

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

SCHOOL OF NURSING

The 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 health care systems and delivery models from a Christian worldview.

The DNP Program is designed as a full-time cohort-based program that begins the fall of each year.

DNP Expected Student Outcomes

- The graduate of the DNP will be able to:
- demonstrate expertise in 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.

Mission Statement

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

- patient outcomes
- promote transformation of health care through interprofessional collaboration, policy development and technology utilization within an area of specialized advanced nursing practice

DNP Program Goals

1. To provide doctoral nursing education that builds on the foundational education of the registered nurse.
2. To prepare the graduate for enhanced knowledge and skills in a specialized area of practice.

Program Admission Requirements for All Tracks

1. Completed application with application fee of \$50
2. Completion of an accredited nursing program with a cumulative graduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions must be submitted directly through NursingCAS. Please do not send transcripts for non-traditional nursing programs to Undergraduate Admissions. Transcripts must be received by NursingCAS in a sealed envelope
4. Current unencumbered RN and APN licensure (if applicable) in state of residence
5. Eligible for licensure as registered nurse and APN (if applicable) in Tennessee
6. Interview with the Nursing Graduate Admissions Selection Committee
7. Applicants from a country where the native language is not English must show proof of English proficiency with scores from TOEFL, IELTS, or iTEP courses. Minimum scores are TOEFL 560 (Internet-based 80), IELTS 6.5, or iTEP 4.4. In addition, students must provide WES evaluations of transcripts.

institutions must be sent to: NursingCAS, P.O. Box 9201, Watertown, MA 02471.

8. Three letters of professional/academic reference specifying the applicant's capabilities for graduate study to include one letter of reference from the current supervisor
9. Statement of professional goals to include (limit to 2 pages):
 - Your reasons for seeking a clinical doctorate
 - Your plans to use this degree to transform your practice and the profession of nursing
 - A problem statement reflective of an issue in your practice you have identified as an opportunity for a practice inquiry project
 - How you have prepared for success in this program
10. Submission of Curriculum Vitae

Additional requirement for the RN to DNP and BSN to DNP Nurse Practitioner track includes a Science GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale, defined as Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2, and Statistics is preferred.

Additional requirements for the CRNA-DNP track include a current unencumbered RN and CRNA license in state of residence and students will be required to have 1,000 clinical hours post BSN degree.

Additional requirements for the RN to BSN or BSN to DNP Nurse Anesthesia tracks include:

1. At least one year of critical care experience as an RN, preferably within the last year
2. Eligible for RN licensure in TN, KY, and MS
3. Science GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale; defined as Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2, and statistics
4. CCRN preferred
5. Experience as a preceptor and/or charge nurse preferred
6. Leadership within the ICU or place of employment with professional or clinical development projects preferred, such as:
 - Policy development
 - Practice change initiatives
 - Evidence-based practice initiatives
 - Instructor in BLS/ACLS/PALS
7. If applicant has been dismissed from or withdrawn from a nurse anesthesia program, he or she must provide a letter from the previous program director addressing this dismissal/withdrawal

RN to DNP Without Previously Earned Bachelor's Degree; Nurse Practitioner and Executive Leadership Tracks Only

1. Applicants must complete the following undergraduate courses:
 - Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2 – 8 hrs.
 - Microbiology – 3 or 4 hrs.
 - Pathophysiology – 3 hrs.
 - Christian Studies – 6 hrs.
 - English Composition 1 and 2 – 6 hrs.
 - Social Science – 9 hrs.
 - Humanities – 9 hrs.
2. When these courses are completed, the applicant will notify the track coordinator no later than December 31 prior to the year they wish to start.
3. The following undergraduate nursing courses must be completed with a grade of "B" or above by May 31st of the year the applicant plans to be considered for the DNP cohort. The nursing courses may be in progress when the applicant notifies the coordinator of their readiness to be considered for the DNP applicant pool..
 - NUR 306 Scientific Writing
 - NUR 330 Research

The RN to DNP does not award a BSN or MSN. Acceptance to the RN to DNP program does not guarantee acceptance to any DNP track. Applicants who are not selected to progress to the DNP cohort will be given the opportunity to enter the RN to BSN program.

RN to DNP With Previously Earned Bachelor's Degree in a Field Other than Nursing; Nurse Practitioner, Executive Leadership, and Nurse Anesthesia

1. Applicants must complete or show evidence of completion of the following undergraduate courses:
 - Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2 – 8 hrs.
 - Microbiology – 3 or 4 hrs.
 - Pathophysiology – 3 hrs.
 - Any undergraduate statistics course – 3 hrs.

2. The above courses must be completed with by December 31st of the year prior to the year the applicant plans to be considered for the DNP cohort. When these are complete, the applicant will notify the track coordinator they wish to be considered for the applicant pool in the next cohort for that track.
3. The following undergraduate nursing courses must be completed with a grade of "B" or above by May 31st of the year the applicant plans to be considered the DNP cohort. The nursing courses may be in progress when the applicant notifies the coordinator of their readiness to be considered for the DNP applicant pool.
 - NUR 306 Scientific Writing
 - NUR 330 Research

The RN to DNP does not award a BSN or MSN. Acceptance to the RN to DNP program does not guarantee acceptance to any DNP track. Applicants who are not selected to progress to the DNP cohort will be given the opportunity to enter the RN to BSN program.

Students entering the BSN to DNP program with a previously earned MSN may be awarded transfer credit above the 9 hours for the following courses upon evaluation of transcript: NUR 515, NUR 533, NUR 559, NUR 544, BIO 500, NUR 622

Students admitted to the program must have and maintain while in the program:

1. Current CPR certification
2. Evidence of Hepatitis B, MMR, and tetanus vaccination (TDaP unless TD within the past 2 years)
3. Proof of 2 Varicella vaccinations or positive antibody titer (If titer is negative, student must repeat the 2 vaccine series.
4. Freedom from tuberculosis as evidenced by a negative PPD or health provider examination
5. Current ACLS and PALS certifications (nurse anesthesia only)
6. Health insurance

Conditional Admission

Applicants who do not meet the regular admission requirements to the DNP program may be admitted conditionally at the discretion of the DNP 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

Applicants may take a maximum of 2 DNP core courses

