



# Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner [PMC] [PSMH]

**Cycles included in this report:**  
Jun 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021

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## **Program Name: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner [PMC] [PSMH]**

**Reporting Cycle: Jun 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021**

### **1 Is this program offered via Distance Learning?**

100% Distance only

### **2 Is this program offered at an off-site location?**

No

### **2.1 If yes to previous, provide addresses for each location where 50% or more of program credits may be earned.**

### **3 Example of Program Improvement**

2016-2017:

As the numbers of applicants have increased, we have revised our admission processes in order to increase the numbers of well-qualified students. For example, instead of using a formula score calculated using GPA and GRE scores, we now have minimum GRE scores and minimum GPAs that are required. We also require submission of letters of professional reference, an essay, and a resume, each of which is evaluated by multiple faculty using scoring rubrics.

2017-2018:

The orientation process for PMCs has been formalized so that these students either attend in person during the orientation with the MSN students or they schedule a ZOOM session with the program co-coordinator.

2018-2019:

PMHNP faculty have developed presentations to address scholarly writing deficiencies and have revised grading rubrics to provide direction to students.

2019-2020:

The faculty teaching NURS 608 (the introductory PMHNP course) have split the paper requirements into two sections. This allows the instructors to provide guidance to the students on rubric requirements, APA and grammar early on. Students have more time to absorb the feedback and make improvements to the final submission.

2020-2021:

Due to the pandemic and multiple natural disasters state wide the program was able to quickly pivot and provide telepsych experiences with their preceptors. Telepsych will play a much larger role in the provisions of psychiatric services in the future. Many patients and providers prefer that particular format which is uniquely suited to working with patients who have psychiatric disorders and deliver equivalent quality care.

### **4 Program Highlights from the Reporting Year**

2016-2017:

The Post-Master's Certificate is a relatively new program, and this is the first year we have gathered its assessment information into its own report. Efforts were made to report on previous years as data were available. The PMC in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner is a part of a consortium, and some older data about assignment scores are no longer available from the other consortial members. Moving forward, the PMC program coordinator will be able to retrieve all relevant student learning data each semester for annual reporting.

2017-2018:

Due to strong demand, the ICMSN increased the numbers of students that could be admitted annually to each school to 10 students.

2018-2019:

The curriculum was adjusted to reflect an increase of 2 hours in the final clinical course (NURS 697) to help PMC students meet clinical objectives.

2019-2020:

We retain the numbers of students admitted to this program due to NPs in other patient populations realizing that adding psych certification to their practice enhances the care that can be provided to their existing patient population in an integrated manner. The psychopharmacology course added a new delivery which incorporates a master psychopharmacology program that adds to the rigor of the course.

2020-2021:

This academic year presented multiple challenges to the programs because of the pandemic and multiple natural disasters across the state. Despite these events we were able to continue to deliver the program among the ICMSN system in a relatively timely manner. Our students were able to graduate on time, with few exceptions.

## 5 Program Mission

This academic program provides the regional health care community with education and training in advanced practice psychiatric nursing, which allows graduates to assess, diagnose, and treat individuals and families dealing with psychiatric mental health disorders.

## 6 Institutional Mission Reference

"The mission of the ICMSN is to prepare a diverse group of nurse practitioners, educators, and leaders by fostering a culture of nursing excellence for improving health-related outcomes." ([https://catalog.mcneese.edu/preview\\_entity.php?catoid=47&ent\\_oid=2161](https://catalog.mcneese.edu/preview_entity.php?catoid=47&ent_oid=2161))

The mission of MSU is to "*change lives through excellence with a personal touch!*" ([https://www.mcneese.edu/policy/university\\_vision\\_and\\_mission](https://www.mcneese.edu/policy/university_vision_and_mission))

Our students' lives are changed because they are prepared to practice as advanced practice nurses in an additional population focus (psychiatric mental health) which helps advance the health of our region.

## 7 Assessment and Benchmark Final Papers in Clinicals

**Assessment:** Students must submit a final paper in each of the three semesters of clinical coursework. These papers integrate the scholarly literature related to psychiatric mental health nursing with clinical practice experienced during the course.

**Benchmark:** 80% of students will earn a score of at least 84.5% on their final papers in each of the clinical courses.

*Files: See list of attachments to view. (Requires Adobe Reader or compatible viewer).*

592-692 Professional Paper Requirements and Grading Rubric Fall 2018

### Outcome Links

#### Scholarship [Program]

Students translate and integrate scholarship into practice.

