DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is designed to prepare leaders for the nursing profession who have expertise in advanced nursing specialty practice with an individual focus. The DNP Program is consistent with the overall mission of the School of Nursing which is to prepare nursing leaders who can facilitate quality health care for our nation.

Advanced practice registered nurses who are master's prepared can enroll in the post-MSN DNP, or DNP completion track in which graduates have gained additional knowledge and clinical expertise in a defined area of advanced nursing practice. Core knowledge in the scientific, philosophical, ethical, health policy, informatics, and business aspects of clinical practice provide a foundation for DNP scholarly practice and the evidence-based practice (EBP) translational project.

The post-MSN DNP track requires 2 years of full-time study; part-time study is also available. The program plan requires completion of 34 units.

The BSN to DNP program is also offered for RNs who desire preparation in primary care as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), dual Pediatric/Family Nurse Practitioner (PNP/FNP), dual Adult-Gerontology/Family Nurse Practitioner (AGNP/FNP), and Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). Graduates of a master's entry program in nursing are also eligible to apply.

The BSN to DNP program requires 3 years of full-time study; part-time study is also available. The curriculum ranges from 78-81 units depending on the focus of study and prior preparation.

Graduates are eligible to write national certification examinations appropriate to their educational preparation.

Courses

APNC 520 | ADVANCED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY
Units: 3
Focuses on pathophysiological processes across the lifespan and the development of clinical reasoning skills required in advanced practice nursing. Distinguishes between normal physiology and specific system alterations produced by injury and disease. Explores etiology, pathogenesis, developmental and environmental influences, and clinical manifestations of major health problems. Note: Successful completion of the course with a letter grade of B- or higher is necessary to pass the course. A minimum 80% examination average must be achieved in order to successfully complete the course.

APNC 521 | APRN PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSIS
Units: 3-4
Prerequisites: APNC 520 (Can be taken Concurrently)
Explores theoretical and clinical practice principles of advanced physical assessment and diagnosis across the lifespan. Utilizes various methods of comprehensive evidence-based data gathering, analysis, and documentation including history taking, physical examination, screening for common diseases, diagnostic procedures, and differential diagnoses. Differentiates abnormalities from common normal variations characteristic of various developmental, cultural, and ethnic groups. Laboratory-based practicum experiences provide the opportunity for the integration of theory with APRN role responsibilities specific to physical assessment and diagnosis. Note: Successful completion of the course with a letter grade of B- or higher is necessary to pass the course. A minimum 80% examination average must be achieved in order to successfully complete the course.