



DOCTORATE OF NURSING PRACTICE

Coordinator: Patricia Rouen, PhD, FNP-BC

Office: College of Health Professions, Room 229

Telephone: (313) 993-1739

Fax: (313) 993-1271

E-mail: rouenpa@udmercy.edu

The Doctorate of Nursing Practice is a terminal professional degree representing the highest level of clinical nursing competence. The DNP program is designed to provide students the opportunity to assimilate and utilize in-depth knowledge of nursing, biophysical, psychosocial, analytical and organizational sciences, with sophisticated informatics and decision-making technology to develop collaborative strategies that optimize the health of individuals, families, communities and systems. Grounded in the Mercy and Jesuit traditions, the DNP program emphasizes the student's development as an expert clinician with strong leadership capacity, a commitment to service, and skills to act as change agents, translating clinical research into improved health care.

The post-Master's DNP curriculum is designed to admit Master's prepared certified APRNs in the following clinical specialties: nurse anesthetist, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, and clinical nurse specialist and MSN prepared nurses in specialty areas such as nursing administration, executive leadership and nursing informatics. The DNP program curriculum is based upon the AACN (2006) Essentials of Doctoral Education and also ensures achievement of the DNP competencies established by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

The DNP builds upon the Master of Science in Nursing degree and requires 36 credits. The curriculum includes formative course work that culminates in a capstone clinical practicum and a doctoral project. The post-Master's DNP is designed for part-time or full-time study. Full-time study consists of four 9-credit semesters (16 months). Part-time study (24 months) includes six 6-credit semesters. The program is offered as a hybrid model, with a blend of on line and face to face meetings. Classes are held on the same day of the week and scheduled in the late afternoon/early evening. For the majority of courses, face to face meetings alternate with online weeks. We have an online virtual classroom that also supports student participation from remote locations.

DNP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. Synthesize and integrate theory and knowledge from nursing science with the biophysical, psychosocial, analytical and organizational sciences as the foundation for the highest level of nursing practice.
2. Analyze and develop specialty standards of advanced nursing practice to deliver culturally competent, high quality health services to individuals, populations and systems.
3. Reflectively practice nursing inclusive of the systems levels within ethical, legal and humanistic frameworks.
4. In the delivery of advanced practice nursing services, develop and advocate for health care policy addressing issues of social justice and equity.
5. Enact leadership, critical thinking and effective communications skills to design, evaluate, and improve the implementation of quality advanced nursing services.
6. Integrate professional standards, values and accountability into role and ongoing self-reflection as an advanced practice nurse.
7. Lead inter- and intra-professional collaboration to facilitate and improve desired health outcomes for individuals, populations and systems.
8. Integrate health care informatics and an evidence-based approach in clinical scholarship to critically evaluate, design and implement health care services for individuals, populations and systems.
9. Analyze the epidemiological, financial, sociopolitical and organizational forces in the health care environment that impact the advanced nursing practice role.

DNP ADMISSION CRITERIA

1. Earned Master of Science in Nursing or Nurse Anesthesia from an accredited school** with a graduate GPA ≥ 3.2
2. Current unencumbered Michigan Registered Nurse license and privilege to practice as a Registered Nurse that is not limited in any way by an employer
3. National Board Certification in an area of clinical specialization, if applicable
4. Recognized in Michigan with Specialty Certification Status as an ARPN, if applicable
5. Evidence of current nursing practice

6. Three professional letters of recommendation are required.
Recommendation letters should include:
 - At least one recommendation from a professional who can attest to the applicant's practice performance.
 - One recommendation from a professional who can assess the applicant's academic potential for professional doctoral study.
 - Recommendations from doctorally prepared professionals are preferred.
7. Official transcripts sent directly from each institution of higher education since high school
8. Professional portfolio including Curriculum vitae and an essay (500-1000 words) addressing the applicant's goals for doctoral study and focused area of clinical interest for the doctoral project
9. Interview

***Applicants may require prerequisite coursework to meet the master's level essentials in Nursing.*

DNP CURRICULUM PLAN

PART TIME STUDY – SAMPLE PLAN

Semester 1

NUR 7000 - Advanced Theory & Knowledge Development for Clinical Nursing Practice - 3cr.
NUR 7500 - Evidence Based Nursing Practice: Theory, Design & Methods - 3cr.

Semester 2

HLH 7100 - Health Care Policy, Economics & the Law in Clinical Practice - 3cr.
NUR 7450 - Advanced Statistics for Clinical Practice - 3cr.

