

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 4 – E (1)

DATE: April 22, 2020

SUBJECT

New Specialization: SDSU Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 2:23](#) – Program and Curriculum Approval

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests authorization to offer the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization in the M.S. in Nursing and D.N.P. in Nursing (B.S. to D.N.P. and Post Master’s to D.N.P. options). Advanced nursing practice in psychiatric mental health covers both outpatient and inpatient care, children through elderly individuals, and mild depression and anxiety to significantly disabling conditions including substance abuse, bipolar disorders and schizophrenia. The proposed specializations will prepare graduates to provide much needed high-quality mental health care to all populations and conditions in a variety of settings in rural and urban South Dakota.

The specializations will allow graduates to sit for certification and ultimately provide psychiatric mental health care in a variety of outpatient or inpatient settings throughout the state.

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specializations will be delivered online.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

SDSU does not request new resources to offer the specializations.

Board office staff recommends approval of the new specializations.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – New Specialization Request Form: SDSU – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization in the M.S. in Nursing and D.N.P. in Nursing

DRAFT MOTION

Authorize SDSU to offer Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specializations in the M.S. in Nursing and D.N.P in Nursing, as presented.



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

New Specialization

UNIVERSITY:	SDSU
TITLE OF PROPOSED SPECIALIZATION:	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH SPECIALIZATION IS OFFERED:	Nursing (M.S.) Nursing (D.N.P.)
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	2020-2021 Academic Year
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	51.3810
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Grad Study Nursing
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	SGNU
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Graduate School
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	3G

Please check this box to confirm that:

- The individual preparing this request has read [AAC Guideline 2.6](#), which pertains to new specialization requests, and that this request meets the requirements outlined in the guidelines.
- This request will not be posted to the university website for review of the Academic Affairs Committee until it is approved by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.

University Approval

To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this proposal, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.

Barry H. Dunn

Institutional Approval Signature

President or Chief Academic Officer of the University

3/27/2020

Date

1. Level of the Specialization:

Baccalaureate Master's Doctoral

2. What is the nature/purpose of the proposed specialization? Please include a brief (1-2 sentence) description of the academic field in this specialization.

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests authorization to offer the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization in the M.S. in Nursing and D.N.P. in Nursing (B.S. to D.N.P. and Post Master's to D.N.P. options). Advanced nursing practice in psychiatric mental health covers both outpatient and inpatient care, children through elderly individuals, and mild depression and anxiety to significantly disabling conditions including substance abuse, bipolar disorders and schizophrenia. The proposed specializations will prepare graduates to provide much needed high-quality mental health care to all populations and conditions in a variety of settings in rural and urban South Dakota.

In December 2018 the SDBOR approved the request for the Post-Graduate Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate. The certificate allowed a more immediate option for currently practicing family nurse practitioners to add this much needed specialty content. The current request for the M.S. in Nursing – PMHNP, B.S.N. to D.N.P. - PMHNP, and Post-Master's to D.N.P. – PMHNP specializations will utilize the recently approved psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner specialty content within the well-established M.S. and D.N.P. core content.

According to the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) the following are requirements for sitting for the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner board certification examination:

1. Hold a master's, postgraduate, or doctoral degree from a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) (formerly NLNAC | National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission). A minimum of 500 faculty-supervised clinical hours must be included in the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program.
2. Three separate, comprehensive graduate-level courses in:
 - Advanced physiology/pathophysiology, including general principles that apply across the life span,
 - Advanced health assessment, which includes assessment of all human systems, advanced assessment techniques, concepts, and approaches, and
 - Advanced pharmacology, which includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents.
3. Content in:
 - Health promotion and/or maintenance
 - Differential diagnosis and disease management, including the use and prescription of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic interventions
4. Clinical training in at least two psychotherapeutic treatment modalities.

The specializations will allow graduates to sit for certification and ultimately provide psychiatric mental health care in a variety of outpatient or inpatient settings throughout the state.

