

According to the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) the following are requirements for sitting for the certification exam:¹

1. Hold a master's, postgraduate, or doctoral degree from a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) (formerly NLNAC | National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission). A minimum of 500 faculty-supervised clinical hours must be included in the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program.
2. Three separate, comprehensive graduate-level courses in:
 - ◁ Advanced physiology/pathophysiology, including general principles that apply across the life span,
 - ◁ Advanced health assessment, which includes assessment of all human systems, advanced assessment techniques, concepts, and approaches, and
 - ◁ Advanced pharmacology, which includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents.
3. Content in:
 - ◁ Health promotion and/or maintenance
 - ◁ Differential diagnosis and disease management, including the use and prescription of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic interventions
4. Clinical training in at least two psychotherapeutic treatment modalities.

The certificate will allow graduates to sit for certification and ultimately provide psychiatric mental health care in a variety of outpatient or inpatient settings throughout the state.

Successful completion of graduate level courses in Advanced Physical Assessment (Lifespan), Advanced Pathophysiology (Lifespan), Advanced Pharmacology / Pharmacotherapeutics (Lifespan) with a course grade of 3.0 or higher within the last 5 years is an admission requirement for the post-graduate certificate. (*Refer to question #8 for admission requirements.*) The post-graduate certificate is completed by students who already have completed a Master's or Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree, however are seeking another credential. Students will have already completed courses in pathophysiology, pharmacology, and physical assessment.

3. Provide a justification for the certificate program, including the potential benefits to students and potential workforce demand for those who graduate with the credential.²

South Dakota ranks second in the nation for *higher* prevalence of mental illness and *lower* rates of access to care.¹ Only 55% to 65% of the people in the state are provided mental health and substance use care; in isolated and reservation areas, 37% to 39% of these

psychiatric hospital. Emergency department and hospital utilization for mental health care is high.⁵ The proposed post-graduate certificate will increase much needed access to mental health care provision by psychiatric nurse practitioners in South Dakota where a current serious shortage exists. SDSU's clinical partners and the South Dakota Board of Nursing (SDBON) have implored the University to address this shortage through development of a post-graduate certificate option in the short term, and an additional Master's in Nursing-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty in the long term.

4. Who is the intended audience for the certificate program (including but not limited to the majors/degree programs from which students are expected)?

The intended audience is masters or doctorally prepared family nurse practitioners.

Psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners are employed in the subspecialty of psychiatry. Like other subspecialties of health care (neonatology, oncology, pain management, cardiology, ophthalmology, etc.), psychiatric mental health care requires additional education

8. Additional Information:

Additional Admission Requirements

GRE: Not required

TOEFL: Score of 600 paper-based, 100 Internet-based, OR

IELTS: 7.0 total band

In addition to meeting basic requirements for admission to the Graduate School, applicants for graduate study in nursing must have:

- ◁ Bachelor's degree in nursing from a National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited program with an upper division major in nursing with a "B" average (3.0 or higher on a 4.0 point grading system).
- ◁ Master's degree in nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited program with a "B" average (3.0 or higher on a 4.0 point grad

Appendix A
Post-Graduate Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Student Learning Outcomes

Individual Student Outcome	Program Courses that Address the Outcomes					
	NURS 732	NURS 733	NURS 734	NURS 735	NURS 736	NURS 737
Assess, diagnose, and plan care for complex psychiatric and concomitant medical issues, including the prescription and management of psychopharmacologic agents.					X	X
Formulate an evidence-based strategy in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of persons across the lifespan with psychiatric disorders.		X		X		
Implement advanced psychiatric mental health nursing health promotion and prevention of psychopathology with patients with mental illness across the lifespan.				X		

Compare and contrast the effectiveness of various

Appendix B

New Course Requests and Alignment to the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Certification Requirements

NURS 732 Psychopharmacology and Neurobiology Across the Lifespan

Credits: 2

The study of advanced psychopharmacological treatment of psychiatric symptoms and disorders. Neurobiological processes are emphasized. Medication selection, dosage and monitoring is covered including prescriptive issues.

Prerequisite: None; Co-requisite: None; Registration Restriction: Department Consent

FNPs have completed four credits in pharmacology. This post-graduate certificate prepares them for a specialty practice. More advanced knowledge is needed for the specialized treatment of mentally ill patients

Practicing in this specialized role requires unique skills not offered in family NP programs. Specific advanced skills in communication to conduct a detailed psychosocial assessment (vs. a history and physical exam taught in family NP programs) are needed to obtain appropriate and comprehensive information to treat individuals and families in multiple types of settings. This course will also apply concepts learned in NURS 733 Theories and Interventions for Groups

NURS 736 Psychiatric/Mental Health Advanced Practice Across the Lifespan I

Credits: 4

The study of advanced psychopharmacological treatment of psychiatric symptoms and disorders.