Semester 3

NUR 7200 - Epidemiology & Population Health - 3cr.
NUR 7300 - Transformational Leadership & Innovation in Advanced Clinical Practice - 3cr.

Semester 4

NUR 7400 - Information Management and Decision Support - 3cr.
NUR 7350 - Business Management to Ensure Quality in Health Care - 3cr.

Semester 5

NUR 7900 - DNP Clinical Practicum - 3cr.
Elective/Independent Study - 3cr.

Semester 6

ETH 7010 – Ethical Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice- 3cr.
NUR 7920 – DNP Doctoral Project - 3cr.

FULL TIME STUDY – SAMPLE PLAN

Semester 1

NUR 7000 - Advanced Theory & Knowledge Development for Clinical Nursing Practice - 3cr.
NUR 7500 - Evidence Based Nursing Practice: Theory, Design & Methods - 3cr.
NUR 7300 - Transformational Leadership & Innovation in Advanced Clinical Practice - 3cr.

Semester 2

HLH 7100 - Health Care Policy, Economics & the Law in Clinical Practice - 3cr.
NUR 7450 - Advanced Statistics for Clinical Practice - 3cr.
NUR 7350 - Business Management to Ensure Quality in Health Care - 3cr.

Semester 3

NUR 7200 - Epidemiology & Population Health - 3cr.
ETH 7010 – Ethical Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice- 3cr.
NUR 7400 - Information Management and Decision Support - 3cr.

Semester 4

NUR 7900 - DNP Clinical Practicum - 3cr.
NUR 7920 – DNP Doctoral Project - 3cr.
Elective/Independent Study - 3cr.

DNP COURSES

NUR 7000: Advanced Theory & Knowledge Development for Clinical Nursing Practice 3 Cr.

NUR 7000 builds upon an introductory knowledge of nursing theory and the ability to analyze and evaluate the utility of selected theoretical models within nursing and other disciplines. This course integrates nursing science with knowledge from the biophysical, social and organizational sciences as the basis for doctoral level advanced nursing practice. Students will critically evaluate, compare and contrast relevant theoretical approaches for their utility in advanced nursing practice in their area of interest/expertise. Using theory as a guide, students will develop their theoretical model for clinical practice and demonstrate how that model can be used to design clinically relevant strategies aimed at improving health and/or health care in diverse settings.

ETH 7010: Ethical Issues in Advance Nursing Practice 3 Cr.

This seminar explores the philosophic basis and derived theories of ethics and their implications for

advanced clinical practice. Using ethical principles, students will examine a variety of clinical, research and practice management dilemmas that arise in the provision of advanced practice nursing services to individuals, populations and communities. Course content includes issues related to social justice, health care disparities, vulnerable populations, professional interactions, genetic screening and diagnostic testing, end of life, conflicts of interest, reproductive technology and scientific research agendas.

HLH 7100: Health Care Policy, Economics and the Law in Clinical Practice 3 Cr.

This course examines current policy, economic and legal issues in the regulation of advanced nursing practice and the U. S. healthcare system. The course integrates the conceptual methodologies underlying health care policy development and implantation as well as the economic system supporting the financing of health care services in the United States and the legislative statutes that affect the regulation of nursing practice and the delivery of health care services. The intent is provide the DNP student with the skills to analyze, synthesize, advocate and implement health care policy in organizations, communities and wider public venues.

NUR 7200: Epidemiology and Population Health 3 Cr.

This course provides an overview of fundamental topics in clinical epidemiology and how these concepts are applied in the measurement and evaluation of population health. The course explores foundational design, measurement and analytic techniques in the science of epidemiology. Students will review and critique epidemiologic literature to evaluate clinical practice based issues regarding disease surveillance, causation, genetic patterns, screening and social trends in population health at either the local, national or global level.

NUR 7300: Transformational Leadership & Innovation in Advanced Clinical Practice 3cr.

This course addresses the leadership role of the advanced practice nurse within healthcare organizations to affect change and ensure quality improvement, with a focus on inter- and intra-professional collaboration. This course will explore critical topics in organizational and systems leadership that emphasizes the primacy of

clinical work and the opportunity for nursing innovation to transform service delivery, improve health outcomes and ensure patient safety. Inter-disciplinary theories and practice of leadership will be explored at different levels of nursing practice: individual practice settings, health care organizations and the national health care system. Leadership, management and communication strategies to move interdisciplinary groups toward common goals and objectives will be examined.