Successful completion of graduate level courses in Advanced Physical Assessment (Lifespan), Advanced Pathophysiology (Lifespan), Advanced Pharmacology / Pharmacotherapeutics (Lifespan) with a course grade of 3.0 or higher within the last 5 years is an admission requirement for the Post Master's to D.N.P. specialization. (*Refer to question #6 for admission requirements.*) This option for the D.N.P. program is completed by students who already have completed a master's degree, however are seeking another credential. Students will have already completed courses in pathophysiology, pharmacology, and physical assessment.

The University does not request new state resources.

3. Provide a justification for the specialization, including the potential benefits to students and potential workforce demand for those who graduate with the credential.

South Dakota ranks second in the nation for higher prevalence of mental illness and lower rates of access to care.¹ Only 55% to 65% of the people in the state are provided mental health and substance use care; in isolated and reservation areas, 37% to 39% of these populations receiving care.² A total of 848 nurse practitioners practice in the state of SD. Of these, approximately 2.3% (20) hold advanced psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner certification and practice in the state.³ Community mental health services lack psychiatric/mental health providers which leads to an increased demand for care at the state psychiatric hospital. Emergency department and hospital utilization for mental health care is high.⁴ The proposed specializations will increase much needed access to mental health care provision by psychiatric nurse practitioners in South Dakota where a current serious shortage exists. SDSU's clinical partners and the South Dakota Board of Nursing (SDBON) have implored the University to address this shortage through development of the post-graduate certificate option in the short term and additional Master's and D.N.P. in Nursing - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner specialty in the long term.

Due to the small number of existing practicing Psych NPs in South Dakota, a comparison of salaries is not obtainable. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 26% growth in openings nationwide between 2018 and 2028, which is much higher than the average growth rate across all occupations during that time period. This upswing in job opportunities is expected to produce positions for 62,000 NPs across all specializations due to the increasing demand for healthcare professionals around the country.⁵

Potential graduate students who seek the psychiatric mental health specialized focus will have the degree option at either the M.S. or D.N.P. level. Students with a previous master's degree will have the additional option of the terminal D.N.P. degree with the PMHNP focus. Pathways for advanced practice and nursing leadership roles align with national directives for supporting full scope of practice to meet healthcare delivery needs. The M.S. in Nursing and B.S.N. to D.N.P. specializations will be distance accessible for students, core content is delivered online, practicum sites usually within geographic location of the student.

4. List the proposed curriculum for the specialization (including the requirements for completing the major – *highlight courses in the specialization*):

Nursing (M.S.) - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
NURS	615	Foundations in Advanced Nursing	3	No
NURS	623	Pathophysiology Across the Lifespan: Applied to Advanced Practice Nursing	4	No

¹ <https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/psychiatric-mental-health-nurse-practitioner/>.

² Focus on South Dakota-A Picture of Health," Helmsley, https://helmsleytrust.org/sites/default/files/Focus%20on%20South%20Dakota_Part%201.pdf.

³ Young, South Dakota Board of Nursing, personal communication, June 28, 2018.

⁴ "Focus on South Dakota-A Picture of Health," Helmsley, https://helmsleytrust.org/sites/default/files/Focus%20on%20South%20Dakota_Part%201.pdf

⁵ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm> (visited September 04, 2019).

New Specializations: Nursing (M.S. & D.N.P.) - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
NURS	626	Research in Nursing and Health Care	3	No
NURS	631	Advanced Assessment Across the Lifespan	4	No
NURS	631L	Advanced Assessment Across the Lifespan Lab	0	No
NURS	670	Health Policy, Legislation, Economics and Ethics	3	No
NURS	732	Psychopharmacology and Neurobiology Across the Lifespan	2	No
NURS	733	Psychopathological Disorders Across the Lifespan	3	No
NURS	734	Theories and Interventions for Individuals and Groups	2	No
NURS	735	Advanced Psychiatric Assessment and Differential Diagnosis Across the Lifespan	2	No
NURS	736	Psychiatric/Mental Health Advanced Practice Across the Lifespan I	4	No
NURS	737	Psychiatric/Mental Health Advanced Practice Across the Lifespan II	5	No
NURS	760	Advanced Concepts in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	3	No
NURS	780	Clinical Genetics and Genomics: Advanced Concepts	1	No
NURS	781	Clinical Epidemiology: Advanced Concepts	1	No
PHA	645	Pharmacotherapeutics Across the Lifespan: Application to Advanced Practice	4	No
PHA	738	Health Informatics	1	No
		Select one of the following options:		
		<i>Option A - Thesis</i>		
NURS	798	Thesis	5	No
		<i>Option B – Research/Design Paper</i>		
NURS	788	Problems in Nursing Research	2	No
		<i>Option C – Coursework Only</i>	0	
Total number of hours required for completion of specialization			18	
Total number of hours required for completion of major			27	
Total number of hours required for completion of degree				
Option A			50	
Option B			47	
Option C			45	

