

# DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree will prepare nurses for advanced roles as implementation scientists skilled in the translation of evidence into clinical practice, measurement of patient outcomes, and transformation of health care systems to ensure quality and safety.

The DNP program provides education in order for the graduate to analyze, evaluate, and advance quality, safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of patient care and systems of care. This comprehensive knowledge base for advanced nursing practice allows the graduate to influence health care outcomes for individuals and populations. This may include providing direct care or management of care. Other opportunities for graduates of the DNP program include working in administration, executive leadership, health policy, informatics, and population health.

This program is approved for delivery via asynchronous distance education technology. Students will be required to come to campus for New Student Orientation and to present their DNP projects prior to graduation.

## Program Requirements

### First Year

		Semester Credit Hours
<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 725	Theoretical Foundations of Healthcare	3
NURS 728	Organizational and Systems Leadership	3
Residency in advanced nursing practice <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>6</b>

<b>Spring</b>		
NURS 731	Quality and Outcome Improvements in Healthcare	3
NURS 734	Healthcare Policy and Economics	3
Residency in advanced nursing practice <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>6</b>

<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 733	Clinical Prevention and Population Outcome Improvement	3
Residency in advanced nursing practice <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>3</b>

### Second Year

<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 726	Principles of Translational Science	3
NURS 729	Analytic Methods for Research and Evidence Based Practice	3
NURS 735	Scholarly Project Practicum I	2
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>8</b>

<b>Spring</b>		
NURS 727	Applications of Translational Science	3
NURS 736	Scholarly Project Practicum II	2
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>5</b>

<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 732	Transformational Leadership in Nursing	3

NURS 737	Scholarly Project Practicum III <sup>1</sup>	2
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>5</b>

### Third Year

<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 730	Informatics	3
NURS 738	Scholarly Project Practicum IV	2
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Total Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>38</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students with fewer than 500 documented practice hours prior to starting the program will complete necessary hours through completion of NURS 739.

## Practicum

The DNP degree requires a minimum of 1,000 hours of practice post-baccalaureate (BSN). Practice hours from a master's nursing program can apply towards the 1,000-hour, post-baccalaureate practice requirement (American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN], 2015). DNP students holding a master's degree in nursing and national certification as an advanced practice registered nurse (nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse midwife, certified registered nurse anesthetist) can apply up to 500 hours towards the 1,000-hour DNP practice requirement. Students will complete the remaining hours through the DNP Scholarly Practicum Courses.

The student will submit verification of up to 500 practice hours from their master's program in NursingCAS during the application process. All practice hour requests require review and approval by the DNP Program Coordinator.

## Final Project

The DNP degree culminates in an integrated, practice-focused project led by a faculty mentor based upon availability and research/practice interest and aided by consultation from internal or external content experts. Following AACN (2015) guidelines, the focus of the DNP project is practice change through translation of evidence and quality improvement. The project may target nursing interventions that influence health care outcomes for individuals or populations. This project may address direct care, care management, administration of health care systems or development and implementation of health care policy.