What kind of patients do CNS/Adult Nurse Practitioners care for?
Psychiatric mental health CNS/ANPs provide primary physical and mental healthcare to adults experiencing mental illness, substance abuse, or development disorders. Psychiatric CNS/ANPs are committed to improving access to primary healthcare for the mentally ill population, which has historically been undeserved. Child and Adolescent CNS/ANPs are prepared to assess, diagnose and treat biopsychosocial responses to mental health problems and psychiatric disorders in child and adolescent populations. Students in the Child and Adolescent option are required to take courses in concepts and values related to advanced family and pediatric nursing in primary care settings. These students are eligible for ANC certification as Advanced Practice child and Adolescent Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Where do CNS/ANPs work?
Psychiatric mental health CNS/ANPs work in private practices, manage care organizations, psychiatric hospitals, substance abuse treatment facilities, mental health centers, and public health agencies. Most psychiatric mental health CNS/ANPs work in collaboration with physicians, although they can work independently in some states. In Ohio, proof of a collaborative relationship with a physician is required for licensure. Psychiatric mental health CNS/ANPs may work day and/or evening hours in outpatient settings.

What skills do CNS/ANPs have?
Psychiatric mental health CNS/ANPs provide individual and group psychotherapy for people who have depression, anxiety, substance abuse, or other mental health issues. They provide primary healthcare to mentally ill individuals, including physical and psychiatric assessment and ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests. They are called to emergency departments to diagnose patients with substance abuse and psychiatric disorders. Sometime psychiatric CNS/ANPs prescribe medication, including psychotropic medication, in all 50 states.

What kinds of education do CNS/ANPs have?
Psychiatric mental health CNS/ANPs have master’s degrees in nursing, are licensed as registered nurses, and have passed the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) certification exam for the Adult Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialists and Adult Nurse Practitioner.

How long will it take to complete the program?
May I attend part-time?
The minimum time to complete the MS degree is two years of full-time study. Part-time study is an option and may take 3-4 years.

Is financial aid available?
Yes, in very limited amounts. Students can apply for financial assistance in the form of scholarships and loans. Information and applications for financial aid are available from the Graduate Outreach and Admissions Office in the College of Nursing, or under the financial aid overview page of the College of Nursing website www.nursing.osu.edu.

What kind of grades must I earn?
A minimum 3.0 GPA (B average) is required in all courses for both admission and retention by the Graduate School.

What criteria are considered in the admission decision?
Indications of commitment to a career as a professional nurse, relevant past experiences, letters of recommendation, are considered in addition to your GRE scores and GPA.

Is the GRE required for all applicants?
The GRE is required for all applicants. The exception is if the student has a Master’s degree and has a undergraduate and graduate GPA of 3.0 or better.