



## Catalog Information for DNP Degree

### **Doctor of Nursing Practice (901)**

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) clinical doctoral program is an online program designed to prepare experts in advanced nursing practice. The DNP concentrations are: 1) Advanced Practice Leadership APRN to DNP (901A) and 2) Organizational Systems Leadership (for non APRNs)(901B). Upon completion of the DNP degree, all graduates have earned a minimum of 1,000 post-baccalaureate clinical hours. The DNP uses a selective admissions process that admits students each fall semester.

#### Program Goals:

The DNP program offered at Northwestern State University College of Nursing will:

- I. Provide advanced practice nurse leaders (APNLs) with expertise, specialized competencies, and advanced knowledge required for evidence-based nursing practice and mastery in an area of specialization within the larger domain of nursing.
- II. Prepare advanced practice nurse leaders (APNLs) to influence, design, direct and implement change in healthcare practice, education, and policy through the development of collaborative alliances to improve healthcare outcomes and decrease morbidity and mortality in vulnerable populations.
- III. Develop advanced practice nurse leaders (APNLs) who contribute to nursing's body of knowledge through professional development and scholarly inquiry into practice, processes, or outcomes which affect morbidity and mortality in vulnerable populations.

### **Admission/Program Requirements**

Applicants to the Organizational Systems Leadership concentration must have a master's of science in nursing degree from an accredited program and hold a current unencumbered, unrestricted RN license. Applicants to the APRN to DNP concentration must be nationally certified advanced practice registered nurses, and hold an unencumbered, unrestricted APRN license. Additional requirements for both concentrations include a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.00 or greater on a 4.00 scale;

emotional intelligence (EI) assessment; and a letter of recommendation, using the DNP recommendation form, from each of the following (total of three letters of recommendation): (1) former faculty, (2) person who can attest to applicant's clinical abilities, and (3) character reference.

Each applicant must also submit: (1) a completed DNP Program Application, (2) a curriculum vitae, (3) a one to two page (maximum) paper, in APA format with references, describing the DNP degree, the role of the DNP (using the DNP Essentials), and how the applicant believes the DNP will benefit his/her career goals, and (4) undergo a personal interview with the DNP admissions committee. All components of the application process except the interview are due by May 15<sup>th</sup> preceding the fall semester of anticipated enrollment. Interviews are scheduled each June.

### **Selection of Applicants**

Admission to the University does not guarantee enrollment in the DNP program. Selection for enrollment is competitive for available spaces. Applicants who meet the program requirements and submit the appropriate documentation as outlined on the DNP Program Application by the deadline will be considered for admission the following fall. Applicants will be ranked according to cumulative graduate GPA, paper describing proposed area of practice for scholarly project, and personal interview, with consideration of letters of recommendation. Applicants will be notified of admission prior to July 15<sup>th</sup>, preceding the fall semester of anticipated enrollment. Applicants who are not selected to enter the DNP program are invited to resubmit the required documents and undergo the selection process the next year.

### **Transfer of Credit**

A maximum of 12 credit hours can be transferred into the DNP program. Transfer of credit hours from another university is requested through the Graduate School. Only courses with a grade of "B" or higher will be accepted.

An Inter-Institutional Collaborative Agreement exists between NSU and Louisiana's Collaborating Universities, allowing articulation of three courses (total of nine credit hours): (1) Scientific Underpinnings for Practice, (2) Clinical Prevention and Population Health, and (3) Healthcare Policy: Analysis, Advocacy, and Transformation.

### **Progression in program**

To progress in the DNP program, students must obtain a “B” or higher in all courses and maintain good standing with both the program and university. Students follow a sequential curriculum pattern. If a DNP course must be repeated, the student must wait until the next course offering.

### **Dismissal from program**

Any student who loses unencumbered and/or unrestricted licensure status as an RN will be dismissed. Further, students who violate any form of the Academic Honor Code will be immediately and permanently dismissed from the DNP program. Academic dishonesty infractions are defined in the University Catalog.

### **Graduation**

DNP students must complete all University requirements for graduation. Additionally, students must complete all courses with a GPA of 3.00 or greater with no course grade lower than a “B”; provide evidence of a at least 1,000 post baccalaureate clinical hours; complete a satisfactory oral defense of their DNP scholarly project; be in good academic and fiscal standing with the University, and attend commencement unless officially excused. All course work towards the DNP degree must be completed within 6 calendar years.