Nursing (D.N.P.) - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization (B.S.N. to D.N.P.)

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
HSC	631	Biostatistics I	3	No
NURS	615	Foundations of Advanced Nursing	3	No
NURS	623	Pathophysiology Across the Lifespan: applied to Advanced Practice Nursing	4	No

New Specializations: Nursing (M.S. & D.N.P.) - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
NURS	631	Advanced Assessment Across the Lifespan	4	No
NURS	631L	Advanced Assessment Across the Lifespan Lab	0	No
NURS	670	Health Policy, Legislation, Economics, and Ethics	3	No
NURS	732	Psychopharmacology and Neurobiology Across the Lifespan	2	No
NURS	733	Psychopathological Disorders Across the Lifespan	3	No
NURS	734	Theories and Interventions for Individuals and Groups	2	No
NURS	735	Advanced Psychiatric Assessment and Differential Diagnosis Across the Lifespan	2	No
NURS	736	Psychiatric/Mental Health Advanced Practice Across the Lifespan I	4	No
NURS	737	Psychiatric/Mental Health Advanced Practice Across the Lifespan II	5	No
NURS	750	Transformational Leadership in Nursing	3	No
NURS	760	Advanced Concepts in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	3	No
NURS	780	Clinical Genetics and Genomics	1	No
NURS	781	Clinical Epidemiology-Advanced Concepts	1	No
NURS	835	Ethical Issues Influencing Practice & Research in Health Disciplines	2	No
NURS	850	Philosophical & Theoretical Foundations for Evidence-Based Care	3	No
NURS	855	Translational Research in Health Care	3	No
NURS	860	Health Operations and Financial Management for Nurse Managers	3	No
NURS	875	DNP Intensive	8	No
NURS	880	DNP Project	8	No
PHA	645	Pharmacotherapeutics Across the Lifespan: Application to Advanced Practice	4	No
PHA	738	Health Informatics	1	No
Total number of hours required for completion of specialization			18	
Total number of hours required for completion of major			57	
Total number of hours required for completion of degree			75	

Nursing (D.N.P.) - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization (Post Master's to D.N.P.)

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
HSC	631	Biostatistics I	3	No
NURS	732	Psychopharmacology and Neurobiology Across the Lifespan	2	No
NURS	733	Psychopathological Disorders Across the Lifespan	3	No

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
NURS	734	Theories and Interventions for Individuals and Groups	2	No
NURS	735	Advanced Psychiatric Assessment and Differential Diagnosis Across the Lifespan	2	No
NURS	736	Psychiatric/Mental Health Advanced Practice Across the Lifespan I	4	No
NURS	737	Psychiatric/Mental Health Advanced Practice Across the Lifespan II	5	No
NURS	750	Transformational Leadership in Nursing	3	No
NURS	780	Clinical Genetics and Genomics	1	No
NURS	781	Clinical Epidemiology-Advanced Concepts	1	No
NURS	835	Ethical Issues Influencing Practice & Research in Health Disciplines	2	No
NURS	850	Philosophical & Theoretical Foundations for Evidence-Based Care	3	No
NURS	855	Translational Research in Health Care	3	No
NURS	860	Health Operations and Financial Management for Nurse Managers	3	No
NURS	875	DNP Intensive	3	No
NURS	880	DNP Project	8	No
PHA	738	Health Informatics	1	No
Total number of hours required for completion of specialization			18	
Total number of hours required for completion of major			31	
Total number of hours required for completion of degree			49	

5. Delivery Location

A. Complete the following charts to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver the entire program on campus, at any off campus location (e.g., UC Sioux Falls, Capital University Center, Black Hills State University-Rapid City, etc.) or deliver the entire specialization through distance technology (e.g., as an on-line program)?

