

**Utah System of Higher Education
New Academic Program Proposal
Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template**

Institution Submitting Request: University of Utah

Proposed Program Title: Post-Graduate Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner CIP

Sponsoring School, College, or Division: College of Nursing

Sponsoring Academic Department(s) or Unit(s): Academic Programs

Classification of Instructional Program Code¹ : 51.3810

Min/Max Credit Hours Required of Full Program: 29 / 29

Proposed Beginning Term²: Fall 2020

Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:

Program Type:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Proficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>	Entry-level CTE CP	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mid-level CP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Completion				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Graduate Certificate				
<input type="checkbox"/>	K-12 Endorsement Program				
<input type="checkbox"/>	NEW Emphasis for Regent-Approved Program				
	<i>Credit Hours for NEW Emphasis Only:</i>	Min Cr Hr	/	Max Cr Hr	
	<i>Current Major CIP:</i>	6 - Digit CIP			
	<i>Current Program Title:</i>				
	<i>Current Program BOR Approval Date:</i>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Out of Service Area Delivery Program				

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:

I, the Chief Academic Officer or Designee, certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Gwen Latendresse

Date: 11-15-2019

☒ I understand that checking this box constitutes my legal signature.

¹ For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

² "Proposed Beginning Term" refers to first term after Regent approval that students may declare this program.

**Utah System of Higher Education
Program Description - Abbreviated Template**

Section I: The Request

University of Utah requests approval to offer the following Graduate Certificate: Post-Graduate Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate effective Fall 2020. This program was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees on .

Section II: Program Proposal/Needs Assessment

Program Description/Rationale

Present a brief program description. Describe the institutional procedures used to arrive at a decision to offer the program. Briefly indicate why such a program should be initiated. State how the institution and the USHE benefit by offering the proposed program. Provide evidence of student interest and demand that supports potential program enrollment.

The University of Utah College of Nursing (CON) is requesting approval to offer a Post-Graduate certificate as a Psych/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). The purpose of the post-graduate certificate is to provide, for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who already hold a master's or Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, an educational route to specialization in an area other than that obtained in their master's or doctoral program. The program is designed to strengthen or broaden the clinical management capabilities of graduate-prepared nurses who are planning a role expansion or role change, and who desire additional specialty board certification as a PMHNP. Upon completion of the program, successful graduates are eligible to sit for the *American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)* Psychiatric Mental Health Certification, which is required for licensure.

If approved, the PMHNP certificate would be available beginning Fall semester 2020. The PMHNP certificate will be added to other certificates already offered by the College of Nursing, including Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Certified Nurse Midwife, and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. **ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants to the PMHNP certificate program must apply and be accepted to the University of Utah as a non-degree seeking student in order to take the PMHNP courses as a non-matriculated student. An application must also be submitted to the College of Nursing as a certificate-only student. The application requirements include a statement of interest, resume/CV, educational transcripts, copy of APRN certificate, and letters of recommendation. The director and faculty for the PMHNP track will review all PMHNP certificate applications in January/February each year, along with all DNP applications to the PMHNP program. Faculty use a "holistic review" process to select and admit students from the applicant pool, which requires evaluation of all application materials, not only academic GPA. All certificate applicants must be a current APRN (nurse practitioner or nurse midwife) with a master's or doctorate degree in nursing, and hold board certification in at least one population focus (e.g. family, adult/gerontology, nurse midwifery, pediatrics, women's health).

The intent of the PMHNP certificate is to meet the overwhelming need in the United States for more psychiatric providers. Over 44 million American adults have a mental health condition and of those individuals, 1 in 5 report having an unmet need related to their condition. It is clear that there is a need to strengthen the PMH APRN workforce as health care reform is likely to increase demand for mental health services. Health care reform and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have directed greater attention to health care practice that promotes holism, prevention of mental illness, and mental wellness promotion. Given the educational preparation, PMH APRNs are ideally suited to provide services in a

variety of settings.

The educational emphasis of the core APRN curriculum on pharmacology, physical assessment and pathophysiology along with the PMH specialty focus on psychotherapy modalities and pharmacotherapy across the lifespan, reinforces the value of the traditional consultation and results in a practitioner with a combination of skills that are desperately needed across systems of care.

The University of Utah College of Nursing now offers advanced practice nursing programs as a DNP degree, versus, in prior years, a master's degree. The DNP program was started in 2007, with each of the specialty areas converting to the DNP degree over the following years. The PMHNP DNP program began in 2012. Prior to this, a Post-Graduate PMH certificate had been offered. With the advent of the new degree, the PMH certificate was placed on hold. It is the desire of the College to reinstate the certificate. Over the past several years, both new graduate APRNs and those currently practicing have contacted the College of Nursing to request a Post-Graduate certificate in PMH.

