Students choosing the Psychiatric-mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Graduate Certificate Program are prepared with specialized knowledge, skills and abilities to provide care across the lifespan to individuals, families, groups, and communities with behavioral and mental health problems/disorders or the potential for such problems. Clinical practicum under the supervision of qualified preceptors will focus on psychiatric-mental health care in a variety of specialty areas with a rural emphasis. The Graduate Certificate (GC) is for nurses who have completed a previous graduate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited graduate nursing program and desire to prepare for certification as a PMHNP. Upon completion of this graduate certificate program, students are prepared for eligibility for the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s PMHNP examination.

All Graduate Certificate applicants must have completed advanced physical or health assessment, advanced pharmacology, advanced pathophysiology, and advanced health promotion prior to admission.
NURS 680 - Psychiatric-mental Health NP Role I (3 Semester Hours) (Fall 2017)
This course deals with diagnostic interpretation and therapeutic modalities for the PMHNP role and population. It includes knowledge about adult/geriatric mental health issues aligned with the DSM-V, the role and population competencies of the PMHNP, and concomitant interventions. Four major schools of therapy are reviewed: Supportive Therapy, Interpersonal Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), and Solution Focused Therapy. Other forms of intervention are also discussed (e.g., community resources such as crisis lines, emergency care, and integrated health promotion with individuals and families). Special issues discussed include seclusion and restraint with hospitalized patients and other safety concerns, such as managing suicidal risk. A nursing holistic model for healing with psychotherapy is a framework. Interprofessional team work is emphasized. Designed to align with NURS 681 - Psychiatric-mental Health NP Role I CLINICAL.

NURS 681 - Psychiatric-mental Health NP Role I CLINICAL (4 semester Hours = 240 clinical hours) (Fall 2017)
Clinical aligns with NURS 680 - Psychiatric-mental Health NP Role I. Emphasis is on application of psychiatric-mental health assessments, building therapeutic relationships, and interprofessional care planning and management of adult and geriatric populations. Care of individuals is the focus, with clinical supervision.

NURS 682 - Psychiatric-mental Health NP Role II (3 Semester Hours) (Spring 2018)
This course includes knowledge and skills related to complex adult psychiatric-mental health illnesses and child/adolescent psychiatric specific illnesses, laboratory interpretations, and concomitant interventions (e.g., Psychopharmacology, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy [DBT]). Principles and practice in group therapy are taught. Principles of recovery are noted. Community resources are explored (such as National Alliance for Mental Illness [NAMI] and local resources), with emphasis on one’s own locality. Aligns with NURS 683 - Psychiatric-mental Health NP Role II CLINICAL.

NURS 683 - Psychiatric-mental Health NP Role II CLINICAL (4 Semester Hours = 240 clinical hours) (Spring 2018)
Clinical aligns with NURS 682 - Psychiatric-mental Health NP Role II. Emphasis is on group therapy and work with families as a group, psychoeducation, and integration of psychiatric-mental health care into primary care settings. Continuation of psychiatric pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions for patients with complicated management, as well as family, and community resources for care are applied to various settings with clinical supervision.

NURS 686 - Psychiatric-mental Health NP Role Synthesis Seminar (1 Semester Hour) (Summer 2018)
This seminar course deals with the PMHNP scope of practice, legal issues, teamwork in a variety of settings; billing/insurance issues; ethical care; and preparing for the PMHNP exam. Emphasis is on clinical practice management and clinical decision-making.

NURS 687 - Psychiatric-mental Health NP Role Synthesis CLINICAL (2 Semester Hours = 120 clinical hours) (Summer 2018)
This final clinical course is in a clinical setting(s) of the student’s choice. Students work with faculty to create their own clinical learning objectives to meet needed PMH NP competencies for responsible clinical decision-making. Clinical supervision is continued.