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
On campus	No	

	Yes/No	If Yes, list location(s)	Intended Start Date
Off campus	No		

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods <i>Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.</i>	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	Yes	018 Internet Synchronous 030 Blended Hybrid	2020-2021 Academic Year

B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the specialization through distance learning (e.g., as an on-line program)? This question responds to HLC definitions for distance delivery.

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No		

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specializations will be delivered online.

6. Additional Information:

Additional Admission Requirements

Nursing (M.S.) - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization

GRE: Not required

TOEFL: Score of 81 Internet-based, OR

IELTS: 6.5 total band

In addition to meeting basic requirements for admission to the Graduate School, applicants for graduate study in nursing must have:

- Bachelor’s degree in nursing from an ACEN or CCNE Accredited program with a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA.
- Current licensure as a Registered Nurse in the United States or its’ territories prior to enrollment in first graduate nursing course.
- 1500 hours of documented nursing practice experience prior to the first clinical lab or within the first program year.
- Completed approved statistical methods course within the past 5 years.
- Completed and verified application to the Graduate Nursing program via NursingCAS website.
- Compliance requirements: Background check, FBI rolled fingerprint, drug screen, Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers, ACLS certification for FNP specialization, professional liability insurance, influenza vaccine, and TB test.
- Interview with graduate faculty.
- Completion of a written response to questions regarding educational goals, scholarly practice interest and desired practice career.
- Applicants who have begun but not completed a graduate nursing program at another college or university must submit a letter to the College of Nursing indicating their reason for leaving that said program. A letter of recommendation must also be submitted to the College of Nursing from the dean/director of their former program that includes the applicant’s standing in that program upon exit.

Nursing (D.N.P.) - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization (B.S.N. to D.N.P.)

GRE: Not required

TOEFL: Score of 81 Internet-based, OR

IELTS: 6.5 total band

In addition to meeting the Graduate School admission requirements, applicants for graduate study for the B.S.N. to Doctor of Nursing Practice - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization must have:

- Current licensure as a Registered Nurse in the United States or its' territories prior to enrollment in first graduate nursing course.
- Bachelor's degree in nursing from an ACEN or CCNE Accredited program with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3.
- 1500 hours of documented nursing practice experience prior to the first clinical course.
- Completed and verified application to the Graduate Nursing program via NursingCAS website.
- Completion of written response to questions regarding educational goals, scholarly practice interests, and desired practice career.
- Completed an approved statistical methods course within 5 years of enrollment in the designated research course within the D.N.P. program coursework.
- Interview with graduate faculty.
- Applicants who have begun but not completed a graduate nursing program at another college or university must submit a letter to the College of Nursing indicating their reason for leaving that said program. A letter of recommendation must also be submitted to the College of Nursing from the dean/director of their former program that includes the applicant's standing in that program upon exit.

Nursing (D.N.P.) - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization (Post Master's to D.N.P.)

GRE: Not required

TOEFL: Score of 81 Internet-based, OR

IELTS: 6.5 total band

In addition to meeting the Graduate School admission requirements, applicants for graduate study for the Post Master's to Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner Specialization must have:

- Current licensure as a Registered Nurse in the United States or its' territories prior to enrollment in first graduate nursing course.
- Bachelor's degree in nursing from an ACEN or CCNE Accredited program.
- Master's degree in nursing (non-clinical focus) from an ACEN or CCNE accredited program with a minimum cumulative 3.3 GPA.
- 1500 hours of documented nursing practice experience prior to the first clinical course.
- Completed and verified application to the Graduate Nursing program via NursingCAS website.

