

# MSN-FNP & MSN-PMHNP Course Descriptions

## APRN Core Courses

**NURS 6110: Advanced Health Assessment and Lab (4 credit hours; 3 credits didactic/1 credit (30 hours) lab).** This course emphasizes the acquisition and application of advanced health assessment knowledge, skills, and techniques to perform focused and comprehensive health assessments for clients across the lifespan. Focus is on analysis and evaluation of physical assessment findings and development of diagnostic reasoning skills.

**NURS 6111: Advanced Pathophysiology (3 credit hours).** The focus of this course is on application of pathophysiologic processes common in acute and chronic illnesses in primary care patients across the lifespan. This course integrates theoretical knowledge and clinical principles from nursing and related disciplines to disease processes as well as health disparities resulting from genetic, environmental, and stress-related causes. Students will examine principles of genetics/genomics and their relationship to disease states. Assessment results, diagnostic testing, and interventions related to select pathophysiological states are explored.

**NURS 6112: Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours).** This course focuses on pharmacology and therapeutics used in the treatment of selected health conditions commonly encountered by the advanced practice nurse. Emphasis is placed on the decision-making process utilized to safely and effectively prescribe and monitor pharmacotherapeutics appropriate to the client situation.

## NP Core Courses

**NURS 6011: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Lifespan (3 credit hours).** This course focuses on how evidence-based guidelines are used to promote health and prevent disease for diverse individuals, communities, and populations. The student will utilize current evidence in health promotion, risk reduction, disease prevention, disease detection, and genetic screening to develop needed interventions for individuals, families, and communities. Family, motivational, and change theories will be examined to provide the foundation to support patients and families in healthcare decision-making. The student will apply evidence-based strategies to issues such as chronic disease management, healthcare barriers, and reduction of health disparities.

**NURS 6010: Theory & Evidence Based Practice (3 credit hours).** This course encourages nursing inquiry and scholarship by developing the skills necessary for evidence-based practice and healthcare improvement. The course includes a focus on the principles and processes of evidence-based practice and the relationships between theory, research, quality improvement, and evidence-based practice. Emphasis is placed on evidence-based practice and translation science and their influence on patient outcomes and population health. The influence of theories from nursing and other disciplines will be explored. The student will learn to formulate clinical questions and search for and identify best research evidence. Students will evaluate and critically appraise evidence for rigor and applicability to clinical problems and determine ways to increase integration of evidence-based information into practice. Students will be introduced to quality improvement methods and strategies and their influence on outcomes.

**NURS 6013: Ethics, Healthcare Policy, & Economics (3 credit hours).** This course focuses on ethical principles, healthcare policy, and economics and the influence of these topics on the advance practice nurse, consumers, and the healthcare system. The student will explore the moral and ethical principles of health and their relationship to the assessment of health policy and the financing and availability of healthcare to individuals, populations, and systems of care. Students will examine the processes involved in the development of healthcare policy and their role in policy development and advocacy. Students will compare healthcare delivery models and evaluate how policy and economics influence the healthcare delivery models that will be utilized by the advance practice nurse. The student will

analyze the relationship of ethics, policy, and economics on access, cost, quality, safety, and disparities in care.

**NURS 6014: NP Role & Leadership in Healthcare (3 credit hours).** This course requires the student to analyze the role of the advanced practice nurse and its relationship to the various dimensions of leadership. Principles of leadership and accountability will provide the foundation for integrating concepts of quality improvement, communication, conflict management, motivation, collaboration, negotiation, and financial/resource management in the advanced practice nursing role. Emphasis is placed on the examination of ethical, cultural, political, legal, regulatory, and organizational factors affecting advanced practice nursing. Students will learn to apply quality improvement and patient safety models to promote the safe, effective, equitable, and patient-centered delivery of healthcare.

## **MSN-FNP Specialty Courses**

**NURS 6012: Diversity & Caring for Special Populations (3 credit hours).** This course focuses on broad determinants of health, including economics, culture, and ethnicity, and the interrelationship between these factors that determine individual and population health. These elements will be examined as they relate to the provision of culturally competent, equitable healthcare to individuals and communities across the lifespan. Students will explore patients' cultural and spiritual preferences, communication patterns, roles, values, and beliefs. A variety of vulnerable populations and practice settings will be examined with special attention to the specific health care beliefs of different groups typically seen in Tennessee's primary care practices. Emphasis is placed on identifying evidence and developing practice approaches that improve health outcomes for diverse and special populations.

