

Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate

The Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Graduate Certificate program (24 credit hours) prepares advanced practice nurses to diagnose and treat common mental health conditions in general medical settings and to deliver effective psychiatric care in mental health settings. Students are prepared to apply knowledge and skills in interpersonal, psychotherapeutic, and psychopharmacologic interventions for individuals, groups, and families with psychiatric disorders. All courses are online and offered in sequence every other year. Spring 2026 starts the next available course sequence. Application deadline is November 1 for Spring semester.

Application for the Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate is an online process. This program is one of several certificate programs offered in the Advanced Practice (AP) area by the School of Nursing. Detailed instructions on how to apply are posted on School of Nursing website (<http://nursing.kumc.edu/academics/certificate-programs/how-to-apply.html>).

Admission requirements:

- Completion of an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) graduate educational program from a nationally accredited (NLNAC or CCNE) school of nursing
- Current registered nurse licensure in at least one state in the United States
- Official transcripts from all course work taken at any institution are required
- Minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Potential to provide expert service and leadership in functional area
- Satisfactory criminal background check (completed once an offer of admission has been extended to applicant)

English Language Requirements: All applicants for study at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) whose native language is not English must demonstrate an established level of English language proficiency through either the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or the academic format of the EILTS (International English Language Testing System). The test must have been taken within two years of the first semester of enrollment.

Applicants will be assessed based on these requirements. After an applicant has been admitted, a program may defer an applicant's admission for one year after which time the applicant must submit a new application.

See also Admissions (<https://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#admissiontext>) in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Certificate requirements:

- Certificate requirements are normally completed within two to three years of admission to the program although a maximum of four years is allowed

- Cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of at least a 3.0 for all graduate certificate coursework
- Enrollment in a minimum of one credit hour the semester program is completed
- Graduate certificates may not be granted retroactively
- Successful completion of the following courses:

Code	Title	Hours
NRSG 844	Advanced Psychiatric Assessment	3
NRSG 850	Mental Health Assessment of Infants, Children and Adolescents	3
NRSG 851	Psychopharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NRSG 929	Psychotherapeutic Interventions I: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	3
NRSG 930	Psychotherapeutic Interventions II: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	3
NRSG 931	Psychotherapeutics Practicum I: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	2
NRSG 932	Psychotherapeutics Practicum II: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	4
NRSG 933	Psychotherapeutics Practicum III: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	3
Total Hours		24

The 24-credit-hour Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Certificate prepares advanced practice nurses to diagnose and treat common mental health conditions in general medical settings and to deliver more effective psychiatric care in mental health settings. Students are prepared to apply knowledge and skills in interpersonal, psychotherapeutic and psychopharmacologic interventions for individuals, groups and families with psychiatric disorders.

The PHMNP Certificate program requires that students have completed an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) graduate educational program from a nationally accredited school of nursing. Three separate, comprehensive graduate-level courses in advanced pathophysiology, advanced health assessment and advanced pharmacology are required. Applicants will also have completed course content in health promotion and/or maintenance.

Year 1

	Spring	Hours
	NRSG 844	3
	NRSG 850	3
		6

Year 2

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours Summer	Hours
NRSG 851	3 NRSG 930	3 NRSG 933	3-4
NRSG 929	3 NRSG 932	4	
NRSG 931	2		
	8	7	3-4

Total Hours 24-25

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION

University of Kansas School of Nursing

I. Introduction

All individuals admitted to the University of Kansas School of Nursing will be asked to verify that they can meet the following Technical Standards, with or without accommodation(s). In courses or programs without clinical components, or involving no direct client care, the Technical Standards may be modified. After acceptance, but before admission to the School of Nursing, students in all programs must be able to document current certification/evidence of completion of a course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation for healthcare providers. This requires being able to successfully complete both the written and practical test for certification. In addition, with or without accommodation, the following abilities and expectations must be met by all students, undergraduate and graduate, admitted to the School of Nursing.

II. Standards

A. Observation/Sensory-motor: Applicants must be able to observe demonstrations and learn from experiences in the basic sciences, including but not limited to, physiology and pharmacology, microbiology and pathophysiology laboratory situations. Applicants must be able to observe and learn from experiences in the clinical nursing laboratory such as the following examples: accurately read gradients/calibrations on a syringe; measure medications accurately; accurately recognize color changes on chemical reaction strips; assess heart, breath, abdominal sounds; assess normal and abnormal color changes in the skin; observe pupil changes; and observe digital or waveform readings.

B. Communication: Communications include not only speech but also reading, writing, and computer usage, including handheld digital access. Applicants must be able to communicate accurately and effectively with patients, caregivers, physicians, other health professionals, clinical facility staff, faculty and staff, peers, and the community in general in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications.

C. Psychomotor: Applicants should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. Applicants should be physically able to collect specimens and perform basic tests (such as glucose finger stick, urine dipstick). Applicants should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of nurses are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medication, application of pressure to stop bleeding, and assist in moving and lifting patients using proper body mechanics. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and using tactile and visual senses.

D. Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative: Applicants must be able to comprehend and interpret documents written in English. Applicants should have cognitive abilities including measurements, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Critical thinking is the ability to synthesize knowledge and integrate the relevant aspects of a client's history, physical exam findings and diagnostic studies. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of nurses, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the applicant should be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures in order to understand normal and abnormal anatomy and physiology.

E. Behavioral and Social Attributes: Applicants must possess the emotional health required to utilize their intellectual abilities fully, exercise good judgment, complete all responsibilities attendant to the nursing diagnosis and care of patients promptly, and the development of mature,

sensitive and effective relationships with patients and their families. Applicants must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal communication skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that should be assessed during the admissions and education process. As a component of nursing education, a student must demonstrate ethical behavior including adherence to the professional nursing and student honor codes. The honor code at the KU School of Nursing is the Professional Integrity System (PROFITS). KU PROFITS is a peer-oriented integrity system to promote an environment where academic honesty is valued and expected.

III. Reasonable Accommodation

Applicants who disclose a disability are considered for admission if they are otherwise qualified so long as such accommodation does not significantly alter the essential requirements of the curriculum and the educational program, or significantly affect the safety of patient care or others. When applicants or students disclose a disability, the provision of reasonable accommodations will be considered in an attempt to assist these individuals in meeting these required technical standards. Applicants whose response indicates that they cannot meet one or more of the expectations will be reviewed further by the University's Office for Academic Accommodations, with applicant and faculty input, to determine if any reasonable accommodations are possible to facilitate successful completion of the nursing curriculum and preparation for the national registry examination.

It is important to give persons interested in enrolling in nursing a realistic view of the vigorous demands of the School of Nursing's theoretical and practicum curriculum while at the same time investigating reasonable accommodations. Whether or not a requested accommodation is reasonable will be determined on a case by case basis. Interested individuals may schedule an orientation visit to the nursing skills laboratory and actual sites of the University of Kansas Hospital and/or University of Kansas Medical Center. These orientation visits enable persons to assess their interest and ability to function in the actual clinical areas and in learning and demonstrating manual skills.