average Purdue Global military student awarded 54 credits needed associate 's 45 credits needed bachelor 's Commonly Searched Commonly Searched Millions Americans affected mental illness year According 2022 National Survey Drug Use Health conducted Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration almost 1 4 adults age 18 older mental illness 2022 — ’ 59.3 million people 23.1 population 2022 study conducted U.S. Department Health Human Services published JAMA Pediatrics found significant increases children diagnosed mental health conditions 2016 2020 recent years data available need psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners PMHNP high ’ interested field learn become PMHNP challenges rewards treating mental health needs need mental health care providers grown due two factors shortage psychiatric care providers general increasing national conversation mental health need psychiatric mental health nurses general reflected overall labor statistics Employment nurse practitioners projected grow 45 2022 2032 much faster average occupations according U.S. Bureau Labor Statistics According 2022 report Association American Medical Colleges AAMC 's critical shortage psychiatrists shortage continue grow According one study psychiatric mental health nurses may able help fill gap mental health services 2022 World Health Organization reported first year pandemic anxiety depression increased 25 around world 2023 KFF/CNN survey found concerns mental health substance use remained high 3 years pandemic ’ onset 90 U.S. adults believing country facing mental health crisis Providers everywhere reported increase people seeking psychiatric services since pandemic began growing national conversation mental health also made acceptable seek mental health care services According Business Group Health ’ 2024 Large Employer Health Care Strategy Survey included responses 152 employers representing 19 million people 77 employers plan focus increasing mental health access 2024 “ Coming difficult times country faced generation growing acceptance seeking mental health care support treatment okay decades ago ” says Jennifer Sam DNP Purdue Global faculty member “ people share experiences normalize need support time time expect services become needed ”