wilmu.edu

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
Post-master's Certificate PMHNP Program

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Apply online, please complete self-reporting of science grades on the application.
**Note: This program is 100% online*

2. Have **Official Transcripts** listing BSN and MSN conferral sent electronically or directly to the Graduate Admissions Office.

Wilmington University
Office of Graduate Admissions
Wilson Graduate Center
31 Read's Way
New Castle, DE 19720

**Note: Additional transcripts reflecting self-reporting science grades will be required upon acceptance into the Nurse Practitioner program.*

3. Please submit a current resume, proof of a current RN license, FNP license, board certification, resume, and your Statement of Goals in either a word document or PDF and upload them through your admissions portal.
4. Thoroughly complete your **Statement of Goals** by answering *one of the two Thought Questions*. Your answers must be typed and double spaced. Both the content of your answers and your ability to write are being evaluated, so proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling are important.
**Note – submission of a complete packet assists the review process*
5. **One Letter of Recommendation**. Recommendations are to be requested through the Admissions Portal. Letter of Recommendation must be from either a previous or immediate supervisor and/or a former nursing faculty member who can attest to the applicant's clinical knowledge, skill and potential aptitude for graduate study. References will not be accepted from colleagues or family members.
6. Applicants are screened for admission to the PMHNP Program based on the potential to be successful academically as a graduate student and professionally as a primary care nurse practitioner. Candidate interviews for the PMHNP program are based on completed admissions documentation and the quality of the responses to the documentation. The admissions process is accomplished in two stages.

Stage 1: Review of Application Materials

- a. Undergraduate and Graduate academic record from the official transcript. You must submit transcripts from all colleges you attended. (3.0 GPA or higher is desired; however, applicants will be considered for those with GPA 2.75 or higher)
- b. Relevant professional experience documented on the resume
- c. Statement of goals as expressed on the thought questions

Applicants who successfully meet the screening criteria in Stage 1 are invited to on-campus interviews in Stage 2

Stage 2: Individual Interviews

- a. All admissions materials must be complete and submitted **by the application deadline** for an applicant **to be considered** for an admissions interview per the stage one criteria. Interviews will be conducted either by telephone or at a central location for both sites and will require an applicant to be available for 2-3 hours. The applicant must be available on the scheduled interview days. If unable to attend the interview those applicants will be considered for the next scheduled intake of students. The individual interviews offer the opportunity to evaluate the applicant's interpersonal skills and personal potential to become an effective nurse practitioner.
- b. All information is confidential. Information requested on race and sex is gathered to enable Wilmington University to comply with its Equal Opportunity obligations and will not be used to discriminate against individuals.
- c. The MSN-NP Program Admissions Committee reviews all application materials and interview information to determine a candidate's fit for the MSN-NP Program based on academic readiness, personal maturity, and career goals. Decisions of the committee are final.

Application Deadline for Fall Term Admission: March 1st

All applicants who are admitted are expected to enroll in the Fall Term of the year of their admission, with classes beginning in August.

Application Deadline for Spring Term Admission: October 1st

All applicants who are admitted are expected to enroll in the Spring Term of the year of their admission, with classes beginning in January.



Post-Master's Certificate PMHNP

STATEMENT OF GOALS

Please respond ***only one*** of the following questions in a separate document. The response requires **minimum of two full double spaced pages (8 ½ x 11) typed.**

- I. **State thoughtfully why you want to further your nursing career as a PMHNP . Identify your personal and professional goals related to this decision. Identify what you will do with this newly acquired knowledge.**

- II. **Discuss how your NP experiences lead to your desire to become a PMH nurse practitioner. Identify what impact you can make on the quality of patient care in this new role.**

Since we do not require standardized test scores as a criteria for admissions, your responses to these questions will weigh significantly in the initial screening process. **Responses must meet the minimum of 2 pages to be considered.** Please give careful attention to the quality of the content, writing mechanics, and organization of thought.

The MSN - NP Faculty wish you the best in your quest for the Post-master's certificate.