### 7.1 Data

NURS 691:

Term	Earned at least 84.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Spring 2016	10/10	100%	Yes
Spring 2017	3/3	100%	Yes
Spring 2018	2/5	40%	No
Spring 2019	6/8	75%	No
Spring 2020	0/0	—	—
Spring 2021	2/2	100%	Yes

## NURS 692:

Term	Earned at least 84.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Fall 2015	3/3	100%	Yes
Fall 2016	10/10	100%	Yes
Fall 2017	1/2	50%	No
Fall 2018	4/7	57%	No
Fall 2019	6/7	86%	Yes
Fall 2020	2/2	100%	Yes

## NURS 694:

Term	Earned at least 84.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Spring 2016	1/1	100%	Yes
Spring 2017	10/10	100%	Yes
Spring 2018	1/2	50%	No
Spring 2019	5/7	71%	No

## NURS 697:

Term	Earned at least 84.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Spring 2020	0/2	0%	No
Spring 2021	7/8	88%	No

**7.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement**

2016-2017:

Students typically do well on these assignments because they already have master's degrees and prior experience working with the nursing/medical literature. We will continue to administer these papers, and we will work with the consortium to create a standardized rubric for more detailed assessment information.

2017-2018:

One of the issues that we believe is happening is a lack of consistency between different MSN programs regarding APA formatting and writing skills. We do plan to start looking at admission information - when they were last in school, cultural variables (quite a few non native speakers in this particular group) and any other information that may enter in to this performance.

Additionally, we are considering making a module for PMC students that reviews writing and APA format that must be completed before they start classes.

2018-2019:

A 20 minute presentation developed to assist students in improving writing skills is available to students in all PMC courses. PMHNP faculty across the ICMSN have revised the grading rubric and have become more consistent in administration of rubric.

2019-2020:

It appears that overall there is some improvement noted. One of the classes had a very small number of our PMC students and there is still work to do.

2020-2021:

The PMHNP faculty are modifying an earlier course that should further help these scores. Of note is that we originally only offered these classes once a year, and have been offering them

both fall and spring. The charts here should reflect that. Also 694 was changed to 697 and that should be reflected as well.

## 8 Assessment and Benchmark Case Study Blogs

Assessment: NURS 692 and 697 Case Studies.

Benchmark: 80% of students will earn a score of at least 92.5% on the case study blog assignments required in NURS 692 and 697.

Prior to 2019-2020, the benchmark was 80% of students will earn a score of at least 84.5% on the case study blog assignments required in NURS 692 and 694.

Files: See list of attachments to view. (Requires Adobe Reader or compatible viewer).

Blog Grading Rubric

### Outcome Links

#### Nursing Practice Competencies [Program]

Students will possess master's level nursing practice competencies.

## 8.1 Data

NURS 692:

Term	Earned at least 84.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Fall 2014	3/4	75%	No
Fall 2015	1/1	100%	Yes
Fall 2016	10/10	100%	Yes
Fall 2017	3/3	100%	Yes
Fall 2018	7/7	100%	Yes

Term	Earned at least 92.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Fall 2019	9/9	100%	Yes
Fall 2020	2/2	100%	Yes

NURS 694:

Term	Earned at least 84.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Spring 2016	1/1	100%	Yes
Spring 2017	10/10	100%	Yes
Spring 2018	2/2	100%	Yes
Spring 2019	6/7	86%	Yes

NURS 697:

Term	Earned at least 92.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Spring 2020	8/9	89%	Yes
Spring 2021	2/2	100%	Yes

### 8.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2016-2017:

This assessment has been a part of NURS 692 for some time, but was recently also administered in NURS 694 as an additional assessment point. Students do well on this

assignment, and we will track for another year before determining how to improve either the assignment or the level of detail in the rubric.

2017-2018:

Students who are PMC students often do well on this assignment because they are experienced clinicians. The psych faculty will discuss this in the ICMSN to determine if this should remain a data point to measure student outcomes. It does help in verifying that they have taken care of patients in each designated age group.

2018-2019:

The blog assignment simulates a clinical case presentation which requires student interaction with each other. The benchmark for the final clinical course (NURS 694/NURS 697) should be increased so that 80% of students receive 92.5% or better on the blog assignment. The rationale for the increase in the benchmark is that students in their last semester should be performing at a higher level than the NURS 692 students.

2019-2020:

The benchmark was met for this assessment. We should track it for a few more semesters before determining if another benchmark is needed.

2020-2021:

The benchmark was also met this term. We need to track this in both the spring and fall.

## 9 Assessment and Benchmark NURS 691 Psychiatric Evaluation

Assessment: NURS 691 Psychiatric Evaluation.

