

**Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner  
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**

As a licensed nurse pursuing advanced practice as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP), reflect on the evolving role of the PMHNP in today’s mental health landscape. In your response, discuss how a deep understanding of social determinants of health enhances the PMHNP’s ability to provide equitable, person-centered care. How will your education at Mercy University prepare you to address these complex factors in clinical practice? Finally, outline your professional goals after graduation and how you plan to contribute to improving mental health outcomes in your community or chosen population.

***Presentation is an important component of this essay. We consider the ability to answer the essay questions, 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.***

**PMHNP Essay Rubric**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Excellent (4 points)</b>	<b>Good (3 points)</b>	<b>Satisfactory (2 points)</b>	<b>Needs Improvement (1 point)</b>
<b>Understanding the PMHNP Role</b>	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the PMHNP role, including its scope, responsibilities, and relevance to addressing social determinants of health.	Shows a clear understanding of the PMHNP role with minor gaps in depth or connection to social determinants.	Demonstrates a basic understanding of the PMHNP role; limited connection to social determinants.	Lacks clarity or accuracy in describing the PMHNP role; minimal or no mention of social determinants.
<b>Essay Organization</b>	Essay is exceptionally well-organized with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Transitions are smooth and logical.	Essay is well-organized with clear structure and mostly logical transitions.	Organization is apparent but may lack clarity or flow in some areas.	Essay lacks clear structure; ideas are disjointed or difficult to follow.

Category	Excellent (4 points)	Good (3 points)	Satisfactory (2 points)	Needs Improvement (1 point)
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Demonstrates insightful analysis and synthesis of ideas. Effectively connects education, career goals, and social determinants of health.	Shows thoughtful analysis with some synthesis of ideas. Makes relevant connections between education and career goals.	Basic analysis with limited depth; connections are present but underdeveloped.	Lacks analysis or depth; ideas are presented without critical reflection or connection.
<b>Academic Writing</b>	Writing is clear, concise, and free of grammatical or spelling errors. Tone is professional and appropriate for academic work.	Minor grammatical or spelling errors; writing is mostly clear and professional.	Noticeable errors in grammar or spelling; tone may be inconsistent.	Frequent errors that interfere with readability; tone is inappropriate or informal.
<b>Follows Directions</b>	Word count listed at the top of the essay. Essay is 500 words, slightly more (500 - 510) and slightly less (490 – 500). <b><i>This category is worth 2-points.</i></b>			

**Maximum Essay Points: 18**