

BSN to DNP Online Program

Program Description

The West Virginia University School of Nursing Post-Bachelor of Science to Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program prepares nurses to practice at the highest level of professional nursing. Graduates of the DNP program advance the application of nursing knowledge through the translation and implementation of evidence for practice to improve health outcomes for diverse populations.

All students will be awarded a Master's Degree in Nursing and are able to sit for the advanced practice certification exam after successfully completing the required 48 hours of course work. Students may then continue on to acquire the DNP degree for an additional 14 credits, or may exit the program once receiving the MSN degree. The time to completion of the DNP program varies depending on the length of the capstone (final) project.

The student plan of study for the BSN-DNP degree requires 1000 post baccalaureate hours of clinical immersion, which can include previous precepted Master's level clinical courses, with a minimum of 300 immersion hours to be earned at the DNP level.

The program includes a Final Project. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), doctoral education is distinguished by the completion of a specific project that demonstrates synthesis of the student's work and lays the groundwork for future clinical scholarly work directed at improving health or organizational outcomes in the area of focus. The Post-BSN-DNP curriculum primarily involves mastery of an advanced specialty within nursing practice and methods of practice improvement and change. The DNP Final Project is used to demonstrate mastery of the Post-BSN-DNP curriculum content. Guided by faculty, and with assistance of an expert in the area of interest, the DNP Final project demonstrates the student's ability to identify a practice or system related problem through clinical immersion, to synthesize and critically appraise the evidence related to addressing that practice problem, to negotiate within the system to implement evidence based change within an organization, implement that change, and systematically measure the results of the practice or system related change initiative. The DNP Final Project documents outcomes of the student's educational experiences, and summarizes the student's growth in knowledge and expertise. The DNP Final Project experience serves as a foundation for leadership in future scholarly practice with the clinical setting.

The DNP prepared nurse is prepared to participate in healthcare in numerous roles including:

- clinical nurse specialist
- nurse practitioner
- nurse entrepreneur
- nurse administrator
- health care advocate

The areas of emphasis for study in advanced nursing in the curriculum are Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Pediatric nurse Practitioner (PNP).

Advanced certification is a requirement for the DNP degree. Postgraduate applicants must have advanced certification. Students continuing on in the curriculum after obtaining the Master's degree must become certified by the end of the fall semester of that same year. Students continuing in the program will broaden their goals and learning objectives in the Clinical Immersion course. The immersion experience is not a repeat of the same types of experiences obtained in the Practicum 1 and 2 courses in which primary care is the focus. The immersion experience is intended to broaden clinical experience through the assessment of system level changes and the evaluation of such changes.

The program offers a curriculum that allows students to enroll on a part-time or full-time basis. Throughout the curriculum, students are guided in the process of self-development aimed at pursuing excellence in scholarly and professional endeavors. The school also offers a post-graduate certification program in these areas for those who already hold a graduate degree. Students are admitted to a specific track and progression plan. Admission to some tracks is dependent upon an adequate cohort. Changes to the track or progression plan are only allowed based on space available. If for any reason a student must leave the program, his or her ability to return to the program will be based on space available at the time of request and is not guaranteed.

The programs are offered by faculty located at the University main campus in Morgantown and at the Charleston Division. Courses are offered via web-based modalities. Students may be required to attend special on-campus sessions in Morgantown or Charleston for the Advanced Assessment workshops and proficiency exams. During semesters involving nursing practice hours, monthly meetings are held on-line. Dates of the special sessions are made available by faculty in charge of the course in advance so students can plan their schedules in order to attend. Special sessions for PNP students are held in Morgantown only. The DNP final project proposal and defense take place on either campus depending on the preference of the committee chair.

Graduate students are strongly recommended to limit their credit load if they are also involved in full-time work. **It is university policy that students employed in full-time work should enroll for no more than six hours of master's level course work in any one term.**

Admissions Criteria

1. Satisfy WVU requirements for admission to graduate study
2. Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing from a nationally accredited nursing program

3. Have a minimum nursing grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale on all college work attempted
4. Have a current, unrestricted RN license in at least one state
5. Completion of 3 credits of undergraduate statistics equivalent to WVU Stat 211 and 3 credits of health assessment with a grade of C or better

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

Application Process

The application process should be completed by February 1. The beginning sequence of courses in the BSN-DNP program starts in the summer semester only. Applicants to the BSN-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: https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=wwugrad)
2. Supplemental Application for admission to BSN-DNP in the School of Nursing (available on the School of Nursing website at: <http://www.nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/>) submitted electronically
3. Request an official transcript of records from each college or university attended. Transcripts should be sent directly to WVU Office of Admissions, P.O. Box 6009, Morgantown, WV 26506-6009.
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.
6. Submit a professional writing sample using the instructions provided on our website.

