Post-Graduate Certificate Programs in Psychiatric Mental Health and Nurse Educator

Certificates are a great way for graduate-prepared nurses to expand their roles, advance knowledge and skills, and pursue new professional directions. The UW–Madison School of Nursing offers two post-graduate certificate programs. The Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Certificate is designed for nurses who seek nurse practitioner certification in psychiatric mental health care. The Nurse Educator Certificate enables experienced professional nurses to combine clinical expertise with a passion for teaching.

Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Certificate Program

Our state and our nation are experiencing growing needs for psychiatric mental health services, and there is a shortage of psychiatric providers. We built this program to educate master’s-prepared nurses seeking to expand their professional roles and specialize in mental health care.

Who Should Apply

This program is designed for master’s-prepared nurses who have completed the 3Ps (Advanced Physical Assessment, Advanced Pharmacology, and Advanced Pathophysiology) and who would like to become a Board Certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. Our program prepares students to meet the psychiatric mental health nursing course work and clinical hour requirements to take the ANCC Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Examination. Nurses who are interested in providing specialized mental health care for rural populations, underserved populations, primary care patients or persons living with severe mental illness are encouraged to apply.

Curriculum and Program of Study

The program expands over four terms (i.e., summer, fall, spring, summer) and requires 18 credits. In each semester, students take one foundation course and one clinical course. In the first summer of the program, students take a three-credit psychopharmacology course. In each of the remaining three semesters, students take five credits, which include a clinical course. Courses cover the assessment and management of common mental health conditions as well as the complex care needs of persons living with serious mental illness. Students also study current issues in psychiatric nursing with an emphasis on evidence-based care. Each week, students spend between 20 and 25 hours at their clinical site and on course work. Students complete 500 clock hours of clinical practice.

Course Delivery

Much of the course content is delivered online, but students will meet, at minimum, eight times per semester on campus. These in-person class meetings are expected of all students in the program.

Admission

We admit students to begin in the summer session only. The application opens in September and closes February 1. The faculty admissions committee reviews applications in February and March. Applicants are typically notified in April of the admission decision. Eligibility requirements include:

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited nursing program
- Master’s degree from an accredited nursing program
- RN license
- Certification as an advanced practice nurse or eligible to apply for certification as an advanced practice nurse

For More Information

To learn more about our program, admissions, financial aid and scholarships, and more:

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The goal of the Nurse Educator Certificate Program (NECP) and the Nurse Educator Certificate Capstone Program (NECCP) is to prepare nurses in the science of nursing education. Students who complete the certificate are eligible to sit for the National League for Nursing (NLN) Certified Nurse Educator Examination. NLN recognizes the nurse educator role as a specialty area of practice.

Who Should Apply
This program offers two pathways:
1. Nurse Educator Certificate Program: For students currently enrolled in a nursing doctoral program (DNP or PhD)
2. Nurse Educator Capstone Certificate Program: For master’s- or doctoral-prepared nurses who are not currently enrolled in a nursing doctoral program

Curriculum and Program of Study
This program offers three courses of graduate-level foundational and practicum work. These courses cover the foundation of teaching/learning and curriculum in nursing education with an emphasis on evidence-based teaching. Courses are delivered primarily online with regularly scheduled class sessions on campus. The coursework can be completed in one year, January–December, during a spring, summer and fall term. The three courses in the program are:

N785 Foundations of Curriculum Development and Evaluation in Nursing Education
Examination and application of knowledge and skills related to curriculum planning, implementation and evaluation for nursing education. Emphasis on history and philosophy of nursing curricula, models of curriculum and evaluation, and strategies for change and innovation.

N786 Foundations of Teaching and Learning in Nursing
The focus of this course is the planning, implementation, and evaluation of teaching and learning strategies for nursing education within diverse settings and student populations.

N787 Nursing Education Practicum
Application of knowledge and skills in the nurse educator role in selected educational environments (classroom, clinical, laboratory and/or communities). Seminar component included for discussion of instructional experiences and issues. Course work is arranged and directed in collaboration with expert preceptors. Students are required to complete 250 clock hours.

Admission
Eligibility requirements include:
- Master’s degree from an accredited nursing program or currently enrolled in a DNP or PhD nursing program
- RN license
- Master’s GPA of at least 3.0
- Deadline to apply is November 1

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To learn more about our program, admissions, financial aid and scholarships, and more:

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