

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program

### **What kind of enrollment process do you follow?**

The Fellowship application submission begins annually on December 15th and closes on March 15th of the following year. Interviews for Thundermist's Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Fellowship Program take place annually in early Spring. Fellowship program admissions policy require a complete application packet for a candidates consideration to the next step, the interview round.

Traditionally, Thundermist requires applicants to attend an onsite interview. Extenuating circumstances, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, has dictated interviews to be conducted via video conferencing. Onsite/virtual interview dates can be scheduled up to a year in advance and are selected on a Friday or Monday to accomodate the travel needs for out-of-state applicants.

All interviews will be attended by the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Fellowship selection committee. Applicants will be selected for the program based on three criteria items - education, application, and performance during the behavior-based interview. A sample contract is provided to each cadidate upon completion of their in-person/virtual interview. Applicants are encouraged to ask all contractual questions prior to being offered a position in the Fellowship. Simultaneously the selection committee selects the final two candidates based on accumulated scores from the application packet, essay submissions and in-person/virtual interview. These overall top two scoring candidates will be offered a Fellowship contract and are provided 72 hours to accept the offer in writing.

We are mindful candidates not selected for our program will need to apply to other programs. We want to respect that time sensitivity and inform all remaining candidates the program slots have been filled. However, this only occurs once both candidates accept their contracts in writing hence the 72 hour time frame.

### **How many fellows are selected annually?**

We currently select two fellows per program year.

### **Can I still apply if I do not live in Rhode Island?**

We accept national candidates. You do not need a RI license to apply, but you do need to be fully licensed and credentialed by the start of the program on September 1st of the Fellowship program year should you be selected.

### **Do I need to be physically present for my interview? Can I Skype or Zoom in?**

To be considered for the Fellowship you must physically attend one of our interview days. However, in Spring 2021 we did to conduct interviews using a video-conferencing system due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will reassess in late Winter of 2022 whether it will be in person or virtual to provide candidates enough time for travel preparations if applicable.

### **Is it okay that I am working with a recruiter?**

Applicants represented by a recruiter are not eligible for the Fellowship.

### **What is the program's pay scale? Are there opportunities to stay after the Fellowship year is complete?**

Upon submission of your application, we are happy to send you a blank draft of the Fellowship contract so you can see the financial details of the program. We do this for two reasons: One, we want you to understand both the clinical (what the program offers) and financial components of the program so you make a full informed decision. Secondly, once you are offered the Fellowship slot you have 72 Hours to accept the contract or reject it so we can move on to another candidate. By providing you the contract ahead of time it allows us to resolve any financial questions ahead of time and provides you with the opportunity to make a rapid and well-informed decision to accept or reject the offer once made.

### **Do I need to complete the entire application packet before I arrive for the onsite interview day?**

To be considered for the Fellowship in-person or virtual interview, we do require you submit a completed application packet prior to the application deadline.

### **Do I meet the program's application requirements if I graduated mid-academic year?**

Yes, you would meet current requirements for the cohort. The program is specifically intended for new nurse practitioners who graduate no more than 18 months prior to the application deadline.

### **Who can my letters of recommendation come from?**

Your personal letters of recommendation can come from former employers, preceptors, faculty and peers (classmate or professional colleague). An academic recommendation can be a professor, program director, preceptor, dean or other faculty member familiar with your work.

### **How should I submit my letters of recommendation?**

Please send recommendation letters with the completed Fellowship application to [NPFellowship@ThundermistHealth.org](mailto:NPFellowship@ThundermistHealth.org). We will make sure your letters of recommendation are attached to your application packet once that portion is received. The entire completed application packet is forwarded to the interview committee for screening.

### **Is it ok to use another instructor from my program for a letter of recommendation if I do not have a relationship with my program director?**

Yes. It is appropriate to get the letters of recommendation from clinical instructors who know you the best.

### **If I have not been recently employed due to the demands of my program, is it acceptable to submit a letter of recommendation from a past employer?**

We would accept a letter of recommendation from any previous employer. Getting one from the person who supervised you as a clinical research coordinator would be appropriate. You can also substitute one from a preceptor who worked with you during one or more of your clinical rotations.

### **Can I apply to the Fellowship program with an out-of-state NP license?**

Yes. You would need to apply for a Rhode Island APRN license, but you can apply for the Fellowship while it and other



Our Sites:

186 Providence St, West Warwick, RI 02893 \* 450 Clinton St, Woonsocket, RI 02895 \* 1 River St, Wakefield, RI 02879

**For more information, please email [NPFellowship@Thundermisthealth.org](mailto:NPFellowship@Thundermisthealth.org)**