

CURRICULUM

OVERVIEW

The DNP program curriculum is designed to build on the foundational competencies of the MSN-prepared advance practice or professional nurse. For example, a course in nursing research at the master's level serves as the foundation for NURS 808: Analytical Methods of Evidence Based Practice; and nursing theory serves as the foundation for NURS 806: Leading Nursing in Health Care Systems. Likewise, courses within the DNP curriculum are sequenced to prepare students with increasingly complex skill sets in data acquisition, analysis, and practice application that align with the AACN DNP Essentials (2006), NONPF (2012)

The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (AACN, 2006)

- I. Scientific Underpinnings for Practice
- II. Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Improvement and Systems Thinking
- III. Clinical Scholarship and Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Practice
- IV. Information Systems/Technology and Patient Care Technology for the Improvement and Transformation of Health Care
- V. Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care
- VI. Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes
- VII. Clinical Prevention and Population Health
- VIII. Advanced Nursing Practice

DNP Core Classes

- NURS 806: DNP Leadership
- NURS 807: Information Management in Health Care
- NURS 808: Analytical Methods of Evidence-Based Practice
- NURS 809: Advanced Topics in Population Health
- NURS 810: Advanced Care of the Individual and Family

Advanced Practice

Culminating practice-based experiences build on the foundation of previous coursework in the program. Note that the internships and DNP project are also considered part of the core curriculum.

- Core Courses offer 96 practice hours total
 - NURS 850: Doctor of Nursing Practice Internship I - 135 hours (3cr.)
 - NURS 851: Doctor of Nursing Practice Internship II – 135 hours (3cr.)
 - NURS 900: Doctor of Nursing Practice Project (Clinical Dissertation) – 135 hours (6 credits +)
- Total 501 total practice hours

Internship experiences account for 270 hours of direct advanced practice in the community and can be completed at students' home locations, or, in many cases, in their work settings. If the student enters the program with less than 500 hours from their master's program, the student may take extra Internship hours to equal a total of 1,000 hours combined.

The DNP project accounts for an additional 135 practice hours. The DNP program gives students the opportunity to demonstrate acquisition of increasingly complex skill sets in data acquisition, analysis, and practice application in a practice setting.

DNP Clinical Elective

Students who are in need of clinical hours, in excess of 500 hours, during their time in the DNP program have the opportunity to take a varying number of credits of NURS 849 in order to meet the clinical hour requirements of the program. Each credit of NURS 849 is equivalent to 45 hours of clinical time. This course can be taken more than one time throughout the program and can be taken for up to 6 credits (270 clinical hours) at a time.

- NURS 849

DEGREE COMPLETION

- Core classes
- Internship hours equaling a minimum of 1,000 practice hours (MSN + DNP)
- 501 Internship hours from the DNP Program
- Professional Portfolio
- DNP Project
- DNP Professional Poster
- DNP Project Presentation

PROGRAM PLAN

DNP Program Plan

Year 1					
Summer		Fall		Spring	
Course	Cr	Course	Cr	Course	Cr
NURS 806	3	NURS 807	3	NURS 809	3
		NURS 808	3	NURS 810	3
*NURS 849					
Year 2					
Summer		Fall		Spring	
NURS 850	3	NURS 851	3	*NURS 851	up to 6
NURS 900	3	NURS 900	3	*NURS 900	1

**NURS 849; not all students will need to take this clinical elective. NURS 849 can be added when and where needed as determined by the student and the student's academic advisor based on the number of clinical hours from the student's Master's Program.*

***these courses may be needed during the spring semester if the student has research requirements and/or clinical hours to complete.*

Students can register for more credits of NURS 851 and NURS 900 beyond the spring semester, if needed. Students will need to consult with their research advisors and/or academic advisors to determine need for further credits of NURS 851, NURS 900, and NURS 849

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