NURSING PRACTICE, DNP

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program at UWM prepares nurses for the highest academic preparation in clinical nursing. The DNP will prepare practitioners who are able to use their education and expertise in evidence based practice in providing outstanding care and collaborative leadership to improve clinical care delivery, patient outcomes, and system management.

There are three entry options for the Doctor of Nursing (DNP) Practice Program:

1. Program for individuals with a bachelor's degree in nursing and a current Registered Nurse license.
2. Program for individuals with an advanced practice master's degree in nursing and a current Registered Nurse license.
3. Program for individuals with a master of nursing (or equivalent) degree and a current Registered Nurse license.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines).

Admission

The admission requirements of the DNP program in Nursing are consistent with those requirements specified by the Graduate School of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In addition, students must also meet the following requirements for the College of Nursing:

1. A bachelor's degree in Nursing from a professionally accredited program, with a minimum undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.75 (4.0 scale) for the post baccalaureate DNP option.
2. A master's degree in Nursing with an advanced practice focus from a professionally accredited program, with a minimum grade point average of 3.2 (4.0 scale) for the post master's DNP option.
3. Completion with a grade of B or higher of an upper-level undergraduate course in statistics within the last five years.
4. Current registration as a professional nurse.
5. Completion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) if the previous GPA calculated by the Graduate School is less than 3.2.
6. Three (3) letters of recommendation for graduate study in nursing, two (2) of which are from persons most knowledgeable about the applicant's recent academic and work experiences.
7. Completion of an autobiographical sketch.
8. Submission of two writing samples
9. Personal interview with a faculty member may be requested.

These data are used by the Admissions Subcommittee as indicators of academic potential.

The student is expected to satisfy deficiency requirements within three enrolled semesters. The deficiencies are monitored by the Graduate School and the individual graduate program unit. No course credits earned in making up deficiencies may be counted as program credits required for the degree.

Reapplication

A student who receives a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee must formally reapply for admission to the Graduate School before continuing studies toward the DNP.

Credits and Courses

Post Baccalaureate Curriculum

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a three-year, full time, 65-credit post-baccalaureate program, which includes 30 credit hours of DNP core theoretical courses, including the advanced nursing practice core (12 credits), research core (9 credits) and a systems core (9 credits); 27 credits hours of specialty theory and practicum courses; and 8 credits of DNP Project Core.

A four-year study is also an option. Students may be admitted for the Fall or Spring semester. Students complete a specialization in one of the following areas:

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
- Community/Public Health
- Nursing System Leadership (Nurse Executive or Informatics)

Transcript Designated Concentrations:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Clinical Nurse Specialist- Adult-Gerontology
- Clinical Nurse Specialist-Maternal-Infant
- Clinical Nurse Specialist-Pediatrics
- Community Public Health
- Nursing System Leadership-Nurse Executive
- Nursing System Leadership-Informatics

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 735</td>
<td>Theory for Advanced Practice</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 728</td>
<td>Epidemiological Principles for Population Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 726</td>
<td>Advanced Perspectives on Cultural Diversity and Disparities in Health Care</td>
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<td>NURS 804</td>
<td>Healthcare Organization and Systems Leadership for Advanced Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 725</td>
<td>Evidence Based Practice in Healthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 720</td>
<td>Biostatistics and Applications for Nursing Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 805</td>
<td>Translational and Implementation Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 750</td>
<td>Outcomes and Quality Management</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 773</td>
<td>Information Systems to Support Clinical Decision-Making</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 803</td>
<td>Health Policy</td>
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Specialty Theory and Practicum (27 credits)
FNP, PMHNP, and CNS Specializations:

Advanced Practice Specialty Core

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 753</td>
<td>Pathophysiologic Basis of Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 707</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology: Application to Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 754</td>
<td>Comprehensive Assessment of Health: Implications for Clinical Decision-Making</td>
</tr>
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FNP, PMHNP and CNS Specialty Theory Electives

Students develop a plan of study that includes a minimum of 9 credits that support their area of focus. For FNP students, 9 credits of these credits are prescribed.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 767</td>
<td>Family Nurse Practitioner Theory I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 768</td>
<td>Family Nurse Practitioner Theory II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 769</td>
<td>Family Nurse Practitioner Theory III</td>
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</table>

For PMHNP students, 9 of these credits are prescribed.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 741</td>
<td>Psychiatric Mental Health Theory I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 742</td>
<td>Psychiatric Mental Health Theory I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 743</td>
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For CNS students, the three theory courses vary by population focus and must provide content across the continuum from wellness through acute care for the selected population. The plan for theory course work must be approved by the CNS option coordinator.