NUR 7350: Business Management to Ensure Quality in Health Care 3 Cr.

This course builds upon the leadership and organizational change course to examine health care economics and the business of clinical practice as it relates to the delivery of quality health care services. The course will analyze the dynamic interplay between the driving forces of economics, health policy, quality improvement, and standards of care in the delivery of health care services to maximize health outcomes. Within a quality improvement framework, students will explore economic concepts and measurement tools to critically appraise a health care issue, design strategies to improve clinical outcomes and evaluate the achievement of the improvement goals including not only the outcome but safety, fiscal principles, efficiency, and quality.

NUR 7400: Information Management and Decision Support 3 Cr.

This course is designed to prepare the DNP student with essential knowledge and skills necessary to provide leadership in the design, selection, use and evaluation of technologies used in healthcare to promote efficiency, quality, improvement in health outcomes, and knowledge generation. DNP students will develop the knowledge and skills necessary to create relational databases for their specific area of practice where data extraction and knowledge development can occur. This course will provide the DNP student with advanced understanding of the ethical and legal issues associated with the use of technologies within acute care settings, private industry, and web-delivered services. The DNP students will also be prepared to evaluate consumer health information.

NUR 7500: Evidence-Based Practice: Theory, Design and Methods 3 Cr.

This course focuses on the evidence-based practice process and the knowledge and skills necessary for

translation of evidence into advanced clinical practice. Students will compare and contrast various forms of scientific evidence with emphasis on expanded research techniques, instrumentation, study designs and theories that are relevant for advanced clinical practice. Content will also emphasize critical appraisal skills necessary to ensure meaningful translation of scientific evidence into practice to ensure high quality care for clients that result in optimal outcomes.

NUR 7450: Advanced Statistics for Clinical Practice 3 Cr.

This course focuses on mastering strategies essential for evidence-based practice improvement. These strategies include critical evaluation of the research literature, statistical evaluation of program outcomes, and population based statistical decision making. The emphasis is on applications rather than statistical theory.

NUR 7900: DNP Clinical Practicum - 3 Credits (1 credit clinical seminar and 2 credits clinical practicum - a minimum of 240 clinical hours are required)

In this capstone clinical practicum with seminar, students will integrate DNP role behaviors into clinical practice. A focus on transformational leadership in the practice setting to deliver advanced practice nursing services to individuals, families, communities or systems is emphasized. Building upon formative coursework, students are expected to synthesize theoretical, empirical and clinical knowledge to analyze critical issues in current practice and initiate opportunities for improvement or innovation amenable to advanced nursing practice action. In conjunction with their designated faculty advisor, students will design a clinical practicum experience that permits achievement of the student's individual goals and the program objectives with primary emphasis on the integration of DNP competencies directly into advanced nursing practice. Students will engage in weekly seminars, rotating leadership responsibilities, to analyze practice-based issues from the DNP perspective.

NUR 7920: DNP Doctoral Project 3 Cr.

The DNP program culminates in the successful completion of a scholarly project that demonstrates synthesis of the student's work and lays the groundwork for future scholarship. The DNP doctoral project is a tangible and deliverable

academic product that is derived from practice and is reviewed and evaluated by an academic committee. In this project students will engage in scholarly inquiry to analyze, evaluate, or transform a relevant aspect of clinical practice. This substantive project should make a significant, evidenced based contribution to existing nursing knowledge. The doctoral project may take on many forms but will be unique to the student's area of specialization and designed by the student in collaboration with their faculty advisor and clinical mentor. Examples of doctoral projects include: a program needs assessment with program development and evaluation, evaluation of an existing program, development of an assessment instrument/protocol, a cost/benefit analysis of program models, construction of a practice model or an innovation for practice, database creation to track direct care assessment or outcome, implementation of an evidence based guideline for clinical practice, or other scholarly project as approved.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Melinda Parsh
Admissions Office
Phone: (313) 993-1592
Email: parshmm@udmercy.edu

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICANTS:

All coursework done outside the U.S. and Canada must be sent to either the World Education Services (WES: <http://www.wes.org/>) or the Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE: <http://www.ece.org/>) for a course-by-course evaluation. The evaluation results are to be mailed from the agency to the following address:

University of Detroit Mercy
Admissions Office
4001 W. McNichols Rd.
Detroit, MI 48221-3038

For more information about the application process for international student applicants, please contact:
Steven Coddington
Phone: 313.993.1207
Email: coddinsm@udmercy.edu