A Certificate of Advanced Study for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP) is being offered by the Department of Nursing at California State University Fresno, in cooperation with the Division of Continuing and Global Education. This formally constructed program meets the requirements for national certification by the American Nurse Credentialing Center as an Adult or Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. This program will enhance professional competence, provide access to specialized knowledge, and address the shortage of mental health providers.

To enhance access and provide flexibility, the program is largely distance delivered via videoconferencing, videostreaming, web conferencing, and asynchronous computer based applications.

The Certificate of Advanced Study for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners is a one-year post-master’s program designed to prepare primary care nurse practitioners to provide a full range of psychiatric services to patients throughout the life cycle. Students will be prepared to manage both psychiatric disorders and mental health problems. The program consists of four theory courses and includes 515 hours of precepted clinical experience for a total of 18 units.

A candidate for admission must be a nurse practitioner, i.e. Family Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Adult Nurse Practitioner, or Geriatric Nurse Practitioner. The candidate must have a current valid California Nurse Practitioner license and furnishing number and Drug Enforcement Administration authorization for Schedule II medications.

Admission to the program is a two-step process:

1. Admission to the university. The university application form can be obtained online at www.csumentor.edu

2. Admission to the program. Program applications are reviewed by a faculty committee. Applications are due by June 1 of each year.

Stipends are available to eligible students who commit to work in California’s public mental health system upon completion of the program. Contact the Department of Nursing 559-278-2041 about possible federal traineeships.

For more information about the PMHNP program contact the program coordinator, Debbie Steele, Ph.D. at dsteele@csufresno.edu