Benchmark: 80% of students will earn a score of at least 92.5% on the psychiatric evaluation assignment.

Prior to 2019-2020, the benchmark was 80% of students will earn a score of at least 84.5% on the psychiatric evaluation assignment.

### Outcome Links

#### Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing [Program]

Students will identify competencies of advanced practice psychiatric nursing.

### 9.1 Data

Term	Earned at least 84.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Spring 2016	10/10	100%	Yes
Spring 2017	3/3	100%	Yes
Spring 2018	5/5	100%	Yes
Spring 2019	8/8	100%	Yes

Term	Earned at least 92.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Spring 2020	1/2	50%	no
Spring 2021	0/0	—	—

#### 9.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2016-2017:

Only two semesters of data are available, however students do well on this assignment. We will track this assignment for another year before determining how to improve either the assignment or the level of detail in the rubric in order to pinpoint specific strengths and weaknesses.

2017-2018:

Students who are PMC students often do well on this assignment because they are experienced clinicians, even though it is a different type of assessment than they normally do. The psych faculty will discuss this in the ICMSN to determine if this should remain a data point to measure student outcomes. It does help in verifying that they have taken care of patients in each designated age group.

2018-2019:

This assignment is a psychiatric assessment for which students have consistently met benchmark. The benchmark will be increased so that 80% of students will earn at least 92.5% on this assignment. The assignment was revised slightly due to transition to a new clinical management system.

2019-2020:

There were low numbers in this group. Further monitoring is needed.

2020-2021:

This data needs to be collected in both fall and spring semester each year to garner a full picture of the possible needs.

## 10 Assessment and Benchmark NURS 608 Final Exam

Assessment: NURS 608 Final Exam.

Benchmark: 80% of students will earn a score of at least 84.5% on the final exam for NURS 608 - Diagnostic Considerations and Psychopharmacology for Psychiatric Disorders.

### Outcome Links

#### Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing [Program]

Students will identify competencies of advanced practice psychiatric nursing.

### 10.1 Data

Term	Earned at least 84.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Spring 2015	4/5	80%	Yes
Fall 2015	4/4	100%	Yes
Spring 2016	0/2	0%	No
Fall 2016	1/2	50%	No
Spring 2017	7/10	70%	No
Fall 2017	—	—	—
Spring 2018	3/5	60%	No
Fall 2018	8/8	100%	Yes
Spring 2019	4/5	80%	Yes
Fall 2019	unavailable		
Spring 2020	3/3	100%	Yes
Fall 2020	1/1	100%	Yes
Spring 2021	4/4	100%	Yes

#### 10.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2016-2017:

Students have not met this benchmark for the past three semesters, though scores have improved since spring 2016. Because the ICMSN (consortium) grading scale dictates that a B is 84.5 points, this seems to have an impact on students' abilities to earn a B on their final

written exam. Exams will be scrutinized next semester to find particular weaknesses in content mastery, and results will be reported in this plan.

2017-2018:

Students continue not to meet this benchmark, which is a bit confounding. This is a take home exam, which can be worked on with other students. The exams were analyzed and there does not seem to be a discernible pattern on particular areas of weakness. This test is designed to stimulate critical thinking and is difficult. There does not seem to be a huge difference between generic master's level students and those who are post-master's. The ICMSN psych faculty will revisit this. Perhaps the benchmark should be lowered.

2018-2019:

This is a 200 question take-home exam that students can collaborate on together although they submit individual exams. The length and complexity of the exam requires very high level thinking and reflects intraprofessional collaboration. The exam was reviewed and revised by faculty for currency and appropriate leveling.

2019-2020:

Fall 19 data is not available as it has been removed from the Moodle taught out of SELU. The grades are improving, but when MSN students are included there are still a number of them who fall below this benchmark. This semester is also where the master psychopharmacology course modules were added. Perhaps this means that the material is being absorbed well.

2020-2021:

The instructor has dropped the number of questions from 200 to 100 and is monitoring the grades. The PMHNP faculty as a whole plan to evaluate the course for suggestions to the curriculum committee.

## 11 Assessment and Benchmark NURS 690 Final Exam

Assessment: NURS 690 Final Exam.

Benchmark: 80% of students will earn a score of at least 84.5% on the Psychotherapeutic Theory Paper for NURS 690 - Psychotherapy for the Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurse.

### Outcome Links

#### Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing [Program]

Students will identify competencies of advanced practice psychiatric nursing.

