

TELEPSYCHIATRY CLINICAL PLACEMENT POLICY

Post-Master's/DNP Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program (PMHNP)

The University of Cincinnati College of Nursing's (UC CON) vision is, "Through creative leveraging of technology and inclusive excellence, UC CON will lead the transformation of healthcare in partnership informed by the people we serve." This vision dovetails with the aim of the UC CON PMHNP Program to provide clinical education, preparing students to utilize innovative methods of delivering care. Such methods include telepsychiatry, use of iPads, and a multitude of apps that support therapies such as cognitive-behavioral and other evidence-based therapeutic modalities. The UC CON must continuously evaluate outcomes for educational programs using telepsychiatry and other innovative technologies to provide evidence of their efficacy in preparing PMHNPs to care for patients.

PMHNPs have many career opportunities, including in settings such as acute care, outpatient clinics, schools, prisons, extended care facilities, and private practice. As barriers to the use of telepsychiatry are resolved, it is anticipated that increasingly more of these settings will be linked to providers using telepsychiatry (National Council for Behavioral Health, 2017). It is also expected that PMHNPs will do assessments and provide treatment, including therapy, and medication management services to more people in need of care via this method.

The PMHNP program requires the following age-specific requirements for clinical hours for all students: At least 100 hours each in child/adolescent (age 0-17), adult (age 18-61), and older adult, preferably with multiple medical comorbidities (age 62+).

Students seeking to earn a portion of their clinical hours in the PMHNP program **must earn a minimum of 100 inperson clinical contact hours in each of the aforementioned age-specific patient populations** (child/adolescent, adult, older adult). **Any hours beyond these 300 hours may be earned via telepsychiatry.**

Every effort should be made by students to complete the 300 in person hours prior to commencing the pursuit of clinical hours via telepsychiatry. This will help ensure students' mastery of traditional therapeutic and treatment modalities, such as psychotherapy and medication management, as foundational before expanding their proficiency into telemental health.