### **Technology requirements**

**OS:** 7 or later

**RAM:** 2GB or better

**Hard Drive:** 2GB of free space

**Modem:** Broadband

**Browser:** Microsoft Internet Explorer 10.0, Mozilla Firefox 21 or newer

**Browser Settings:** Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 1.7.0\_21 or newer & Cookies enabled

**Word Processor:** Microsoft Word or alternative word processor that can save to the Rich-Text format

**E-mail:** Browser, Mobile Device

**Advanced Practice Leadership APRN to DNP Curriculum Pattern (901A)**

Year 1	Semester One	Cr. Hr	Semester Two	Cr. Hr	Semester Three	Cr. Hr
	NURG 7000 Scientific Underpinnings for Practice (knowledge development and mid- range theories)	3	NURG 7004 Organizational Theory and Systems Leadership (includes inter/intra professional collaboration)	3	NURG 7002 Clinical Scholarship (includes translation of research, analytical methods for EBP, and informatics)	3
	NURG 7001 Clinical Prevention and Population Health (risk reduction and population health outcomes)	3	NURG 7006 Epidemiology	3	NURG 7005 Information Systems Technology (to improve and transform health care)	3
Sem.Total		6		6		6
Year 2	Semester Four	Credits	Semester Five	Credits	Semester Six	Credits
	NURG 7010 DNP Scholarly Project Practicum I (3-0-12) 180 Clinical hours	3	NURG 7011 DNP Scholarly Project Practicum II (3-0-12) 180 Clinical hours	3	NURG 7012 DNP Scholarly Project Practicum III (3-0-12) 180 Clinical hours	3
	NURG 7003 Bio-Statistics	3	NURG 7007 Healthcare Policy: Analysis, Advocacy, and Transformation (includes social justice and ethics)	3	NURG 7009 Global Healthcare Advocacy and Transformation	3
			NURG 7008 Genetics	2		
Sem.Total		6		8		6

Total Program Credit Hours: 38. Total Program Clinical Hours: DNP students are required to complete a "...1,000 clinical hour minimum upon degree completion" (AACN, 2006). Students will be given credit for graduate practicum hours earned in their respective APRN MSN program. Each academic credit hour for the practicum courses equals 60 direct clinical practice hours.

### Organizational Systems Leadership MSN to DNP Curriculum Pattern (for non-APRNs) (901B)

Year 1	Semester One	Cr. Hr	Semester Two	Cr. Hr	Semester Three	Cr. Hr
	NURG 7000 Scientific Underpinnings for Practice (knowledge development and mid- range theories)	3	NURG 7004 Organizational Theory and Systems Leadership (includes inter/intra professional collaboration)	3	NURG 7002 Clinical Scholarship (includes translation of research, analytical methods for EBP, and informatics)	3
	NURG 7001 Clinical Prevention and Population Health (risk reduction and population health outcomes)	3	NURG 7006 Epidemiology	3	NURG 7005 Information Systems Technology (to improve and transform health care)	3
			NURG 7013 Organizational Systems Practice I (2-0-2) 120 Clinical hours	2	NURG 7014 Organizational Systems Practice II (2-0-2) 120 Clinical hours	2
Sem.Total		6		8		8
Year 2	Semester Four	Credits	Semester Five	Credits	Semester Six	Credits
	NURG 7010 DNP Scholarly Project Practicum I (3-0-12) 180 Clinical hours	3	NURG 7011 DNP Scholarly Project Practicum II (3-0-12) 180 Clinical hours	3	NURG 7012 DNP Scholarly Project Practicum III (3-0-12) 180 Clinical hours	3
	NURG 7003 Bio-Statistics	3	NURG 7007 Healthcare Policy: Analysis, Advocacy, and Transformation (includes social justice and ethics)	3	NURG 7009 Global Healthcare Advocacy and Transformation	3
	(May repeat NURG 7014)					
Sem.Total		6		6		6

Total Program Credit Hours: 40 to 42 hours depending on clinical hours obtained in MSN program. Total Program Clinical Hours: DNP students are required to complete a "...1,000 clinical hour minimum upon degree completion" (AACN, 2006). Students will be given credit for graduate practicum hours earned in their respective MSN program. Each academic credit hour for the practicum courses equals 60 direct clinical practice hours.