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

Note: Application criteria are subject to change. Please see the School of Nursing website for the most up-to-date criteria at <http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu>.

Master's of Science in Nursing Requirements

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required

A minimum grade of C- is required in all courses

Core Courses

NSG 701	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NSG 702	Population Health Promotion	3
NSG 703	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice	3
NSG 704	Health Care Leadership	3
NSG 706	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NSG 707	Evidence Based Practice Methods	3
NSG 708	Role Seminar for Advanced Practice	2
NSG 709	Health Care Informatics	3
NSG 710	Health Care Issues, Policy, and Ethics	3
NSG 724	Health Research Statistics 1	3
Required Area of Emphasis		19
Total Hours		48

Suggested Plan of Study for Family Nurse Practitioner Area of Emphasis

First Year

Summer	Hours
NSG 708	2
NSG 709	3

5

Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours Summer	Hours
NSG 702	3 NSG 701	3 NSG 703	3

NSG 706	3 NSG 705	3 NSG 712	3
NSG 724	3 NSG 707	3	
		9	6

Third Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours	
NSG 704	3 NSG 710	3	
NSG 714	3 NSG 721	5	
NSG 720	5		
		11	8

Total credit hours: 48

A minimum of 10 credits of Family Practicum (including Practicum 1 and 2) is required for graduation. This equates to a total of 600 hours of supervised clinical experience.

Suggested Plan of Study for Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

First Year

	Summer	Hours
	NSG 708	2
	NSG 709	3
		5

Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours Summer	Hours
NSG 702	3 NSG 707	3 NSG 701	3
NSG 706	3 NSG 767	3 NSG 703	3
NSG 724	3 NSG 770	3	
		9	6

Third Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours	
NSG 704	3 NSG 710	3	
NSG 771	3 NSG 773	5	
NSG 772	5		
		11	8

Total credit hours: 48

A minimum of 10 credits of Pediatric Practicum (including Practicum 1 and 2) is required for graduation. This equates to a total of 600 hours of supervised clinical experience.

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required

A minimum grade of C- is required in all courses

NSG 745	Clinical Immersion	5
NSG 760	DNP Project Proposal	3
NSG 763	DNP Project	6

Total Hours 14

Progression Standards

In order to progress in the MSN curriculum, a student must meet the following performance standards:

1. Carry forward only one C grade in a nursing course. A second C in a nursing course will result in dismissal from the program.
2. Maintain a 3.0 GPA. A student who falls below 3.0 on 9 or more credit hours will be placed on academic probation and has only one semester to bring up the GPA to the 3.0 requirement.
3. Repeat only one nursing course and only one time.
4. A grade of D or F in any course results in dismissal from the program.

MSN Major Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the program, the graduate will be able to:

- Use disciplined reasoning from sciences and the humanities to:
 - a. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations.
 - b. Design nursing care for a clinical or community focused population based on biopsychosocial, public health, nursing and organizational sciences.
 - c. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene, and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery.
 - d. Analyze nursing history to expand thinking and provide a sense of professional heritage and identity.
- Incorporate current and emerging genetic/genomic evidence in providing advanced nursing care to individuals, families, and communities while accounting for patient values and clinical judgment through:
 - a. Synthesizing broad ecological, global and social determinants of health; principles of genetics and genomics; and epidemiologic data to design and deliver evidence based, culturally relevant clinical prevention interventions and strategies.
 - b. Designing patient-centered and culturally responsive strategies in the delivery of clinical prevention and health promotion interventions and/or services to individuals, families, communities, and aggregates/clinical populations.
 - c. Integrating clinical prevention and population health concepts in the development of culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate health education, communication strategies, and interventions.
- Support quality improvement and patient safety by:
 1. Synthesizing broad ecological, global and social determinants of health; principles of genetics and genomics; and epidemiologic data to design and deliver evidence based, culturally relevant clinical prevention interventions and strategies.
 2. Designing patient-centered and culturally responsive strategies in the delivery of clinical prevention and health promotion interventions and/or services to individuals, families, communities, and aggregates/clinical populations.
 3. Integrating clinical prevention and population health concepts in the development of culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate health education, communication strategies, and interventions.
- Demonstrate organizational and systems leaderships that:
 1. Emphasizes clinical practice.
 2. Continually improves health outcomes.
 3. Ensures patient safety.
- Analyze and evaluate evidence to integrate scholarship into practice through:
 1. Integrating theory, evidence, clinical judgment, and interprofessional perspectives to improve practice and health outcomes for patient aggregates.
 2. Articulating to a variety of audiences the evidence base for practice decisions, including the credibility of sources of information and the relevance to the practice problem.
 3. Applying practice guidelines to improve practice.
 4. Participating, and leading when appropriate, in collaborative teams to improve care outcomes and support policy changes through knowledge generation, dissemination, and implementation.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the analysis and use of information systems and technology to sustain improvements and promote transparency using high reliability and just culture principles through:
 1. Analyzing current emerging technologies to support safe practice environments, and to optimize patient safety, cost-effectiveness, and health outcomes.
 2. Using information and communication technologies, resources, and principles of learning to teach patients and others.
 3. The use of current and emerging technologies in the care environment to support lifelong learning for self and others.
- Assume an advocacy role in healthcare policy by:
 1. The analysis of the influence of policy on the structure and financing of health care practice and health outcomes.
 2. Participation in the development and implementation of institutional, local, state, and federal policy.
 3. The examination of the effect of legal and regulatory processes on nursing practice, health care delivery, and outcomes.
 4. Interpreting research and bringing the nursing perspective for policy makers and stakeholders.
 5. Advocating for policies that improve the health of the public and the nursing profession.
- Collaborate with other professions to improve patient and population health outcomes by:

