The UW–Madison School of Nursing offers this hybrid Post-Graduate Psychiatric Nursing Capstone Certificate. It provides the opportunity for nurses who already hold a master's or doctoral degree in advanced practice nursing to gain skills and knowledge to be an expert mental health practitioner.

The certificate program requires a minimum of 18 credits. It begins in summer and takes a year and a half to complete. Students spend the first summer taking a 3-credit psychopharmacology course. During the fall/spring/fall semesters, students take one foundation course and one application course, which brings together classroom and online learning with clinical experiences. Students spend a full day on campus every other week for class meetings and spend two to three days per week in clinical placements. This blended approach provides access to courses even for those who live outside of Madison, with readings and discussions online.

Students work two full days per week in clinical practice. Faculty will actively seek to secure a clinical placement that provides a balance of skills and breadth of professional experience across the full lifespan of patients, while doing their best to accommodate the student’s family and professional responsibilities. Students will be expected to travel for their clinical placement.

The Post-Graduate Psychiatric Nursing Capstone Certificate will be completed in just 18 months.

Further detail, including current tuition and costs, is available at the program’s website (https://nursing.wisc.edu/certificates/psych-nursing/) or by contacting the School of Nursing.

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