

PMHNP Advanced Practicum I
NURS 5463/5473, Fall 2026
Midwestern State University Wilson School of Nursing
College of Health Sciences - Family PMHNP Program

Faculty

Dr. Kimberly Mercer, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC
E-mail: kim.mercer@msutexas.edu

Dr. Cesar Alvarado, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC
Email: cesar.alvarado@msutexas.edu

Course Description

The focus of this course is on examining and understanding key concepts in the diagnosis and management of serious and persistent psychiatric disorders and mental health problems in individuals. The student begins with an assessment of the relationship with self as a foundation for understanding therapeutic relationships. The diagnostic evaluation methods covered will include development of interview techniques, mental status examination, and use of tools unique to the evaluation of psychiatric mental health problems. Techniques for the management of mental health problems in individuals will include both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions, including individual counseling in the clients with serious and persistent mental health problems.

Check the course calendar in this syllabus for assignment due dates.

Prerequisites are as follows:

- NURS 5043 Advanced Pathology
- NURS 5133 Advanced Pharmacology
- NURS 5112/11 Advanced Health Assessment
- NURS 5103 Nursing Theory
- NURS 5303 Roles
- NURS 5322 Psychopharmacology/Therapy

Learning Modalities

This is an online course that utilizes the Brightspace (D2L) online learning system. Students will need access to a computer and internet and must be able to scan paperwork electronically. There will be:

- Assigned readings.
- SOAP Notes (3)
- Exams (3) – mid-term and final exams will be comprehensive.
- Discussion (1)
- Mid-term Oral Exam

- Final Oral Exam

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Illustrate personal responsibility for ongoing commitment to planning, implementing, and evaluating care of one's own mental health.
- Support cooperation and commitment to individual clients to develop evidence-based approaches for promotion and protection of mental health and prevention of mental illness.
- Collaborate with clients to develop a plan to avert relapse.
- Identify the essential elements of physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual care in the promotion of self and others
- Adhere to a wide range of approaches to evidence-based psychotherapy of individual clients experiencing psychiatric mental health problems.
- Create a constructive application of advanced assessment, diagnosis and treatment of clients experiencing psychiatric mental health problems.
- Practice psychopharmacotherapy with effective management of individuals experiencing psychiatric mental health problems.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Numerical Value
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	74-79
D	65-73
F	64 and below

Required Clinical Hour Information for the Family PMHNP Program

NURS 5322 Psychopharmacology/Therapy (no clinical hours) Summer 2026
 NURS 5463/5473 Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practicum I – 192 clinical hours
 Fall 2026
 NURS 5483/5493 Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practicum II - 192 clinical hours
 – Spring 2027
 NURS 5523/5533 – Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practicum II - 192 clinical
 hours – Summer 2027

NURS 5463/5473 Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practicum I – 192 clinical hours
 Fall 2026

In order to pass NURS 5463/5473 Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practicum I you must pass both the didactic and clinical components of the course.

Student Responsibilities and Class Requirements

Students are accountable for policies regarding graduate nursing programs and completion of requirements for all graduate students as stated in the Graduate Catalog and Graduate Student Handbook. Students are responsible for making appointments with faculty concerning class assignments and clinical responsibilities as necessary and as requested by faculty.