### 11.1 Data

Term	Earned at least 84.5%		Benchmark met?
	#	%	
Fall 2015	8/11	73%	No
Fall 2016	2/3	66%	No
Fall 2017	5/6	83.3%	Yes
Fall 2018	7/10	70%	No
Fall 2019	2/2	100%	Yes
Fall 2020	1/2	50%	No

#### 11.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2016-2017:

Students are not meeting the benchmark for this assessment, and a rubric will be used this fall to determine particular weaknesses in content mastery. Results will be reported in this plan.



2017-2018:

The benchmark was met this year. We will continue to work on improving the writing skills for post-master's students, as it is an area of weakness overall. The psych faculty of the ICMSN is developing rubrics which more clearly delineate the specific scores of each content area.

2018-2019:

Using specific guidelines the students develop multiple choice questions, some of which are used on the final. The final was reviewed and revised by course faculty.

2019-2020:

The benchmark was met for this term, but needs to be monitored longer. The faculty are continuing to work on PMC writing skills.

2020-2021:

One of two students made a score that was below a B. We need to monitor both fall and spring semesters to develop a broader perspective.

**12 Assessment and Benchmark ANCC or AANP Certification Exams**

Assessment: Nurse Practitioner graduates (FNP and PMHNP) and PMHNP PMC graduates take either ANCC or AANP Certification Exams in order to achieve licensure.

Benchmark: Certification Pass Rate of 90%.

**12.1 Data**

Graduating Semester	FNP Pass Rate		PMHNP Pass Rate		Combined Pass Rate	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Fall 2013	20/22	91%	1/1	100%	—	91.3%
Spring 2014	16/17	94%	—	—	—	94.1%
Fall 2014	11/12	92%	—	—	11/12	92%
Spring 2015	20/21	95%	9/9	100%	29/30	97%
Fall 2015	20/20	100%	—	—	20/20	100%
Spring 2016	14/14	100%	5/6	83%	19/20	95%
Fall 2016	19/20	95%	—	—	19/20	95%
Spring 2017	14/14	100%	5/5	100%	19/19	100%
Fall 2017	22/22*	100%	—	—	22/22	100%
Spring 2018	15/15**	100%	6/6	100%	21/21	100%
Fall 2018	19/19	100%	—	—	19/19	100%
Spring 2019	15/15	100%	5/5	100%	20/20	100%
Fall 2019	21/21	100%	—	—	21/21	100%
Spring 2020	21/21	100%	3/3	100%	24/24	100%
Fall 2020	17/17	100%	1/1	100%	18/18	100%
Spring 2021	11/11	100%	0/0	—	11/11	100%

\*Two students have not tested as of 8/13/2018.

\*\*One student has not tested as of 8/13/2018.

Graduating Semester	PMHNP PMC Pass Rate	
	#	%
Fall 2013	—	—
Spring 2014	—	—

Fall 2014	4/4	100%
Spring 2015	4/4	100%
Fall 2015	—	—
Spring 2016	1/1	100%
Fall 2016	—	—
Spring 2017	8/10	80%
Fall 2017	1/1	100%
Spring 2018	2/2	100%
Fall 2018	—	—
Spring 2019	5/6	83.3%
Fall 2019	7/7	100%
Spring 2020	8/8	100%
Fall 2020	3/3	100%
Spring 2021	2/2	100%

### 12.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2015-2016:

Benchmark met. Benchmark will be met even if students who have not tested are unsuccessful in their exams. Graduates of the Nursing Education and Nurse Executive concentrations are not required to take certification exams to be licensed.

2016-2017:

Certification rates remain within 80% benchmark despite two students being unsuccessful in initial certification exam. The graduating class was significantly larger and that may have contributed to poorer outcomes. Faculty have revised the PMC orientation to emphasize the academic expectations for certificate completion.

2017-2018:

There was one fall graduate because he entered program already certified in adult psychiatric mental health so he only needed child and adolescent clinical experiences to be eligible for certification. 100% of spring graduates were successful, so plan to maintain the revised orientation.

2018-2019:

Certification rates have met benchmark of 100%. Certification rate is self-reported by completing student and verified by graduate nursing by checking licensing board. Since PMC students are already licensed and working as APRNs, they are sometimes slower to take the certification exam. Will update certification rates as they become available.

2019-2020:

We have met the benchmark and will continue to monitor this. Dropping below the 90% on a consistent basis will require re-evaluation of the course content.

2020-2021:

We have met the benchmark and will continue to monitor this. Dropping below the 90% on a consistent basis will require re-evaluation of the course content. The ANCC exam for PMHNPs will likely change in the upcoming year. PMHNP faculty are comparing the test content outline to what is being offered. Most FNP students sit for the AANP exam.

End of report