



THE POST DOCTORATE PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE

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The shortage of nurses is a major threat to the nation's health, especially in the areas of mental health. There is a need for more psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner faculty and clinicians across the United States. Psychiatric nurse practitioners make up approximately 2.5% of advanced practice nurses, an inadequate amount to meet the mental health needs in this country. Due to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's essentials for the DNP degree in advanced practice nursing, there are more doctorally prepared clinicians than ever before.

The purpose of this poster presentation is to present one way the University of Maryland School of Nursing addressed the faculty and clinician shortage in mental health by implementing a post doctorate psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner-family (PMHNP-F) certificate. This certificate can be completed in three years and will prepare current doctorally prepared advance practice registered nurses or other doctorate prepared nurses in other specialties to obtain PMHNP-F national certification, teach psychiatric nursing at all educational levels, and practice as mental health clinicians. This project will also increase the capacity of admitting qualified PMHNP-F students by developing faculty practice opportunities and clinical placements in integrated primary care and behavioral health settings. Combined, these strategies will increase PMHNP-F clinicians and nursing faculty in psychiatric nursing.