**NURS 6210: Family Healthcare Diagnosis & Management I (6 credit hours [theory 4; clinical 2]).** This course focuses on the theoretical and clinical foundation of advanced practice nursing diagnosis and management of healthcare problems common to individuals and families across the life span. Emphasis is placed on core concepts of diagnosis and management of common acute episodic and chronic conditions of families in the context of the primary care setting and community. The student will be introduced to cost-effective, collaborative, innovative strategies and technologies to apply evidence-based principles of health promotion and disease prevention for individuals, families, communities, and clinical populations. Clinical experiences occur in a variety of primary care settings. To complete the program, students must complete the required number of hours/encounters in the specified populations (pediatric, women's health, prenatal, adult, geriatric).

**NURS 6211: Family Healthcare Diagnosis & Management II (6 credit hours [theory 4; clinical 2]).** This course focuses on the continuing development of the advanced practice nurse in health promotion, prevention, and diagnosis and management of acute episodic and chronic conditions common to individuals and families across the life span. Emphasis is placed on increasing competency in the development and evaluation of comprehensive, evidence-based plans of care for complex and multisystem disorders, including cost-effective, innovative strategies and technologies. Student clinical experiences occur in a variety of primary care settings, with emphasis on collaborative partnerships among individuals, families, and other healthcare professionals. To complete the program, students must complete the required number of hours in the specified populations (pediatric, women's health, prenatal, adult, geriatric).

**NURS 6213: Family Healthcare Diagnosis & Management Intensive (5 credit hours [theory 2; clinical 3]).** This course is the final synthesis of the theoretical and clinical foundation of advanced practice nursing in the primary care management of individuals and families across the life span. The course is comprehensive and includes diverse, culturally sensitive care that emphasizes the professional role and responsibilities of the entry-level family nurse practitioner. Students are prepared for national certification and credentialing via extensive content review. Student clinical experiences occur in a variety of primary care settings, with an emphasis on autonomous practice. To complete the program, students must meet the required number of hours in the specified populations (pediatric, women's health, prenatal, adult, geriatric) and a cumulative, standardized exit exam.

## **MSN-PMHNP/PMC Specialty Courses**

**NURS 6310: Psychopharmacology (3 credit hours).** This course prepares students for safe prescribing of psychiatric medications across the lifespan. It builds on advanced pharmacological principles and reviews concepts of neuroscience, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamics of various psychotropic drugs. This course examines the indications, actions, and effects of psychotropic drugs in the management of targeted psychiatric symptoms and treatment of acute and chronic psychiatric disorders across the lifespan. This course emphasizes patient safety through appropriate prescribing. Approaches to outcomes monitoring, long-term psychopharmacological management, including risks for substance abuse, are evaluated.

**NURS 6311: Psychiatric Mental Health Diagnosis & Management I (6 credit hours [theory 4; clinical 2]).** This course emphasizes the concepts, techniques, and knowledge necessary to conduct accurate mental health assessments across the lifespan. Data collection, including the principles of general health screening, psychiatric history taking, mental status examination, diagnostic criteria from the DSM-5, and therapeutic interviewing, will be utilized. The student will explore the psychopathology and neurobiology of major psychiatric disorders across the lifespan. Public health, epidemiology, risk factors, and neuroscience of major psychiatric disorders are reviewed. Clinical experiences occur in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings. These experiences provide the student with an opportunity to develop clinical skills with individuals and families across the lifespan. To complete the program, students must attain the required number of hours in the specified populations (child, adolescent, adult, older adult) as well as the required number of psychotherapy hours.

**NURS 6312: Psychiatric Mental Health Diagnosis & Management II (6 credit hours [theory 4; clinical 2]).** This course focuses on deepening and expanding the knowledge of fundamental elements related to the development and maintenance of therapeutic relationships with clients in mental health settings. Emphasis is placed on the application of theory to clinical practice. The student will examine individual, group, and family theories and conceptual models and determine the applicability of these models as frameworks to guide advanced psychiatric mental health practice. Clinical experiences occur in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings. Clinical experiences provide the student with an opportunity to develop clinical skills with individuals and families across the lifespan. To complete the program, students must attain the required number of hours in the specified populations (child, adolescent, adult, older adult) as well as the required number of psychotherapy hours.

**NURS 6313: Psychiatric Mental Health Diagnosis & Management Intensive (5 credit hours [theory 2; clinical 3]).** This course focuses on identifying clinical problems and recognizing system implications. The student will use technology to identify clinical and research evidence and critically analyze the evidence for rigor and applicability to the clinical setting. Based on this analysis, the student will develop and present realistic intervention plans including a written evidence-based review summarizing the results. The student must show how their results will improve patient outcomes for individuals with psychiatric disorders. Clinical experiences provide the student with an opportunity to expand clinical skills with individuals and families across the lifespan. Students are expected to collaborate with other health care providers in the care of their patients. This comprehensive course includes diverse, culturally sensitive care that emphasizes the professional role and responsibilities of the advanced practice psychiatric nurse. To complete the program, students must attain the required number of hours in the specified populations (child, adolescent, adult, older adult) as well as the required number of psychotherapy hours.