



Curriculum effective Fall 2026

Revised February 2026

Post-Baccalaureate DNP Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program

The Post-Baccalaureate Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Program is based at the Rutgers Health Campus in Newark, NJ and is one of few programs in New Jersey preparing Post-BS to DNPs in the area of Psychiatric-Mental Health across the lifespan. Graduates are eligible to take the national certification examination as a Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

Role and Qualifications: The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner DNP program is for bachelor’s-prepared nurses seeking a doctoral degree. The program prepares graduates to provide comprehensive psychiatric-mental health care across the lifespan to individuals, groups, and families in diverse settings. This DNP program creates nursing leaders prepared to address emerging issues in psychiatric-mental health, such as family and community violence, prevention of psychiatric illness, and improving the quality of psychiatric care delivery to various populations. Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioners are employed in community agencies, state and county psychiatric hospitals, forensic facilities, and long-term care settings.

Scope of Practice: Grounded in nursing, neurobiological, social, and psychological and behavioral sciences, the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner provides comprehensive care to individuals, groups and families across the lifespan in diverse settings, focusing on the improvement in the psychiatric-mental health quality of life using evidence-based practice.

Curriculum: The program is 73 credits with 780 precepted practicum hours and 320 DNP Project Experience hours. The following are the required courses for this program:

Core Courses:

Course #	Course Title	Credit Hrs.	Clinical Hrs.
XXXX 0000	Advanced Health Assessment	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	Advanced Pathophysiology	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	Advanced Pharmacology	3.00	N/A

Subtotal Core Credits: 9.00

DNP Core Courses:

Course #	Course Title	Credit Hrs.	DNP Hrs.*
XXXX 0000	Role Development and Foundations of Practice	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	Epidemiology and Biostatistics for Evidence-Based Practice	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	Scholarly Inquiry, Appraisal, and Writing	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	Health Data, Informatics, and Technology	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	Strategic Leadership and Partnerships	3.00	35
XXXX 0000	Healthcare Delivery and Economics	3.00	35
XXXX 0000	Evidence-Based Approaches to Advanced Nursing Practice	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	Advanced Population Health, Policy, and Advocacy	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	DNP Project Preparation	2.00	30



RUTGERS HEALTH
School of Nursing

(973) 972-3067
 snadmissions@sn.rutgers.edu
 nursing.rutgers.edu
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XXXX 0000	DNP Project Planning and Proposal Development	2.00	70
XXXX 0000	DNP Project Implementation	2.00	100
XXXX 0000	DNP Project Evaluation and Dissemination	2.00	50

Subtotal DNP Core Credits: 32.00

Specialty Courses:

Course #	Course Title	Credit Hrs.	Clin. Hrs.
MHP 6090	Principles of Psychopharmacology	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	PMHNP Introductory Assessment – Biopsychosocial Competencies	4.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	PMHNP Theory 1	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	PMHNP Practicum 1	3.00	180
XXXX 0000	PMHNP Theory 2	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	PMHNP Practicum 2	3.00	180
XXXX 0000	PMHNP Theory 3	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	PMHNP Practicum 3	3.00	180
XXXX 0000	PMHNP Theory 4	3.00	N/A
XXXX 0000	PMHNP Practicum 4	4.00	240

Subtotal Specialty Credits: 32.00

Total Program Credits:	73.00
Total Clinical Hours:	780 (minimum)
Total DNP Project Hours:	320 (minimum)
Total DNP Degree Hours:	1,100 (minimum)

*A student who does not complete their DNP Project during the project-related courses will be registered for a 1-credit DNP Project Continuation course (XXXX 0000) until the project sequence is complete.