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Special Topics Seminar: (Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult-Gerontology: Chronic Illness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Special Topics Seminar: (Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult-Gerontology: Acute Illness)</td>
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Couns 710 Counseling: Theory and Issues

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 705</td>
<td>Instructional Strategies for Patient Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 708</td>
<td>Global Maternal and Child Health: From Evidence to Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 760</td>
<td>Processes of Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 763</td>
<td>Issues in Women’s Health and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 764</td>
<td>Changing Health Behaviors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 774</td>
<td>Trauma Counseling I: Theory and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 775</td>
<td>Trauma Counseling II: Diagnosis and Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Special Topics Seminar: (Palliative Care)</td>
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FNP, PMHNP, or CNS Practicum in the area of specialization - 9 credits

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Special Topics Seminar: (Advanced Practice Nursing: Maternal-Infant and Women’s Health)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED PSY 743</td>
<td>Human Development: Study of Infancy and Early Childhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED PSY 746</td>
<td>Human Development: Study of the Adolescent</td>
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</table>

Community Health and Nursing Systems Leadership Specializations

Students in these areas develop a plan of study that includes a minimum of 21 credits that support their area of focus. The following courses (all 3 cr.) are examples of those that can be included in the 21 credits. Other courses can be included with advisor approval.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 835</td>
<td>Theoretical Basis for Advanced Community / Public Health Nursing ( (Required for Community/Public Health option) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 836</td>
<td>Advanced Community Nursing Assessment, Program Planning, Evaluation ((Required for Community/Public Health option) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 711</td>
<td>Economics of Health Care and Health Care Systems ( (Required for Systems Leadership/Leadership option))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUS ADM 733</td>
<td>Organizational Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSMGMT 706</td>
<td>Managing in a Dynamic Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSMGMT 720</td>
<td>Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 770</td>
<td>Nursing Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD LDSP 667</td>
<td>Program Planning in Adult Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD LDSP 647</td>
<td>Evaluation of Adult, Continuing, and Higher Education Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 740</td>
<td>Special Topics in Public Health: (Program Evaluation)</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 993</td>
<td>DNP Project I: Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 994</td>
<td>DNP Project II: Proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 995</td>
<td>DNP Project III: Leadership Practice Immersion (may be done over 1 or 2 semesters)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 8

All students, regardless of specialty, complete a residency.

Post-Master’s Curriculum Entry Points

1. Post Advanced Practice Master’s Curriculum

The Post Advanced Practice Masters Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a 26-32 credit, Post-Master’s program, which builds upon the required entry point of advanced practice specialization in nursing. The variable credits reflect the credit intensive load of traditional Master’s programs preparing Advanced Practice Nurses (generally greater than 40 credits). Up to six credits from the previous Advanced Practice Master’s program...
may be recognized based on review of the previous Master’s Program coursework and transcript if courses are duplicative of required courses.

The program includes 32 credit hours of DNP core theoretical courses, including the advanced nursing practice core (6 credits), evidence-based practice core (9 credits), and a systems core (9 credits), and DNP Project Core (8 credits).

The program includes:

### Program Requirements

#### Faculty Advisor

The student must have a Faculty Advisor to advise and supervise the student’s studies as specified in Graduate School regulations. The student is assigned to a Faculty Advisor at the time of admission.

#### Leadership Practice Immersion

Both the post baccalaureate and post master’s curriculum include a 4-credit DNP Project III, an experience that will include the required DNP project. This residency experience will include 460 additional clinical hours in the student’s specialty focus area and will include an emphasis on the evidence-based practice, leadership and system competencies of the DNP prepared graduate.

#### Time Limit

Students in the post baccalaureate DNP program must complete all degree requirements within seven years of the first enrollment semester as a degree student. Students in the post master’s DNP program must complete all degree requirements within five years of the first enrollment semester as a degree student.

#### Minimum Grade Requirement

For continuation in the program, in addition to general Graduate School requirements (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/academic-policies-procedures), students must achieve a minimum grade of B- in all required nursing courses. However, an overall GPA of 3.00 is still required for the degree.

#### Residence

The student must meet minimum Graduate School residence requirements.

### DNP Project II: Proposal/Doctoral Preliminary Examination

The student must pass a doctoral preliminary examination to qualify for formal admission to candidacy for degree. The doctoral examination comprises a written portfolio and an oral component, taken in that sequence, with each component requiring a passing grade for successful completion. The examination is an integrative experience that is designed to validate the student’s mastery of the content of the DNP curriculum and must be completed prior to beginning the residency experience.

### DNP Project III: Leadership Practice Immersion

The candidate will complete a final comprehensive clinical project as part of the Leadership Practice Immersion experience which demonstrates the ability to implement the principles of evidence-based practice and translation under the direction of the faculty advisor.

The candidate must, as the final step toward the degree, pass an oral examination in defense of the clinical project. A candidate who does not pass this examination may apply for reexamination within one year from the initial examination date. This reexamination may occur only one time. A candidate who does not pass this examination within program time limits may be required to undergo another comprehensive preliminary examination and be readmitted to the program and/or candidacy.

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### Code Title Credits

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<tr>
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<td>Theory for Advanced Practice</td>
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<td>Healthcare Organization and Systems Leadership for Advanced Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 726</td>
<td>Advanced Perspectives on Cultural Diversity and Disparities in Health Care</td>
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<td>NURS 805</td>
<td>Translational and Implementation Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 804</td>
<td>Healthcare Organization and Systems Leadership for Advanced Practice</td>
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Total Credits: 20

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### 3. Post-Master’s Curriculum (Other Nursing Master’s Degrees)

The Post-Master’s Curriculum includes Nursing Master’s Degrees that are not Advanced Practice or a Generalist Master’s (MN or equivalent). Examples may include a Master’s in Nursing Education or Nursing

Leadership. An individual plan of study will be developed based on review of the previous Master’s Program coursework and transcript.