Doctor of Nursing Practice
Post-Master's

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. The post-master’s DNP curriculum expands the competencies of the APRN from the master’s level to encompass knowledge required as nurse leaders in increasingly complex healthcare systems to assess published evidence informing practice, improve systems of care to improve healthcare outcomes, and to make changes to enhance the quality of care.

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 the Post-Masters DNP (Applicants with a MSN)

- One official transcript from each college or university attended.
- A master's degree in nursing in an advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) specialty (Nurse Anesthesia, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse-Midwifery, Nurse Practitioner) or in Nursing Leadership/Nursing Administration with evidence of completion of graduate level pathophysiology, pharmacology and advanced physical assessment courses from a NLNAC or CCNE accredited school.
- Certification as an APRN (if applicable).
- Grade-point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale on all graduate work.
- Evidence of current unrestricted RN licensure from North Carolina or a National Council of State Boards of Nursing compact state. International applicants must work with the Commission of Graduate of 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.
- Computer competency with proficiency in development and use of databases, patient information systems, statistical sets, and use of various statistical packages for data analysis.
- A graduate statistics course which includes inferential statistics within the past 5 years.
- A graduate research methodology course.
- GRE requirement waived for those with an earned MSN.
- 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.
- 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.

(OVER)
Sample Curriculum Plan – Post-Masters DNP – Full-Time

First-Year Students

**Fall Semester**
- NURS 8266 Philosophical, Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations 3
- NURS 8267 Design and Statistical Methods for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
- NURS 8268 Interdisciplinary Leadership and Role Development for Practice Excellence 3
- NURS 8269 Scholarly Practicum I 2

**Spring Semester**
- NURS 8273 Healthcare Finance 3
- NURS 8271 Informatics for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
- NURS 8272 Scholarly Practicum II 3

**Summer Semester**
- NURS 8273 Population Health in Advanced Interdisciplinary Practice 3
- NURS 8274 Scholarly Practicum III 3

**Second-Year Students**

**Fall Semester**
- NURS 8275 Application of Best Practices in Interdisciplinary Settings 3
- NURS 8276 Health Care Policy, Politics and Ethics 3
- NURS 8277 Scholarly Practicum IV 4

**Spring Semester**
- NURS 8271 Informatics for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
- NURS 8274 Scholarly Practicum III 3

**Summer Semester**
- NURS 8277 Scholarly Practicum IV 4

**Year Total** 26

Sample Curriculum Plan – Post-Masters DNP – Part-Time

First-Year Students

**Fall Semester**
- NURS 8266 Philosophical, Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations 3
- NURS 8267 Design and Statistical Methods for Advanced Nursing Practice 3

**Spring Semester**
- NURS 8273 Healthcare Finance 3
- NURS 8268 Interdisciplinary Leadership and Role Development for Practice Excellence 3

**Summer Semester**
- NURS 8270 Population Health in Advanced Interdisciplinary Practice 3
- NURS 8269 Scholarly Practicum I 2

**Second-Year Students**

**Fall Semester**
- NURS 8275 Application of Best Practices in Interdisciplinary Settings 3
- NURS 8276 Health Care Policy, Politics and Ethics 3
- NURS 8277 Scholarly Practicum IV 4

**Spring Semester**
- NURS 8271 Informatics for Advanced Nursing Practice 3
- NURS 8274 Scholarly Practicum III 3

**Summer Semester**
- NURS 8277 Scholarly Practicum IV 4

**Year Total** 17

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/ and in the Graduate School Office).
- 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 system (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

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