NURSING PRACTICE, DNP: CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST: ADULT/GERONTOLOGY

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.

Part-time 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:

- Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS): population focus in Adult/Gerontology, Maternal/Infant/Women’s Health, or Pediatrics
- Community/Public Health
- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Nursing System Leadership (Executive or Informatics)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)

Transcript Designated Concentrations:

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

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 Requirements

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 core theoretical courses, an advanced nursing practice core (12 credits), a research core (9 credits) a systems core (9 credits), 27 credits hours of specialty theory and practicum courses, and 8 credits in the DNP Project Core.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 720</td>
<td>Advanced Perspectives on Cultural Diversity and Disparities in Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 728</td>
<td>Epidemiological Principles for Population Health</td>
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<td>NURS 735</td>
<td>Theory for Advanced Practice</td>
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Evidence Based Practice Core

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<tr>
<td>NURS 720</td>
<td>Biostatistics and Applications for Nursing 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 805</td>
<td>Translational and Implementation Science</td>
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Systems Core

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<tr>
<td>NURS 750</td>
<td>Outcomes and Quality Management</td>
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Post-Master’s Curriculum Entry Points

1. Post Advanced Practice Master’s Curriculum

The Post Advanced Practice Master’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a 26- to 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 core theoretical courses, including the advanced nursing practice core (6 credits), an evidence-based practice core (9 credits), a systems core (9 credits), and 8 credits of the DNP Project Core.

2. Post Generalist Master’s Curriculum (MN or equivalent)

The Post Generalist Master’s Curriculum is a minimum of 38 credits that builds upon the required entry point of a Generalist Master’s in Nursing (MN or equivalent). Where course background varies, an individual plan of study will be developed based on review of the previous master’s program coursework and transcript.

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.

Clinical Nurse Specialist Requirements

The 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. The following courses under the Specialty Theory Electives heading are examples of those that can be included as specialty support credits. Other courses can be included with advisor approval.
**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.