This proposal has been reviewed, discussed and unanimously approved by vote of the MS-DNP Curriculum Committee, and has been presented to our College Council.

Labor Market Demand

Provide local, state, and/or national labor market data that speak to the need for this program. Occupational demand, wage, and number of annual openings information may be found at sources such as Utah DWS Occupation Information Data Viewer (jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoOccinfo.do) and the Occupation Outlook Handbook (www.bls.gov/oco).

The PMHNP certificate will produce graduates with the training, credentials and licensing to meet the increasing demand for psych/mental health providers. Graduates from the certificate program will be able to sit for the ANCC Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner board certification examination. This then allows the individual to be licensed as a PMH APRN. Those PMH certified APRNs will not only be able to provide much needed mental health care as advanced practitioners but will also meet the increasing need for graduate-level nursing educators to teach clinically oriented coursework and provide clinical training for current DNP students.

The US Bureau of Labor and Statistics (Hogan & Roberts, 2015) estimates that 3.2 million nurses will be needed in 2024, a 16% increase from 2014. Factors limiting growth of the nursing workforce continue to include the aging and retirement of current nurse faculty, the number of nurse faculty vacancies that go unfilled, and nursing programs' subsequent inability to admit many qualified applicants due to faculty shortage. At the graduate level, factors influencing the nursing education and faculty shortage include the rapid expansion of requisite knowledge, increasing complexity of patient care, and limited numbers of doctoral-prepared nursing faculty. US nursing programs continue to turn away qualified students because they lack enough faculty to teach required courses, encounter increasing barriers to obtaining and maintaining clinical placements and preceptors, inadequate infrastructure (e.g. insufficient space or outdated technology), and budget constraints.

The need for nurse faculty and nurses across the US is therefore significant and growing, and the situation in the state of Utah is also acute. Utah is currently experiencing a deficit of 1,200 nurses, and almost half of nurses practicing in the state are expected to retire by 2030 (Utah Nursing Consortium, 2017) and projections forecast a 33% increased need for Registered Nurses, 46% for Nurse Practitioners and 48% for post-secondary nursing instructors. According to a recent workforce survey, 38% of nurses holding an RN license are ADN prepared, 42% are BSN prepared, 9.2% have a master's degree, and less than 1% hold either a PhD or DNP degree (Utah Medical Education Council, 2016). This suggests a significant deficit between projected need for increased numbers of nurses to provide care in our area, and the numbers of nurses with the advanced degrees and education needed to work as nursing faculty to teach them.

Moreover, Utah has 29 geographic and 39 low income Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) across all of the 29 counties in the state. Of these 29 counties, 22 are identified as medically underserved areas/populations (MUA/MUP), 26 are designated as primary care HPSAs and all 29 are designated as full-county mental health HPSAs. In addition, the Kaiser Family Foundation (2018) reports that Utah has 50% of mental health needs met and that 97 providers are needed to remove the designation as a mental health care professional shortage area. Nationally, the US & World News reports the supply of workers in selected behavioral health professions to be approximately 250,000 workers short of the projected demand in 2025.

Consistency with Institutional Mission/Impact on Other USHE Institutions

Explain how the program is consistent with the institution's Regents-approved mission, roles, and goals. Institutional mission and roles may be found at higheredutah.org/policies/policyr312/ . Indicate if the program will be delivered outside of designated service area; provide justification. Service areas are defined in higheredutah.org/policies/policyr315/ .

The academic mission of the University of Utah is "to foster student success by preparing students from diverse backgrounds for lives of impact as leaders and citizens." The University of Utah College of Nursing (CON) educates students to become outstanding clinicians and nursing faculty by increasing access to nursing graduate education in the Intermountain West and beyond, including opportunities for rigorous scientific training and formal nursing faculty preparation. This proposed PMH certificate is consistent with this mission as it prepares students to become health science leaders across Utah and the West, with the potential to impact the lives of communities in need through advanced clinical practice in the area of mental health.

A review was completed of PAC-12 universities and of the Universities in states bordering Utah, the Intermountain west. Three other PAC-12 schools offer a Post-Graduate certificate in PMH, in Arizona and Washington. Three Intermountain west universities, University of Nevada, Reno, Southern New Mexico and the University of Colorado each offer a PMH Post-Graduate certificate as does one on-line school in Utah, Rocky Mountain University.

Many of our DNP didactic courses are distance accessible and/or delivered in a hybrid format combining online and on-campus activities, the clinical training courses require placement within clinical sites overseen by our CON faculty and vetted preceptors. Our DNP programs and post-graduate certificates have served students residing in urban as well as rural Utah and neighboring Intermountain west states while pursuing their degrees. For distance students, defined as living more the 60 miles from campus, they will be able to attend the majority of the DNP courses via a distance synchronous format, complete on-line courses and complete their practicum training in their area of residence. The goal for distance education is to educate clinicians in their home communities, so they remain and practice there. The DNP PMHNP program currently works with distance students.

