

**Psychiatric FNP Admission Essay Guidelines and Rubric (500 words)**  
**Place the word count at the top of the essay under your name**

Mercy University educates psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNPs) to deliver mental health services to diverse populations residing in diverse economic communities. In addition, PMHNPs need to be cognizant of their role and factors that contribute to the mental health status of their patients.

**Essay**

Mental health is an essential component of overall well-being. In many underserved communities' mental health services are lacking. As an aspiring psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP), what motivates you to pursue this field, and how do you envision using your education and skills to address the challenges faced by individuals with mental health diagnoses? Discuss any relevant experiences, personal insights, or specific populations you hope to serve, and outline how you plan to contribute to improving mental health care access and outcomes in your future practice.

Presentation is an important component of this essay. We consider the ability to use graduate level writing, correct grammar, correct spelling, appropriate word choices, appropriate tenses, and adherence to directions as indicators of your ability to communicate effectively and professionally.

**Grading Rubric for Nursing Essay: Becoming a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (Total Score: 18 points)**

Criteria	Excellent (4 points)	Good (3 points)	Satisfactory (2 points)	Needs Improvement (1 point)	Score
<b>Content Knowledge</b>	Thorough understanding of the role and responsibilities of a Psych NP includes relevant theories and practices.	Good understanding with minor gaps includes most relevant theories and practices.	Basic understanding: some relevant theories and practices are missing.	Limited understanding: lacks relevant theories and practices.	
<b>Organization</b>	Well-structured with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion; logical flow of ideas.	Generally organized, minor issues with flow or structure.	Some organization: ideas may be unclear or poorly connected.	Disorganized; lacks clear structure and flow.	
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Demonstrates insightful analysis and critical thinking; effectively integrates personal reflection.	Shows some analysis and critical thinking; personal reflection is present but not fully developed.	Limited analysis: personal reflection is minimal or unclear.	Lacks critical thinking; no personal reflection.	
<b>Writing Quality</b>	Clear, concise, and engaging writing; free of grammatical and spelling errors.	Generally clear writing; few grammatical or spelling errors.	Writing is understandable but contains several errors that distract.	Poor writing quality: numerous errors that impede understanding.	
<b>Follows Directions</b>	Word count listed at top of essay. Essay is 500 words, slightly more or less (2 points)				