The average Purdue Global military student is awarded 54% of the credits needed for an associate's and 45% of the credits needed for a bachelor's. Most Commonly Searched: Most Commonly Searched: Millions of Americans are affected by mental illness each year. According to the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, almost 1 in 4 adults age 18 or older had a mental illness in 2022 — that’s 59.3 million people or 23.1% of the population. A 2022 study conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and published in JAMA Pediatrics found significant increases in children diagnosed with mental health conditions from 2016 to 2020 (the most recent years for which data is available). The need for psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNP) is high. If you’re interested in this field, learn how to become a PMHNP and the challenges and rewards of treating those with mental health needs. The need for mental health care providers has grown due to two factors: the shortage of psychiatric care providers in general and an increasing national conversation about mental health. The need for psychiatric mental health nurses in general is reflected in overall labor statistics. Employment of nurse practitioners is projected to grow 45% from 2022 to 2032, much faster than the average for all occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. According to a 2022 report from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), there's a critical shortage of psychiatrists, and that shortage will only continue to grow. According to one study, psychiatric mental health nurses may be able to help fill the gap in mental health services. In 2022, the World Health Organization reported that in the first year of the pandemic, anxiety and depression increased by 25% around the world. In 2023, a KFF/CNN survey found that concerns about mental health and substance use remained high 3 years after the pandemic’s onset, with 90% of U.S. adults believing that the country is facing a mental health crisis. Providers everywhere have reported an increase in people seeking psychiatric services since the pandemic began. A growing national conversation about mental health has also made it more acceptable to seek mental health care services. According to the Business Group on Health’s 2024 Large Employer Health Care Strategy Survey, which included responses from 152 employers representing 19 million people, 77% of employers plan to focus on increasing mental health access in 2024. “Coming off the most difficult times this country has faced in a generation, there is growing acceptance that seeking mental health care support and treatment is okay and not the same as it was decades ago,” says Jennifer Sam, DNP, Purdue Global faculty member. “As more and more people share their experiences and normalize that we all need support from time to time, I expect that our services will only become more needed.”