APPLYING TO THE PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER (PMHNP) PROGRAM

(Master of Nursing, Post Master, or Doctor of Nursing Practice)

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program prepares graduates for advanced specialty practice with a dual emphasis on intervention through psychotherapy and psychopharmacology. PMHNP’s intervene with vulnerable populations and promote mental health across the lifespan. They work with children, adolescents, adults, and older persons in a variety of settings, including community mental health clinics, public health departments, hospitals and outpatient mental health clinics, health maintenance organizations, government facilities, schools of nursing, and independent private practice.

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program at OHSU School of Nursing has earned a national reputation for its emphasis on primary mental healthcare. Students study the interaction among biological and neurophysiological vulnerabilities, psychological and developmental factors, and social and physical environmental stressors. The program emphasizes mental health nursing interventions, including psychotherapy and psychopharmacology. Supervised clinical experience is available primarily in community-based agencies and programs.

This program is offered on the Portland campus and students in this program can complete the Master of Nursing (MN) degree in two years, become licensed as a PMHNP, and enter into specialty practice or enroll for three years to obtain the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), completing the MN and obtaining PMHNP licensure on the way. A practice-focused curriculum will support the career trajectory for those pursuing expert clinical practice and leadership as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

Note: An Accelerated Bachelor to Master’s with the FNP specialty is available for applicants that hold a bachelor degree in another field but not in nursing. Please review the specific application instructions for the Accelerated Bachelor to Master’s program found on this page: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/programs/index.cfm.

Application Deadline & Admission Decisions

Applications open each September for a fall term entry with established application deadlines that can be found at: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/graduate_deadlines.cfm. All materials must be submitted by the identified deadline in order to receive priority* consideration.
Late applications may be accepted after the priority deadline if seats are still available but this is not guaranteed. Applicants wanting to receive full consideration should submit all materials by the identified deadline(s).

Note: Applications close at midnight on the designated deadline date Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Admissions decisions are strongly based on the following criteria:

- Cumulative GPA & Science GPA
- Essay response and Interview
- GRE scores (and TOEFL scores for international applicants if applicable)

**Admission Requirements & Eligibility**

Applicants must have the following materials in order to apply. If you are an international student please see the international applicant web page for additional requirements if you are a resident of a country other than the United States.

**Prior Degree**

Applicants need a B.S. with a major in nursing or B.S.N. degree from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education.

**R.N. Status**

- Must have or be eligible for an Oregon registered nurse license upon application.
- Must be licensed in the state of Oregon prior to matriculation.

**Work Experience**

It is strongly recommended that applicants complete at least one year of experience as an R.N. before applying to this program and applicants will need to provide a vitae or resume as part of the application.

**Grade Point Average**

- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Minimum science GPA of a 3.0 (this includes coursework from departments such as anatomy, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, physiology, etc.)

**Statistics**

Applicants must successfully pass a basic statistics course with a grade of "B-" or better within five years prior to entry into the master's program. Post Master Certificate Option applicants are not required to complete statistics.
Entrance Essay Question

- You will be asked to provide a written essay(s) as part of your application. Please see the link to the essay instructions for this program located on this page: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/index.cfm.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores

Applicants to the advanced practice nursing programs (CNM, CRNA, FNP and PMHNP) are required to submit official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores from the general test from ETS. The OHSU School of Nursing GRE code is 4900. OHSU recommends a minimum score of 500 in each section (verbal and quantitative) as well as a minimum analytic writing score of 4.0 for the scoring scale used prior to August 2011 or a 144 in the quantitative section, 153 in the verbal section, and a minimum analytic writing score of 4.0 to be competitive.

*Applicants who already hold a graduate degree from an accredited US institution do not need to take the GRE.

Letters of Recommendation

- Applicants must submit three letters of reference as part of their application. Electronic reference forms are located and sent out via the online Nursing CAS application system. It is preferable that applicants submit references from the following:
  - A supervisor
  - An instructor
  - A co-worker or other

Sample of Scholarly Work

Only applicants to the DNP program track are required to submit a sample of scholarly writing. This can include a professional work sample that is evidence based, with citations and references, an article you have authored (and if co-authored highlight the sections that you contributed to) or, a paper from your undergraduate program that synthesizes evidence, using citations and references (this should not be a reflection type paper).

- Note: If you do not have this type of work to submit, please let us know; we can arrange for you to write an article analysis in response to an article that we provide you.
Applying to OHSU School of Nursing Via Nursing CAS (NCAS)

**STEP 1:** Set up a Nursing CAS account and start your application for the program/campus to which you are applying.

- All students applying to any of the OHSU Nursing programs must submit an application through Nursing CAS by the stipulated deadline date.
- The NCAS application fee is $65.00.
- NCAS runs on Eastern Standard Time and applications will close on the designated date at 12:00 AM EST.

**STEP 2:** Upload all required items into your Nursing CAS account and select the designated OHSU program to which you would like to apply.

- All application materials (official transcripts, essay responses, vitae, & letters of reference) must be received by Nursing CAS by the designated application deadline in order to have your application considered. See the full list and instructions below.
- Nursing CAS will not forward incomplete files for review. Please make sure to check your Nursing CAS account to ensure that you have provided all required materials.

**STEP 3:** Done. Check back to your NCAS account often as we will e-mail you with status updates and additional information requests.

- You will be notified when admission decisions have been made.

