

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**  
**Advanced Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program Report**  
**From the College of Health Sciences**

**1 OCTOBER 2010**

[Pursuant to W.S. 21-17-116 (e) and (f)]  
To the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

**Program Overview**

The Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing offers a graduate program preparing Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP). This master's program, started in the fall of 2005, began with funding assistance from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Student enrollment began in the 2005-2006 academic year. PMHNPs are advanced practice registered nurses who provide a full range of psychiatric care, including assessing, diagnosing, and managing the prevention and treatment of psychiatric disorders and mental health problems. PMHNPs work in various settings, from outpatient settings such as clinics to hospitals.

The State of Wyoming established an educational loan repayment program for PMHNP students in 2006. Under this program, the University of Wyoming was authorized to provide up to \$10,000 per academic semester or \$2,500 per summer session for nurses enrolled in a PMHNP program full-time. Students enrolled part-time can receive funds proportionally reduced based on the number of credit hours the students is taking. The PMHNP loan program was set up to support six students for their two years of education during the first year of the funding and then to add an additional six more for two years starting in the second year of state funding. Funding to continue the program for FY 2010-2011 at four students per year is contained in the standard budget for the UW 167 Medical Education state budget. Students receiving support from the State are then obligated to actively engage in professional practice as a PMHNP for up to one year for each academic year of study for which support was provided under this program, or repay all amounts expended by the State for the student's education.

**Required Reports**

W.S. 21-17-116 (e) – Under this provision, like the WWAMI program, the University's Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, may relieve a student from repayment of a loan provided under this section for undue hardship. The provision requires the University to report to the Committee the number of students who have been relieved of the obligation to repay the loan.

W.S. 21-17-116 (f) – Under this provision, again similar to the WWAMI program, effective July 1, 2008, all loan repayments under this program are to be credited to an account to be used by the University to fund loans under this program. This provision requires the University to report to the Committee regarding expenditures from this account during the preceding fiscal year.

## Loan Repayment Update

A total of 23 students have been supported by the PMHNP loan payment program since it was established. The table below summarizes the current status of those students/graduates as of August 31, 2010. Five students are currently being supported by the PMHNP loan repayment program. Four students graduated from the PMHNP program in August 2010 and currently in the grace period. Six graduates are currently in the process of repaying the loan through professional practice as a PMHNP in Wyoming (Deferment for Practice). One former student defaulted on the loan and three graduates are repaying the loan. Four graduates have completed the repayment of the loan through practice in Wyoming. One former student suffered a serious medical problem and the UW Board of Trustees canceled the loan due to hardship.

Status	Home City	City of Practice
Deferment for Practice	Jackson	Jackson
Deferment for Practice	Evanston	Evanston
Deferment for Practice	Cheyenne	Cheyenne
Deferment for Practice	Evanston	Evanston/Rock Springs
Deferment for Practice	Laramie	Laramie
Enrolled	Laramie	
Enrolled	Lingle	
Enrolled	Basin	
Enrolled	Laramie	
Enrolled	Sheridan	
Grace	Loveland, CO	
Grace	Cheyenne	
Grace	Laramie	
Grace	Laramie	
Default	Laramie	
Repayment	Laramie	
Repayment	Highland, UT	
Repayment	Lake Elsinore, CA	
Canceled for Practice	Cheyenne	Cheyenne
Canceled for Practice	Casper	Casper
Canceled for Practice	Laramie	Laramie
Canceled for Practice	Laramie	Laramie
Canceled for Hardship	Buffalo	

**FY10 – Fiscal report**

As outlined below, no expenditures have occurred from the repayment funds. At this point, there is not enough funds available to offer additional loans to PMHNP students.

Corpus in Advanced Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program Fund

Beginning balance	\$ 5,143.33
Collections	\$ 8,235.32
FY 10 earnings	\$ 2,994.34 (interest income in FY10)
Total available for loans	\$ 13,372.99
<u>FY 09 loan expenditures</u>	\$ -0-