1. Advocating for the value of the professional nurse as members, and leaders when indicated, of interprofessional healthcare teams.
 2. Using collaboration in the design, coordination, and evaluation of patient-centered care.
 3. Mentoring and coaching new and experienced nurses and other members of the healthcare team.
 4. Understanding other health professions scopes of practice to maximize contributions within the healthcare team.
- Plan, manage, and evaluate evidence-based clinical prevention and population care by:
 1. Evaluating the effectiveness of clinical prevention interventions that affect individual and population-based health outcomes.
 2. Delivering patient-centered and culturally responsive strategies in prevention and health promotion to individuals, families, communities, and aggregates/clinical populations.
 - Ensure accountability for advanced practice based on refined assessment skills; advanced communication skills; and biophysical, genetic, genomic, psychosocial, sociopolitical, economic, ethical, and cultural principles through:
 1. Delivering safe, quality care to diverse populations in a variety of settings and roles.
 2. Conducting a comprehensive and systematic assessment as a foundation for decision making.
 3. Applying the best available evidence from nursing and other sciences as the foundation for practice.
 4. Using knowledge of illness and disease management to provide evidence-based care to populations, perform risk assessments, and design plans or programs of care.
 5. Incorporating core scientific and ethical principles in identifying potential and actual ethical issues arising from practice, in assisting patients and other healthcare providers to address such issues.

Post Graduate Certificate Program

The program prepares master's prepared nurses to sit for the national certification examination in the selected area of focus. To be considered for admission, the applicant must have a master's degree in nursing from a program accredited by NLNAC or CCNE with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better and an unrestricted RN license in at least one state. Students in the post-master's certificate program must maintain a 3.0 GPA and receive satisfactory clinical ratings to progress. Each student's program will be individualized based on educational and experiential background. For those interested in a Nurse Practitioner Post-MSN certificate, prerequisites to registration for the required clinical courses in the program are evidence of competence in advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacotherapeutics, and advanced assessment.

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

The required courses for post-master's certification are as follows:

Post Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Requirements

CERTIFICATE CODE - CG21

Minimum 3.0 GPA

Required Courses

NSG 701	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NSG 705	Advanced Lifespan Assessment: FNP Focus	3
NSG 706	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NSG 712	Primary Care of Families 1	3
NSG 714	Primary Care of Families 2	3
NSG 720	Family Practicum 1	5
NSG 721	Family Practicum 2	5

Complete a minimum of 600 supervised clinical hours.

Total Hours 25

Post Master's Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Requirements

CERTIFICATE CODE - CG25

Minimum 3.0 GPA

Required Courses

NSG 654	Neonatal Pathophysiology	4
NSG 655	Neonatal health Promotion	2
NSG 663	Neonatal Assessment/Care 1	5
NSG 664	Neonatal Care 2	4

NSG 665	Neonatal Practicum 1	5
NSG 666	Neonatal Practicum 2	5
NSG 701	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
Complete a minimum of 600 supervised clinical hours.		
Total Hours		28

Post Master's Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Requirements

CERTIFICATE CODE - CG24

Minimum 3.0 GPA

Required Courses

NSG 626	Lifespan Health Promotion	2
NSG 701	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NSG 706	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NSG 770	Pediatric Primary Care 1	3
NSG 771	Pediatric Primary Care 2	3
NSG 772	Pediatric Practicum 1	5
NSG 773	Pediatric Practicum 2	5
Complete a minimum of 600 supervised clinical hours.		
Total Hours		24