# CLINICAL PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

## POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE: PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER (PMHNP)

To Graduate the Student Will Need to Complete 690 Clinical Rotation Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Prerequisites</th>
<th>Rotations Required</th>
<th>Hours per Rotation</th>
<th>Rotation Hours for Graduation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RN License</td>
<td>Lower-Level Rotations: Hospital Medicine, Cardiology, Nephrology, ID</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Slightly Higher Acuity: Transplant, Neurology, Interventional Cardiology</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>180 Hours or More</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Acuity Specialties: General Surgery, Trauma Surgery, Neurosurgery, Low Acuity ICUs</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240 Hours or More</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult Critical Care (ICUs)</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>360 Hours or More</td>
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**Rotations Must Include:**

- No Emergency Rooms rotations

- It is recommended that each student allocate a portion of their clinical rotation towards pediatric mental health settings (approximately 75-90 hours, but there is flexibility here).

- It is recommended that each student allocate a portion of their clinical rotation towards inpatient mental health settings (75-90 hours, but there is flexibility here both in hours and specialty population [i.e., pediatric, adult, geriatric]).

- It is recommended the remaining hours (largest percentage) be divided between adult mental health settings and, during your residency, the mental health population(s) you aim to specialize in (e.g., geriatric, pediatric, and adults).
STUDENTS PARTICIPATION IN CLINICAL ROTATIONS:

- In the **first clinical semester**, student focuses on therapeutic interactions, gathering history of present illness (including social, substance use history) information, utilizing screening tools, performing mental status exams, integrating subjective and objective information for diagnosing, treatment planning, and referral. Students might have previous experience and/or exposure to a variety of practice settings including primary, acute, and community settings. Initially, students might assume a more observational role; but, as the semester progresses, they are expected to incrementally increase their individual engagement with patients and the clinical process. The didactic will focus on the most common mental health disorders encountered in outpatient settings (e.g., mood disorders, anxiety disorders, trauma-based disorders).

- In the **second clinical semester**, students will expound on first semester skills by taking a more active role in the therapeutic and clinical processes (particularly diagnosing and decisions regarding medication initiation and management). The students’ didactic content will be focused more on psychotic disorders, eating disorders, personality disorders, and population specific disorders (child-adolescent and geriatric). Students will be continuing to develop the accuracy, precision, and succinctness of their clinical notes.

- In the **third and final clinical semester**, the student will be participating in their psychiatric mental health residency and should be more independent, preparing for graduation and becoming an advanced practice nurse. Here, the student will be working with their clinical population of interest (e.g., child-adolescent, adult, geriatric) and their preferred setting (e.g., inpatient, outpatient, rehabilitative, community) upon graduating the program and entering the workforce. The didactic will focus on more acute and complex psychiatric presentations (e.g., traumatic brain injury, severe mental illness with comorbidities) with a focus on treatment (e.g., initiation, polypharmacy management), neurological assessments, referrals, etc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To view a detailed Plan of Study:
Visit our website at www.nursing.emory.edu, select sub-menu Academics or click here.

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