Doctor of Nursing Practice
BSN to DNP – Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Program
The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is a practice-focused terminal degree earned by specialists in advanced nursing practice. The DNP focuses on developing nursing experts in translating and applying research findings in clinical practice. Graduates of our DNP program are prepared as nurse leaders in interprofessional health care teams and work to improve systems of care, patient outcomes, quality, and safety.

The BSN to DNP curriculum is a 73 to 75 semester-hour curriculum that prepares nurses for entry into advanced practice. The curriculum is designed for students who have earned a bachelor's (or higher) degree in nursing, and who now wish to pursue a DNP with an advanced nursing practice specialty focus of either Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) or a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). The AGPCNP program of study requires 73 semester hours, inclusive of 896 clinical practice hours, and the FNP program of study requires 75 semester hours, inclusive of 896 clinical practice hours. Both programs require completion of a four-semester DNP project.

Requirements for Admission
Admission to the doctor of nursing practice program requires the student to meet the minimum admission requirements for graduate study of the university and the following requirements of the College of Nursing:

Admission Criteria for BSN to DNP
- A baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited nursing program.
- A minimum of one year of experience as a Registered Nurse (RN).
- Grade-point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale on all graduate work.
- Acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) within the past five years.
- Currently non-restricted license to practice as a registered nurse (RN) in North Carolina or NCSBN-compact state. International applicants must work with the Commission of Graduate Foreign Nursing Schools to validate credentials before applying for RN licensure.
- Satisfactory performance on Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores where English is not the first language. Students on Foreign student visas must present evidence of professional standing in their respective countries.
- Successful completion of a graduate level, inferential statistics course within five years of the admission deadline.
- An undergraduate research course.
- Basic computer competency with proficiency in development and use of databases, patient information systems, statistical sets, and use of various statistical packages for data analysis.
- Written statement of personal career, educational, and scholarship goals: identification of practice interests, leadership goals and match with program goals.
- Three written professional references from individuals with expertise to comment on the applicant’s capability for doctoral scholarship (for example, university professors, employers). At least one of the references must be from a doctoral prepared nurse.
- A current curriculum vita.
- A representative E-portfolio limited to no more than 25 pages demonstrating evidence of professional practice accomplishments, community service and scholarship. See www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nursing/dnp/e-portfolio.cfm for instruction on E-portfolio.
- An interview with members of the DNP admission committee to include a discussion of congruence between the student's practice interests/career goals and the expertise and research of the faculty.

Requirements for Clinical Courses
Information regarding clinical requirements can be found in the ECU College of Nursing Student Handbook at: www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nursing/customcf/downloads/handbooks/grad_handbook.pdf. Upon admission all graduate students are required to complete a criminal background check. Students will receive specific instructions from the Office of Student Services on how to complete this process.
## Sample Curriculum Plan

**BSN to DNP**  
**Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Tract**  
**4-Year Part-Time Plan of Study**

### YEAR 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6050 Human Physiology and Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>NURS 6610 Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>NURS 8266 Philosophical, Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations</td>
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<td>NURS 6612 Advanced Nursing Practice with Families in Primary Care</td>
<td>NURS 6611 Clinical Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>NURS 8267 Design and Statistical Methods for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
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Sem. Total 6  
Sem. Total 6

### YEAR 2

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 8114 Advanced Practice Nursing with Families: Primary Care of Adults</td>
<td>NURS 8121 Advanced Practice Nursing: Care of Older Adults</td>
<td>NURS 8270 Population Health in Advanced Interdisciplinary Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 8115 Advanced Practice Nursing: Reproductive Healthcare</td>
<td>NURS 8271 Informatics for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>NURS 8273 Healthcare Finance</td>
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<td>NURS 8268 Interdisciplinary Leadership and Role Development for Practice Excellence</td>
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Sem. Total 9  
Sem. Total 6

### YEAR 3

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<tr>
<td>NURS 8118 Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum I: Primary Care of Adults</td>
<td>NURS 8122 Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum II: Care of Older Adults with Acute and Chronic Illnesses</td>
<td>NURS 8272 Scholarly Practicum II</td>
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<td>NURS 8275 Application of Best Practice</td>
<td>NURS 8269 Scholarly Practicum I</td>
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<td>NURS 8276 Health Care Policy, Politics, and Ethics</td>
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Sem. Total 9  
Sem. Total 6

### YEAR 4

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<th>Fall</th>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 8123 Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum III: Specialty Care of Adults/Geriatrics</td>
<td>NURS 8124 Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum IV: Primary Care Clinical Residency</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 8274 Scholarly Practicum III</td>
<td>NURS 8277 Scholarly Practicum IV</td>
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Sem. Total 7  
Program Total 9

#### Requirements for Graduation

- All graduate students are required to maintain a grade average of “B.”
- Graduation application must be submitted at least one semester prior to completing the degree requirements as stated in the graduate catalog.
- Students who do not register for courses for a semester must complete an electronic readmission form (available at [www.ecu.edu/gradschool/](http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/) and in the Graduate School Office).
- All graduate students complete a comprehensive assessment at the end of their program in NURS 6993.
- Students are required to keep graduate program/health requirements and liability insurance requirements up to date throughout their clinical courses.

#### The University

The university is the third largest in the University of North Carolina (UNC), which consists of the state’s sixteen degree-granting public institutions. ECU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degrees and is designated as an academic health center by the Association of American Health Centers. Governed by its own Board of Trustees, which is responsible to the UNC Board of Governors, ECU offers 75 departmental certificates, 102 baccalaureate degree programs, 77 master’s degree programs, two specialist degree programs, four first professional programs, and 16 doctoral programs in our professional colleges, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Dental Medicine, and the Brody School of Medicine. It confers more than 5,800 degrees annually and it has approximately 140,000 alumni.

For more information, contact [ECUNursingGradPrgms@ecu.edu](mailto:ECUNursingGradPrgms@ecu.edu)

East Carolina University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, creed, sexual orientation, or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, which accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Updated February 1, 2016