

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Program Requirements

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Student's Advisory Committee

After receiving admission to the DNP program, the student will consult with the DNP Program Director concerning appointment of a chair for the DNP Project. The chair, in consultation with the student, will select the remainder of the advisory committee. The committee will consist of no fewer than three members of the graduate faculty representative of the student's field of study and practice expertise. The Project Chair must be a full time faculty member within the School of Nursing with an appropriate role on the graduate faculty. A second member of the advisory committee may also be from the School of Nursing with expertise in the practice area of the student or with expertise in program design and conduct. At least one or more of the members must have an appointment to a department other than the student's major department.

If the chair of the advisory committee voluntarily leaves the University and the student is near completion of the degree and wishes the chair to continue to serve in this role, the student is responsible for securing a current member of the School of Nursing Graduate Faculty, to serve as committee co-chair. The Dean of the School of Nursing may request in writing to the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School that a faculty member who is on an approved leave of absence or has voluntarily separated from the university, be allowed to continue to serve in the role of chair of a student's advisory committee without a co-chair for up to one year. Extensions beyond the one-year period can be granted with additional approval of the Dean.

The committee members' signatures on the degree plan indicate their willingness to accept the responsibility for guiding and directing the entire academic program of the student and for initiating all academic actions concerning the student. Although individual committee members may be replaced by petition for valid reasons, a committee cannot resign *en masse*. The chair of the committee has immediate supervisory oversight of the student's practice project and has the responsibility for calling all meetings of the committee. The duties of the committee include responsibility for the proposed degree plan, the development of a project preproposal, monitoring completion of the DNP project, and the final defense of the project. In addition, the committee, as a group and as individual members, is responsible for counseling the student on academic matters, and, in the case of academic deficiency, initiating recommendations to the Graduate and Professional School.

Degree Plan

The student's advisory committee will evaluate the student's previous education and degree objectives. The committee, in consultation with the student, will develop a proposed degree plan which will constitute the basic academic requirements for the degree. The degree plan must be filed with the Graduate and Professional School following the deadline imposed by the student's college. The degree plan should be submitted

through the online Document Processing Submission System located on the website <http://ogsdpps.tamu.edu> (<http://ogsdpps.tamu.edu/>).

A minimum of 38 hours is required on the degree plan for the Doctor of Nursing Practice. The need for elective and residency hours will be determined through development of an individual student-learning plan at time of enrollment. Completion of prescribed elective courses will be determined as part of the individualized student learning plan at time of enrollment and is based on the number of clinical practice hours required for the student to meet the 1,000 hour minimum.

Additional coursework may be added by petition to the approved degree plan by the student's advisory committee if such additional coursework is deemed necessary to correct deficiencies in the student's academic preparation. No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student's Request for Final Examination or Request for Final Examination Exemption is approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

No credit may be obtained by correspondence study, by extension or for any course of fewer than three weeks duration.

To receive a graduate degree from Texas A&M University, students must earn one-third or more of the credits through the institution's own direct instruction.

Transfer of Credit

Courses for which transfer credits are sought must have been completed with a grade of B or greater and must be approved by the student's advisory committee and the Graduate and Professional School. These courses must not have been used previously for another degree. Except for officially approved cooperative doctoral programs, credit for thesis or dissertation research or the equivalent is not transferable. Credit for "internship" coursework in any form is not transferable. Courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater will be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution. Credit for coursework taken by extension is not transferable. Coursework in which no formal grades are given or in which grades other than letter grades (A or B) are earned (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.) is not accepted for transfer credit. Credit for coursework submitted for transfer from any college or university must be shown in semester credit hours, or equated to semester credit hours.

Courses used toward a degree at another institution may not be applied for graduate credit. If the course to be transferred was taken prior to the conferral of a degree at the transfer institution, a letter from the Registrar at that institution stating that the course was not applied for credit toward the degree must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.

Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in computing the GPA. An official transcript from the university at which transfer courses are taken must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions.

Final Examination

The Doctor of Nursing Practice has no final exam or dissertation requirement.

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.