



HOW TO BECOME A PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER



1. EARN A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (BSN) DEGREE

If you started your nursing career with an ADN, your first step is to obtain a BSN. If you hold a bachelor's degree in another field, certain programs allow you to apply some of those credits toward a BSN.



2. GAIN CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Depending on how you obtained your RN license you may wish to get experience as a nurse in a psychiatric/mental health facility to be familiar with the area. Nurse practitioner programs typically contain 500-750 hours of clinical practicum experience, which are required.

3. COMPLETE A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN) DEGREE

Your next step is to obtain your MSN in psychiatric mental health nursing from an accredited program.



4. OBTAIN YOUR ADVANCED PRACTICE LICENSE/CERTIFICATION

Once you've completed the necessary educational requirements you can apply to take the national licensure exam to become a psychiatric nurse practitioner. You must then obtain your advanced practice license/certification as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner.