

# PMHNP Programs Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- **Is Liberty University's PMHNP program CCNE or ACEN accredited?**
  - The Post MSN PMHNP DNP program is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Post Graduate PMHNP Certificate program is also accredited by CCNE.
  
- **How long/how many credit hours is the program?**
  - The Post graduate PMHNP certificate program is 17 credit hours: three core courses and two practicum courses.
  - The program is 3 semesters/1-1.5 years long, 3 didactic courses (8 weeks each) and two 16-week practicum course (2 semesters).
  - The Post MSN DNP PMHNP program is 58 credits, and takes 2 years and 2 semesters or 8 semesters to complete.
  
- **What are the specific practicum requirements?**
  - Our program requires 504 psychiatric mental health practicum hours
    - 224 for Adult and Geriatric Mental Health over 16 weeks
    - 280 for Pediatric (children and adolescents) and Family Mental Health over 16 weeks
    - The CCNE requirement is at least 500 hours of precepted practicum in a population. This meets the CCNE practicum requirement
  
- **How do I secure a preceptor and clinical site?**
  - A practicum team is available to assist students.
  - Students are encouraged to reach out to organizations in their area and also network with colleagues to help support this process.
  - Students should be advised that practicum placement may include travel to and from sites at their expense and may include long commutes, depending on the availability of sites in their location. In addition, specific days of the week cannot always be secured. Students' schedule requests will be considered but may not be able to be accommodated pending available sites/preceptors.

- **Does completion of the program allow graduates to sit for the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) exam?**
  - Both the Post PMHNP DNP and the Post Graduate Certificate programs are fully accredited by CCNE, and you will be able to sit for the ANCC PMHNP- Across the Lifespan exam after completing all requirements for the selected program.
  - Beginning January 2024, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) will offer an exam.
  
- **What prerequisites are required to sit for the board certification?**
  - Starting in 2009, ANCC requires that Advanced Pathophysiology and Physiology, Advanced Health Assessment, and Advanced Pharmacology are taught for APRNs and Across the Lifespan. Applicants may be accepted but required to complete one or all of these courses prior to starting the PMHNP didactic courses. Students may elect to transfer these courses from another institution.
  
- **Are there specific requirements regarding preceptor credentials?**
  - The approved preceptors are PMHNPs and Psychiatrists. Also sites must be approved. Liberty University School of Nursing reserves the right to approve all sites and preceptors prior to student placement.
  - Half of each practicum hours (**112** of 224, or **140** of 280) must be completed with a prescriber (Psychiatrist or PMHNP or combination of both).
  
- **What licensure requirements are needed to enroll in the PMHNP program?**
  - Both the Post MSN DNP/PMHNP and Post Grad PMHNP Certificate programs currently enroll MS or doctoral prepared nurse practitioners who are licensed or certified, and are seeking to add to the PMHNP population specialty.
  - Applicants must be licensed nurse practitioners and also hold a RN in the approved states that are listed on the website. RN license may be a compact license. But must include an approved state.
  
- **Who do I contact if I have problems with registering for my courses?**
  - Students requiring additional assistance can email [dnp@liberty.edu](mailto:dnp@liberty.edu)

- **Does the nursing department accept BLS certifications from all providers?**
  - Our program only accepts the American Heart Association (AHA) BLS CPR for health-care providers.
  
- **What is synchronous web based learning/ synchronous log-in times?**
  - There are 3 didactic courses and 2 practicum courses in the PMHNP Certificate program. All 5 courses have some synchronous WebEx or MicroSoft Teams classes which is an online classroom type learning via WebEx /or MS Teams platform. Students are required to log into the online platform at a set time for class a couple of times during the course(s). Students will engage in learning at the same time, interact with the instructor, and develop a sense of community with peers.
  
- **How do I communicate with professors?**
  - Students are able to communicate with faculty via Microsoft TEAMS classes and email.
  
- **In what states is the PMHNP certificate approved?**
  - State approval information is available on the following website: <https://www.liberty.edu/online/nursing/state-requirements-np-aprn-licensure/> for additional information –email [dnp@liberty.edu](mailto:dnp@liberty.edu)
  
- **In what states is the Post MSN PMHNP DNP program approved?**
  - State approval information is available on the following website: <https://www.liberty.edu/online/nursing/state-requirements-np-aprn-licensure/> for additional information –email [dnp@liberty.edu](mailto:dnp@liberty.edu)
  
- **Can practicum courses be taken concurrently with didactic courses?**
  - No, all didactic courses must be successfully passed to be eligible for practicum. Additionally, students may not take NURS 754 and 755 in the same semester. Practicum courses are a full-semester 16 weeks-spring and fall and 14 weeks in the summer.
  
- **What determines if the student is taking a full-time course schedule?**
  - Financial aid determines what is considered full-time status. <https://www.liberty.edu/student-financial-services/>

- **Can I take classes in the summer?**
  - Yes, courses are offered in the summer, email [DNP@liberty.edu](mailto:DNP@liberty.edu)
  
- **Do I have to pass the Comprehensive Exam prior to graduation?**
  - Yes, all students must pass NURS 821 PMHNP Comprehensive Exam prior to graduation.
  
- **Are there practice tests offered for the ANCC certification exam?**
  - We begin preparing students for the certification exam in NURS 755. Students will start working on review modules and exams. The certification exam will take place in NURS 821 as mentioned above. These exercises include practice exams. In addition, to completing all coursework and practicum successfully, students must also pass NURS 821, a comprehensive exam as part of the graduation requirements.
  
- **Can I work and complete the PMHNP Certificate program?**
  - Students can work, however the PMHNP Certificate program is an accelerated one-year certificate program. Students must be prepared to dedicate at least 30 hours of study a week, more may be required. Also students will be required to attend practicum hours which may impact their work week, and require changes in their work schedule such as taking earn time or reducing hours. Most students have been able to maintain their work hours, but some have flexed hours to include weekends or evenings, etc. Students completing the Post MSN DNP PMHNP program may need to be creative with their work schedules to accommodate practicum hours.