

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

Available on the Jackson and Germantown Campuses

The Post-masters Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (DNP) prepares graduates for the specialty areas of executive leadership, nurse anesthesia, and nurse practitioner. The DNP Program provides the student with the opportunity to strengthen one's clinical skills by gaining intensive experiences in one's specialty area of practice, enhance the understanding of the theoretical underpinnings that supports one's specialty area of practice, and broaden one's perspective of healthcare systems and delivery models from a Christian worldview.

The DNP Program is designed as a full-time post-master's program that begins the fall of each year. Students are expected to be on campus for four 1-week sessions per year with an ongoing intensive online educational process through the use of Blackboard. The clinical fellowships are expected to be completed in the area in which you live with clinical agency support from the institution in completing your DNP Project.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Doctor of Nursing Practice is to prepare experts in specialized advanced practice with a Christ-centered focus.

Program Admission Requirements

- Completed application with application fee of \$50.00
- Completion of a Bachelor of Science, preferably in Nursing from an accredited program
- Completion of a masters degree in nursing from an accredited program preferred
- Earned masters degree other than an M.S.N. may be considered but may require additional coursework prior to enrolling. Some coursework attempted
- Current unencumbered RN and APN licensure (if applicable) in state of residence
- Eligible for licensure as registered nurse and APN (if applicable) in Tennessee
- Interview with the Nursing Graduate Admissions Selection Committee
- International students must complete TOEFL with WES evaluations of transcripts
- Three letters of professional/academic reference specifying the applicant's capabilities for graduate study to include one letter of reference from the current supervisor

Program Goals

1. To provide doctoral nursing education that builds on the foundation of Master's nursing education.
2. To prepare the graduate for enhanced knowledge and skills in a specialized area of practice.
3. To develop the graduate as a leader of one's specialty area of practice implementing the Christian worldview.

Program Outcomes

The graduate of the DNP Program will be able to:

- demonstrate expertise in an area of specialized advanced nursing practice
- integrate biosciences, education, research, business, and technology into advanced nursing practice within the Christian worldview
- formulate organizational and systems component for leadership and quality improvement toward enhancing patient outcomes
- promote transformation of health care through interprofessional collaboration, policy development and technology utilization within an area of specialized advanced nursing practice
- evaluate outcomes of evidence-based research and design appropriate interventions for specialized areas of advanced nursing practice toward the improvement of the health of individuals, aggregates, and populations
- Statement of past clinical and/or work experiences, scholarly activities, and community service that supports future goals in obtaining a practice doctorate

Conditional Admission

Applicants who do not meet the regular admission requirements to the D.N.P. program may be admitted conditionally at the discretion of the D.N.P. Graduate Admissions Committee. Conditional admission will require contractual agreement between the applicant and the Graduate Admissions Committee. The contract will specify the conditions and deadlines that must be met to matriculate to the regular D.N.P. program.

Transfer of Credit

Graduate credit for courses earned at a regionally accredited college or university or at a foreign college or university may be transferred to Union University if the courses are essentially the same as those required in the M.S.N. program. Such transfer credit will not be allowed for courses used to satisfy another degree at another institution. The maximum number of semester hours that may be transferred to Union University and applied to the M.S.N. degree is nine.

4. Pay in full the student's account in the Business Office
5. Discharge all other obligations (fines, credentials, fees, etc.) at the University.

Degree Requirements

All Tracks of the DNP require 40 semester hours which includes 660 practice hours. Each requires successful completion of the following

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| NUR 720, Faith and Science | 3 |
| NUR 705, Organizational Leadership & Management... | 3 |
| NUR 710, Methods for Evidence-Based Practice..... | 3 |
| NUR 715, Technological Transformation of Health Care | 3 |
| NUR 725, Health Care Policy and Economics..... | 3 |
| NUR 730, Epidemiology..... | 3 |
| NUR 735, Fellowship I (180 clinical hours) | 2 |
| NUR 745, Leadership and Teaching Practice Strategies.. | 3 |
| NUR 790, DNP Project Development..... | 2 |
| NUR 736, Fellowship II (240 clinical hours)..... | 2 |
| NUR 791, DNP Project Implementation..... | 3 |
| NUR 737, Fellowship III (240 clinical hours)..... | 2 |
| NUR 792, DNP Project Completion..... | 2 |
| Two Specialty Cognate–Elective courses Specific to the Track | 3 each |
| TOTAL..... | 40 |

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The ability to serve as an executive leader within the hospital or academic setting requires a breadth of knowledge and skills that encompasses several disciplines. To prepare future nursing leaders for these high profile positions within hospitals or academic institutions, this track offers the nurse

the opportunity to serve alongside leaders of healthcare or academic institutions in gaining the knowledge, skills, and wisdom needed to lead healthcare institutions in the future. The student will strengthen their understanding of the profession of nursing while gaining business principles to support the future leadership role. An application deadline of March 1 is noted for priority acceptance into this track that begins in the fall of each year.

