

Doctor of Nursing Practice

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at the University of Virginia educates nurses at the highest level of nursing practice. Entrance to the UVA DNP is for MSN-prepared nurses with specialty training and advanced certification. It will prepare nurses for specialty practice at the most expert level. Graduates from the program will be prepared to practice across a broad spectrum of health care settings, teach in nursing education programs, or assume upper-level nursing administrative positions.

Students with MSN degrees will use cognate courses to provide them the flexibility to choose from a number of nursing and non-nursing graduate courses to tailor the program to individual needs, personal interests, and professional career aspirations. These cognate courses will complement and contribute to your Capstone project. Students may pursue the program on a full-time or part-time basis. The DNP Program at the University of Virginia is fully accredited by CCNE.

PROGRAM FORMAT

The DNP curriculum will require

- A minimum of 39 credits after the MSN degree
- 20 months of fulltime study to complete. Part-time study is also permitted.
- Core DNP nursing classes are offered primarily on an 'executive' format (classes meeting primarily once a month). Practicum requirements can be met close to home.
- Students to complete a rigorous scholarly project depicting evidence-based practice knowledge and advanced nursing skills. Additional practicum hours will also be required beyond MSN-preparation.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Objectives for the DNP program are derived from the AACN document, *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice*. At the completion of this program, students are expected to demonstrate the competencies required for the highest level of nursing practice. DNP graduates will be able to

- practice at the highest level of nursing by integrating nursing science with ethics and the biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, and organizational sciences;
- demonstrate organizational and systems leadership for quality improvement in healthcare systems;
- utilize clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice;
- apply information systems and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care;
- demonstrate leadership in health care policy to improve the health care system;
- utilize inter-professional collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes;
- develop and apply strategies for clinical prevention and population health for improving the nation's health.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students meet all admissions requirements including the completion of a course in statistics within the past 5 years. Submission of GRE or MAT scores is optional for those with a MSN degree. Applicants must have a MSN degree from an accredited institution, and should have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Enrolled students must have a current RN license and advanced specialty certification. An interview with members of the DNP Admissions Committee may be required.

At present, students enroll in the fall term only. Students may select either full-time or part-time enrollment.

International students must demonstrate ability in English, and must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores. The deadline for international students is February 1.

Please have all materials (including recommendations, testing, transcripts and application) submitted by the following deadlines:

Fall Semester

March 1



Doctor in Nursing Practice

Core Classes (17 credits):

Nursing Ethics for Advanced Practice (3)
Health Behavior and Health Promotion Research (3)
Concepts & Methods in Health Systems Research (3)
Culture & Health (2)
Managing Information Technology (3)
Evidence-Based Practice (3)

Cognate Courses (6 credits)

The cognate courses are chosen individually with your mentor from the breadth of course offerings at the University of Virginia. The courses you select will support and contribute to your final capstone project. Cognate credit may be transferred from another University with the approval of your mentor and the Associate Dean.

Clinical Practica and Capstone (16 credits)

DNP Practicum I (5)
DNP Practicum II (5)
DNP Capstone Project (6)

Total = 39 credits

The School of Nursing offers specialty preparation in the following areas:

Clinical Nurse Specialist: Acute & Specialty Care, Psychiatric-Mental Health
Nurse Practitioner: Acute Care, Family, Pediatric, Psychiatric-Mental Health
Community/Public Health Nursing
Health Systems Management

If you have specialty preparation in another area, please contact the Office of Admissions and Student Services at (434) 924-0141 to investigate whether we offer the faculty resources to guide you towards the DNP.