Finances

What costs or savings are anticipated in implementing the proposed program? If new funds are required, indicate expected sources of funds. Describe any budgetary impact on other programs or units within the institution.

Costs to the University of Utah College of Nursing to establish this Post-Graduate PMH certificate are expected to be minimal. We will leverage existing infrastructure and curricula to create and provide this program. No new courses are needed. We are expecting to accept 1 to 2 students per year so will not create undue burden on faculty time and cost. Moreover, the College of Nursing has a strong history of federal, state and philanthropic support for funding opportunities that benefit our students.

Section III: Curriculum

Program Curriculum

List all courses, including new courses, to be offered in the proposed program by prefix, number, title, and credit hours (or credit equivalences). Indicate new courses with an X in the appropriate columns. The total number of credit hours should reflect the number of credits required to receive the award. **For NEW Emphases, skip to emphases tables below.**

For variable credits, please enter the minimum value in the table below for credit hours. To explain variable credit in detail as well as any additional information, use the narrative box below.

Course Number	NEW Course	Course Title	Credit Hours
General Education Courses (list specific courses if recommended for this program on Degree Map)			
General Education Credit Hour Sub-Total			
Required Courses			
NURS 6301		Foundations of Psychotherapy: The Art & Science of Healing a Relationship	3
NURS 6302		Mental Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning	2
NURS 6310		Mood and Anxiety Disorders	3
NURS 6316		Child/Adolescent Mental Health Assessment and Treatment	2
NURS 6322		Serious & Persistent Mental Illnesses	2
NURS 6355		Advanced Pathophysiology of Mental Illness	3
NURS 6369		Advanced Psychopharmacology	3
NURS 7360		Mental Health Assessment and Treatment of Older Adults	2
NURS 7661		Psychiatric/Mental Health Practicum I	2
NURS 7662		Psychiatric/Mental Health Practicum II	2
NURS 7665		Psychiatric/Mental Health Practicum V	2
NURS 7666		Psychiatric/Mental Health Practicum VI	3
Add Another Required Course			
Required Course Credit Hour Sub-Total			29
Elective Courses			
NURS 7344		Substance-Related & Addiction Disorder Therapy and Management	2
Add Another Elective Course			
Elective Credit Hour Sub-Total			2
Core Curriculum Credit Hour Sub-Total			31

Propose a NEW Emphasis to an existing Regent approved program

Program Curriculum Narrative

Describe any variable credits. You may also include additional curriculum information, as needed.

The proposed Post Graduate Degree Psych/Mental Health Certificate is to provide an avenue for currently practicing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with a Master's or Doctorate to obtain competency in psychiatric-mental health, an area of specialization not previously obtained. A part-time program of study takes six semesters to complete, while a full-time program of study can be completed in 4 semesters. Once completed, the student may sit for the *American Nurses Certification Center (ANCC)* Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner certification exam required for licensure as a PMHNP.

The curriculum includes course work specific to psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy, two important education areas for the returning nurse practitioner to achieve competency in PMH. The College of Nursing accrediting body, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), specifically requires this course work for PMHNP education, as does the ANCC for eligibility of graduates to take the certification exam. The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) determines the core competencies for all nurse practitioners, including the PMHNP, and directs the curriculum and learning outcomes for all nurse practitioner specialties.

Learning Outcomes for the PMHNP Certificate:

1. Investigate psychodynamic and cognitive-based theories and implement core principles of successful psychotherapeutic outcomes that are foundational to the practice of psychotherapy.
2. Examine and apply essential theories and skills necessary to conduct comprehensive psychiatric assessments and diagnostics
3. Develop an age-appropriate treatment plan for mental health problems and psychiatric disorders based on biopsychosocial theories, evidence-based standards of care, and practice guidelines.
4. Develop the ability to select and evaluate effective drug therapies on the physical and mental health of patients and consider non-drug integrative therapies to promote health

Learning outcomes assessment includes successful completion of all coursework at a B- or better, meeting all clinical performance expectations as assessed by a standardized clinical evaluation tool used by preceptors and faculty during clinical practicum experiences, and ultimately passing the national PMHNP certification exam.

Degree Map

Degree maps pertain to undergraduate programs ONLY. Provide a degree map for proposed program. Degree Maps were approved by the State Board of Regents on July 17, 2014 as a degree completion measure. Degree maps or graduation plans are a suggested semester-by-semester class schedule that includes prefix, number, title, and semester hours. For more details see <http://higheredutah.org/pdf/agendas/201407/TAB%20A%202014-7-18.pdf> (Item #3).

Please cut-and-paste the degree map or manually enter the degree map in the table below