- Completion of written response to questions regarding educational goals, scholarly practice interests, and desired practice career.
- Completed an approved statistical methods course within 5 years of enrollment in the designated research course within the D.N.P. program coursework.
- Interview with graduate faculty.
- Applicants who have begun but not completed a graduate nursing program at another college or university must submit a letter to the College of Nursing indicating their reason for leaving that said program. A letter of recommendation must also be submitted to the College of Nursing from the dean/director of their former program that includes the applicant's standing in that program upon exit.

Student Learning Outcomes and Transferable Skills

Nursing (M.S.) - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization

At the completion of this program, the graduate will successfully demonstrate the following competencies:

- Incorporate knowledge and theories from nursing and other supportive disciplines to promote and translate evidence into practice to effectively tailor health care to diverse populations. (*Transferable Skill: Diversity Awareness*)
- Use leadership strategies at the organizational and individual level to work with interprofessional teams to recommend quality improvement initiatives to provide safe healthcare delivery and improve population health. (*Transferable Skill: Leadership – Management*)
- Assume accountability to influence health policy, improve healthcare delivery, decrease health disparities and address the diversity of health care needs. (*Transferable Skill: Awareness of Public Policy – Regulatory Affairs - legal aspects of content area*)
- Utilize informatics to enhance delivery of healthcare to a population. (*Transferable Skill: Intellectual Traits*)
- Communicate effectively with populations to improve health through population-centered strategies of health promotion/disease prevention education. (*Transferable Skill: Intellectual Traits*)
- Collaborate with the interprofessional team in the translation, implementation, analysis and dissemination of evidence-based practice to improve mental healthcare outcomes. (*Transferable Skill: Leadership – Management*)

Nursing (D.N.P.) - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization (B.S.N. to D.N.P.)

At the completion of this program, the graduate will successfully demonstrate the following competencies:

- Integrate theoretical and scientific underpinnings of nursing and other disciplines to address emerging healthcare and practice issues. (*Transferable Skill: Intellectual Traits*)
- Engage in health policy at all levels to influence healthcare delivery concerns, such as health disparities, cultural sensitivity, ethics, access to care, health finance, and

- quality of care. (*Transferable Skill: Awareness of Public Policy- Regulatory Affairs - legal aspects of content area*)
- Demonstrate leadership at the organizational and/or systems level to address health outcomes of individuals and populations through evidence-based initiatives. (*Transferable Skill: Leadership – Management*)
 - Utilize advanced nursing knowledge and information systems/technology related to clinical prevention and health promotion to address gaps in healthcare. (*Transferable Skill: Intellectual Traits*)
 - Collaborate with the interprofessional team in the translation, implementation, analysis, and dissemination of evidence-based practice to improve healthcare outcomes. (*Transferable Skill: Leadership – Management*)
 - Employ evidence-based practice and advanced clinical judgment to comprehensively assess, design, and deliver mental health care for individuals across the lifespan. (*Transferable Skill: Diversity Awareness; Intellectual Traits*)

Nursing (D.N.P.) - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization (Post Master's to D.N.P.)

At the completion of this program, the graduate will successfully demonstrate the following competencies:

- Integrate theoretical and scientific underpinnings of nursing and other disciplines to address emerging healthcare and practice issues. (*Intellectual Traits*)
- Engage in health policy at all levels to influence healthcare delivery concerns, such as health disparities, cultural sensitivity, ethics, access to care, health finance, and quality of care. (*Transferable Skill: Awareness of Public Policy- Regulatory Affairs - legal aspects of content area*)
- Demonstrate leadership at the organizational and/or systems level to address health outcomes of individuals and populations through evidence-based initiatives. (*Transferable Skill: Leadership – Management*)
- Utilize advanced nursing knowledge and information systems/technology related to clinical prevention and health promotion to address gaps in healthcare. (*Transferable Skill: Intellectual Traits*)
- Collaborate with the interprofessional team in the translation, implementation, analysis, and dissemination of evidence-based practice to improve healthcare outcomes. (*Transferable Skill: Leadership – Management*)
- Employ evidence-based practice and advanced clinical judgment to comprehensively assess, design, and deliver mental health care for individuals across the lifespan. (*Transferable Skill: Diversity Awareness; Intellectual Traits*)