Doctor of Nursing Practice Online Program

Program Description

The School of Nursing offers a program of study leading to the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree. Courses are offered via web-based modalities in real time. Courses are scheduled in the late afternoon at times convenient for working students and may require that students attend special sessions in Morgantown or Charleston. Dates of the special sessions are made available in advance so that students can plan their schedules in order to attend.

The DNP program offers a curriculum that allows students to enroll on a part-time basis. Graduate students are strongly recommended to limit their credit load if they are also involved in full-time work. Students employed in full-time work should enroll for no more than six hours of doctoral level coursework in any one term. Throughout the curriculum, students are guided in the processes of self-development aimed at pursuing excellence in scholarly and professional endeavors.

At the completion of the program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduate will be able to practice at the highest professional level to:

1. Use science-based theories and concepts to:
   1. Determine the nature and significance of health and healthcare delivery phenomena
   2. Describe actions and advance strategies to improve healthcare delivery
   3. Develop, deliver, and evaluate theory-based healthcare
2. Demonstrate organizational and systems leadership that emphasizes the primacy of clinical work, continually improving health outcomes, and ensuring patient safety
3. Use analytical methods and research to develop best practices and practice guidelines and to facilitate the evaluation of systems of care that will improve patient outcomes
4. Use information systems and technology-based resources that support clinical and administrative decision-making, care systems, nurse-sensitive outcomes, and quality improvement
5. Assume a leadership role in the development of healthcare policy
6. Establish, participate, and lead interprofessional teams
7. Utilize a strong conceptual foundation in clinical prevention and population health
8. Base practice on biophysical, psychosocial, sociopolitical, cultural, economic, and nursing science and ethics
9. Develop, implement, and evaluate practice and care delivery models, which are politically and culturally appropriate

Admissions Criteria

1. Satisfy WVU requirements for admission to graduate study
2. Have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale on the M.S.N. degree
3. Have a current, unrestricted RN license in at least one state
4. Hold the degree of master of science in nursing from a school of nursing program accredited by CCNE or NLNAC
5. Hold advanced practice certification in an area recognized for announcement of Advanced Practice by the WV Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses
6. A competitive Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Competitive GRE scores in previous years have included:
   PRIOR TO August, 2011, a minimum score of 400 each on the verbal and quantitative, a total of the two sections of 1000, and an analytical writing score of 4.0.
   AFTER August, 2011, a minimum score of 150 on the verbal section, 142 on the quantitative section, a total of the two sections of 300, and an analytical writing score of 4.0.

Note: Admission criteria are subject to change. Please see the School of Nursing website for the most up-to-date criteria at http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/son/. 

Application Process

The application process should be completed by February 1. The beginning sequence of courses in the DNP program starts in the summer semester only. Applicants to the DNP program need to complete the following steps in order to be considered for admission:

Complete two application forms as indicated below and return to the appropriate offices by the deadline:

1. Application for Admission to Graduate Studies (available at: http://apply.wvu.edu/)
2. Supplemental Application for admission to DNP in the School of Nursing and DNP application checklist (available on the School of Nursing website at: http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/son ) submitted electronically
3. Request an official transcript of records from each college or university attended. Transcripts should be sent directly to WVU Health Science Center, Office of Admissions,
Doctor of Nursing Practice Online Program

P.O. Box 9815, Morgantown, WV 26506-9815.

4. Three letters of reference should address the applicant’s expertise in the advanced practice of nursing and likelihood for success in doctoral work. One letter should be from a former professor of the applicant.

5. Submit a current curriculum vitae and evidence of national certification

For more information, visit the website at http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/son, write to West Virginia University School of Nursing, P.O. Box 9600, Morgantown, WV 26506-9600; or call (304) 293-1386.

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Nursing Core Courses for Doctor of Nursing Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSG course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Research Statistics 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Promotion of the Population</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNP Role Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence Based Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory of Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Focused Study</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Policy/Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Immersion</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNP Role Application</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNP Capstone</td>
<td>1-6</td>
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</tbody>
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Total Hours 31-41