**Materials that will be submitted as part of your Nursing CAS Application**

- You will be asked to submit an essay response as part of your application. Between September 15 and your application deadline, you will be able to find the essay question(s) for your program at the following link: [http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/index.cfm](http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/index.cfm). Complete the essay question and upload your essay response to your Nursing CAS application. After uploading your personal statement, go to “Designations” on the home page of your Nursing CAS account, select “designated schools” then Oregon Health & Science University and ATTACH the personal statement to your designated program.

- You will be asked to submit 3 letters of reference as part of your application. You will be able to send the electronic reference form your Nursing CAS account.

- You will be asked to submit a resume or vitae as part of your application. Please PDF this item(s) and upload them to your Nursing CAS account.

- You will be asked to submit official transcripts from ALL institutions that you have ever attended as part of your application to NCAS. Follow the instructions provided in your Nursing CAS application to submit your official transcripts to Nursing CAS directly.
  1. Note: Order 2-3 copies of your transcripts to keep for your records for later use if needed upon matriculation.
- Please send questions about your NCAS application to NCAS directly and questions about our program materials and application requirements to OHSU at proginfo@ohsu.edu.

**Additional Resources**

A sample program of study for each program can be found online:  
http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/programs/programs-of-study-page.cfm

**Application Deadlines:** http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/graduate_deadlines.cfm

Financing your education: Start planning to finance your nursing education now. Review the tuition and fees and potential limitations for receiving federal aid here:  
http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/index.cfm

**Scholarship information:** http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/scholarships.cfm

This document is a guide; final decisions regarding the acceptance of prerequisite course work is made by the OHSU Registrar's Office. The OHSU School of Nursing reserves the right to make changes to the academic program structure.

**FAQs**

**What is a nurse practitioner (NP)?**

A Nurse Practitioner is an advanced practice nurse with master's or post-master's education. The NP is a skilled health care provider who provides direct care to patients and families in primary care settings. Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP) are master's prepared nurses who care for individuals of all ages, families and communities. PMHNP's intervene with vulnerable populations and promote mental health across the lifespan. They work with children, adolescents, adults, and older persons in a variety of settings.

**What clinical experiences may be available to me during the program?**

Clinical sites include private office, such as nurse practitioner owned practices, large health institutions, such as HMOs, migrant and Indian Health Centers and county health departments. Because Oregon is a largely rural state, students can obtain experiences serving rural and or underserved populations. These opportunities may be two or more hours from the Portland metropolitan area. Students find rural opportunities autonomous and highly rewarding. OHSU SON faculty are responsible for arranging clinical placements for the students.
Who are my faculty and lecturers?

All OHSU SON faculty are nationally certified nurse practitioners, who practice in a variety of settings. Many faculty and guest lecturers are known experts in their field as OHSU is part of a large academic health center. This is advantageous as these experts lecture from their relevant clinical experiences and programs of research, providing students with the latest medical evidence.

Do I need work experience to apply to the master's program?

At least one year of experience as a registered nurse is highly recommended by most programs and required by others. The Oregon State Board of Nursing requires approximately 400 hours of RN experience for licensure.

How long does the master's program take?

The estimated length of time to complete the master's degree is two years or 3 years for the DNP.

Can I take classes part time?

Due to limited space, course schedules in the PMHNP program are for full-time study only. In special circumstances, faculty advisors may be able to work out a part time option in designated terms.

Do most students work during the PMHNP program?

Many students work part time, usually 8-16 hours/week the first year and fewer hours the second year as clinical requirements increase.

When are the courses and clinical experiences offered?

Courses and clinical experiences are generally day time hours Monday through Friday, with minimal evening lab offerings. The faculty strive to cluster classes 1-3 days/week to allow greater access to clinical opportunities.

Are there courses required prior to admission?

Yes. Master's students must have successfully passed a statistics course within five years prior to entry into the program. If this requirement has not been met at the time of application, the student will be required to take a statistics course (graduate or undergraduate) prior to the first quarter of the program. Check your local community college or university for course offerings, or review the course equivalency guide page.

Can I take courses without being admitted into the graduate nursing program?

Yes. You may take up to nine (9) credits total as a non-degree student on the OHSU main campuses if you are a registered nurse with a bachelor's degree, with the permission of the course.
faculty. For example, some students have elected to take required courses such as Pathophysiology prior to matriculating. Close communication with a faculty advisor is recommended prior to enrolling as a non-degree student.

**Is there a matriculation (enrollment) deposit?**
Yes, once you have received a letter of acceptance to the program, you will be asked submit a deposit of $200.00 to the OHSU School of Nursing in order to hold your place in the cohort. Failure to do so in the time allotted will forfeit your place and an alternate will be selected. The matriculation fee is applied towards payment of tuition for the first term of the program.

**How much are Tuition and Fees?**
The estimated tuition and fees sheet can be found online and will vary by specialty and does not include living expenses or books, [http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/index.cfm](http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/index.cfm)

**Gainful Employment Disclosure**
[http://www.ohsu.edu/academic/gainful-employment/Gedt_PMHN/Gedt.html](http://www.ohsu.edu/academic/gainful-employment/Gedt_PMHN/Gedt.html)

**Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Policy**
Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity operated by recipients of federal aid. OHSU complies with Title IX and 34 CFR Part 106 by prohibiting sex and gender discrimination in education programs, activities, employment, and admissions. Inquiries about Title IX compliance or sex/gender discrimination may be directed to the OHSU Title IX Coordinator: Michael Tom, Director of the **Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity (AAEO) Dept.**, 503-494-5148, tomm@ohsu.edu. Mailing address: OHSU, Mail code MP240, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97239. Office: Marquam Plaza