



Catalog Information for DNP Degree

Doctor of Nursing Practice (901)

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) clinical doctorate program is an online program designed for to prepare nurses to practice at the highest level. Students will have earned 1,000 clinical hours, minimum, upon degree completion. This includes clinical hours earned in their respective MSN programs. This is a selective admissions program that enters students each year in the fall semester.

Program Goals:

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

- I. Provide advanced practice nurse leaders 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 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 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

All applicants must have a master's of science in nursing degree from an accredited program and hold a current unencumbered, unrestricted RN license. Additional requirements include a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.00 or greater on a 4.00 scale;

GRE score of 284 combined quantitative and verbal; and three letters of recommendation using the DNP recommendation form (one from each of the following): (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 describing the applicant's proposed area of practice for the final scholarly project that is congruent with the DNP program outcomes, and (4) undergo a personal interview with the DNP admissions committee. All components of the application process except the interview are due by May 15th preceding the fall semester of anticipated enrollment. Interviews will be scheduled beginning 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 GRE scores, 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 15th, 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. There are three courses (total of nine credit hours) that articulate in the Inter-Institutional Collaborative Agreement between Louisiana's Collaborating Universities and NSU. These courses are three credit hours each, and are (1) Scientific Underpinnings for Practice, (2) Clinical Prevention and Population Health, and (3) Healthcare Policy: Analysis, Advocacy, and Transformation. Transfer of credit hours from another university is requested through the Graduate School. Only courses with grades of "B" or better will be accepted for transfer.

Progression in program

DNP students progress through the program by maintaining a "B" or better in all courses and maintaining good standing with both the program and university.

Students follow a sequential curriculum pattern, and if a course must be repeated, the student must wait until the course is offered again.

Dismissal from program

Any student who loses unencumbered and/or unrestricted licensure status as an APRN 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 by the President of the University. All course work towards the APRN to 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

Curriculum pattern:

1st year:

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 7002 Clinical Scholarship (includes translation of research, analytical methods for EBP, and informatics) (clinical hours)	3	NURG 7004 Organizational Theory and Systems Leadership (includes inter/intra professional collaboration)	3
	NURG 7001 Clinical Prevention and Population Health (risk reduction and population health outcomes)	3	NURG 7003 Bio-Statistics	3	NURG 7005 Information Systems Technology (to improve and transform health care)	3
Sem.Total		6		6		6

2nd year:

Year 2	Semester Four	Credits	Semester Five	Credits	Semester Six	Credits
	NURG 7010 DNP Scholarly Project Practicum I	3	NURG 7011 DNP Scholarly Project Practicum II	3	NURG 7012 DNP Scholarly Project Practicum III	3
	NURG 7006 Epidemiology	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 Credit Hours: 38

Total Program Clinical Hours: 1,000 (Students will be given credit for graduate practicum hours earned in their respective formalized APRN MSN education Program)