QUESTIONS MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED BY Post-master's Certificate PMHNP APPLICANTS

1. Why do I need to have a FNP certification for this program?

Currently we are only accepting licensed FNPs. We are planning to expand this option in the future to allow other NPs to apply. The focus of the post-master's PMHNP Program is to provide classes and experiences with clients/families over the life span. Your FNP degree and certification assures us that you have completed the 3 Ps across the lifespan.

2. Will I have to get a Doctor in Nursing Practice (DNP) degree later to practice as a nurse practitioner in the future?

Currently the MSN-NP degree is accepted in all states for practice. There is a move towards entry to practice as DNP. We have developed accelerated options within our current NP program to support the goal. Please discuss with your advisor.

3. What areas will I be able to work after graduation?

The PMHNP prepares primary care nurse practitioners to now work in PMH settings, in addition to staying in primary care. Graduates are prepared to work in clinics, private practice, and inpatient settings.

4. How long will it take me to complete the program with 500 clinical hours?

This seems like a great deal of time and coursework.

The PMHNP certificate Program has been designed for completion in a little over 1 year. Some of the courses are scheduled on a semester long (15-week) basis and all remaining courses are scheduled in 7-week block. Courses are offered online only with some synchronous virtual sessions. The amount of clinical time meets the requirements to sit for the PMH nurse practitioner certification exam offered by ANCC.

5. Is the PMHNP Program a competitive program in terms of admission standards?

Admission to the program is competitive based on the balance of a number of factors including undergraduate and graduate academic performance (GPA of 3.0 or higher is preferred), prior work/volunteer experience, personal maturity, and personal/professional goals. We have a selection process that is utilized to evaluate a person's readiness for graduate study and their suitability.

6. Does my graduate degree have to be in nursing?

Yes, you must have a MSN degree and be licensed and board certified as a FNP.

7. Is there financial aid available?

The University's Financial Aid Office can provide you with information about their loan program. Many students have benefited from this low interest program.

8. Is the PMHNP Program fully accredited?

We have received accreditation from the Council for Certification of Nursing Education (CCNE) until 2021.

9. If I am accepted into the PMHNP Program, when can I start?

In order to be able to complete the program in a little over 1 year, students are admitted to begin classes in the Fall or Spring Term by submitting a fully completed application by no later than the Admission Deadlines.

10. Does the PMHNP Program accept transfer credits?

A maximum of six credits may be transferred into the program in graduate courses that are deemed equivalent to the courses in the PMHNP program. The chair will work with you on this process.

11. If for any reason, I need to withdraw from the program (financial, illness, etc.), would it be possible to re-enter the program without re-applying?

Students have a five-year time limit to complete the program. From time to time some students need to take a leave from the program and go on inactive status for a short time period. Students must contact their faculty academic advisor if there is a deviation from their program of study including becoming inactive. If the student's status is inactive for more than one year a new application only is required by the WU policy. Students must then contact the Chair of the MSN program to discuss their status. Students who leave the program for an extended length of time may lose their spot; however, this is decided on a case-by-case basis. All students needing more than 5 years to complete their program of study must reapply for admission to the PMHNP Program.

Exceptions to the 5 year policy may be made in extenuating circumstances.

12. How much time do I have to spend in an agency setting to complete the program?

The PMHNP Program requires students to complete a 500 practicum hours over three semesters. Practicum begins after completion of the psychopharmacology. The average time in the field during practicum is 12-16 hours per week. Although many agencies have flexible hours, which enable students to work around their regular jobs, students often find that they must make arrangements with their employer to insure availability to complete practicum hours in the prescribed time frame.

13. Is it possible that practicum and/or internship experiences be done where a student is employed?

Yes, some students do work in agencies where practicum can be completed; however this is not encouraged. The site must meet all of the regular practicum requirements and the practicum must offer the opportunity for new learning and professional growth. In addition, supervision must be provided by someone who meets the PMHNP Program's site supervisor requirements for education and experience and who is not the student's regular supervisor.