

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
FOR THE
FAMILY PSYCHIATRIC AND MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER SPECIALTY**

1. What is the first step in applying to your program?

First, you must be a licensed RN with a BSN. Next, we recommend you read the MNSc web site in its entirety to familiarize yourself with the **admission and prerequisite requirements**. If you need your transcripts to be reviewed to make sure you have met all prerequisites, please call the Graduate Registrar's office, Mary McClain at 686-5224.

2. What are the deadlines to apply?

The online program admits students for Spring and Fall, with the deadlines as follows:
September 1st: Application and transcripts due for students enrolling the following **Spring**.
April 1st: Application and transcripts due for students enrolling the following **Summer or Fall**.
Admission deadlines are strictly adhered to. All documentation must be submitted by deadlines.

3. Do online courses cost more than traditional courses?

The online courses cost the same per credit hour as regular courses. Current tuition cost information can be found at <http://www.nursing.uams.edu/Registrar/tuition.htm>.

4. Are all classes on-line? When would I have to come to UAMS?

All Family Psych-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner courses are online. MNSc students are required to come to UAMS once at the beginning of each semester for orientation to the particular classes they are taking that semester. There are two components to the program which are not on-line: the actual clinical practicums are performed at an affiliated preceptor's site within the student's geographic region. Some courses require proctored exams which are administered at the student's local AHEC or at UAMS.

5. Would my working hours count as my clinical time during the semesters?

NO. The clinical practicum takes approximately 6-18 hours/week, performed outside of normal job duties. The faculty advisors recommend students taking more than one clinical course per semester not work full-time.

6 Is there a part time program?

Yes.

7. What are the required courses for the FP-MHNP Specialty?

The required courses can be found at the following link <http://nursing.uams.edu/Masters-LS/FPMHNP-MNSc.htm>

General Core Courses (11 semester hours)

- NUSC 5003: Theory in Nursing
- NUSC 5013: Research Methodology
- NUSC 5023: Research in Advanced Nursing Practice
- NUSC 5121: Advanced Professional Practice Management
- NUSC 5111: Introduction to Professional Practice Management

Family Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (33 semester hours)

- NUSC 5033: Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology
- NUSC 5043: Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics in Advanced Nursing Practice
- NUSC 5052: Community Concepts in Advanced Practice Nursing
- NUSC 5201: Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning Practicum
- NUSC 5222: Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning Theory
- NUSC 5913: Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing Theory I
- NUSC 5921: Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing Practicum I
- NUSC 5923: Family Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing Diagnosis & Psychopharmacology
- NUSC 5933: Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing Theory II
- NUSC 5943: Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing Theory III
- NUSC 5953: Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing Practicum II
- NUSC 5963: Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing Theory IV
- NUSC 5962: Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing Practicum III
- NUSC 5991: Comprehensive Examination

8. Will I get to choose where I perform my clinical practicum?

Yes with faculty approval. The final approval for practicum setting is made by the clinical course faculty. Practicum settings must be able to meet course objectives. Students are encouraged to locate practicum sites in their geographic location.

9. I have never taken on-line courses before. How much time should I set aside each week per course?

Assume a minimum of 2-3 hours per credit hour for didactic courses. There are 3 practicum courses, Practicum I is 6 hours/week, Practicum II is 18 hours/week and Practicum III is 12 hours/week.

10. What kind of computer will I need to take on-line courses?

Minimum computer requirements can be found at

<http://www.nursing.uams.edu/Online2/CONOrientation/ComputerNeeds.htm>. You will also need reliable Internet access.

11. How will I know if I have the computer skills to be successful in on-line courses?

We have an on-line orientation that will allow you to assess your skills. The on-line orientation is located at <http://www.nursing.uams.edu/Online2/CONOrientation/OrientationHome.htm>.

We recommend you have a working knowledge of Microsoft Word before taking on-line courses.

12. Once I am admitted to the program, who is my advisor?

Your advisor will be assigned to you by the Associate Dean via a formal letter.

13. Can I take one course in the program?

First you have to apply as a non-degree seeking student, meet all pre-requisites for course, and have the approval of Dr. Claudia Barone

14. What certification exams will I be eligible for after a finish the program?

The Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty prepares advanced practice nurses to provide primary mental health care including the diagnosis of mental illness, medication management, family therapy, group therapy, brief psychotherapy, play therapy, social skills training, and mental health promotion. After completing the Masters program, students will be eligible to sit for national certification as a Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

15. What jobs will I be qualified for after passing certification exams?

Graduates of the Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty will be able to work in a variety of settings including community mental health facilities, psychiatric inpatient units, hospital emergency rooms, long-term care facilities, mental health clinics, shelters for vulnerable populations, private psychiatric practices, and prisons.

16. Is there any money up front to help me get started in the program?

Check the CON website for info about different types of financial assistance
<http://nursing.uams.edu/Scholarships/index.html>

17. I am not sure I qualify for instate tuition. How do I determine if I can pay instate tuition?

(a) Check the Student Handbook (pages 145 to 147). The Student Handbook can be found on the CON webpage at <http://nursing.uams.edu/publications/05-06Handbook.pdf>

(b) If Student Handbook does not answer you question, check with the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs (501-686-5689).

18. What if I have additional questions not listed on this FAQ?

Please call the Administrative Assistant, Kimira Lewis at (501) 526-7853 or email

LewisKimiraS@uams.edu . She will be glad to answer any questions you may have.