

School of Nursing

5th in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research dollars awarded
 7th in U.S. News & World Reports "America's Best Graduate Schools"
 Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is a practice-focused doctoral program that prepares nursing leaders for the highest level of clinical and administrative nursing practice. Course work and clinical practice are required in the DNP Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice, defined by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

OVERVIEW

The DNP focuses on evaluating evidence and using evidence in clinical decision-making, leadership skills, implementing viable clinical innovations, and through applying research and theoretical understanding to plan and make changes in practice. There is emphasis on a population perspective, assessment of populations, use of data to make programmatic decisions and program evaluation. Core courses focus on advanced evidence-based practice, organizational and systems leadership, clinical research and analytical methods for evidence-based practice, informatics and patient care technology for the transformation of health care, health care policy and finance, ethics, clinical prevention and population health and interprofessional collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes. This knowledge is then expanded upon through cognates within selected areas of focus. The DNP educational experience culminates in a Capstone Project that reflects the practice interest of the student and synthesis and application of knowledge gained through the curriculum.

DNP graduates are prepared for roles in direct patient (Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Anesthesia, Nurse Practitioner) or systems-focused care (Nursing Administration) and able to affect the health-care delivery system by being superb clinicians, evaluating the evidence base for nursing practice, becoming leaders in clinical arenas, establishing standards and policies and meeting the needs of today's diverse health-care systems.

CURRICULUM OPTIONS *(Sample curriculum plans: www.nursing.pitt.edu and www.online.pitt.edu)*

Post-BSN to DNP (onsite)

Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist
 Nurse Practitioner
 Adult-Gerontology Acute Care
 Adult-Gerontology Primary Care
 Family (Individual Across the Lifespan)
 Neonatal
 Pediatric Primary Care
 Psychiatric Mental Health
 Nursing Administration

Post-Master's DNP (online* or onsite)

Clinical Nurse Specialist
 Adult-Gerontology
 Psychiatric Mental Health
 Nurse Anesthesia
 Nurse Practitioner
 Adult-Gerontology Acute Care
 Adult-Gerontology Primary Care
 Family (Individual Across the Lifespan)
 Neonatal
 Pediatric Primary Care
 Psychiatric Primary Care
 Nursing Administration

CURRICULUM FORMAT

Post-BSN to DNP

Admit annually Fall Term
 Full-time (3 years), Part-time (5 years)
 On campus only
 Minimum 81 credits
 1000 minimum clinical hours

Post-Master's DNP

Admit annually Fall Term
 Full-time (1-2 years)
 On campus or online*
 36-41 credits
 1000 minimum clinical hours post-BSN*

* Upon admission, faculty will review clinical hours completed in MSN for applicability toward the 1000 clinical hours

* Clinical hours may be accommodated in student's home area and will be coordinated/supervised by School faculty

***PittOnline** (www.online.pitt.edu / 412-648-9499)

- View a Virtual Post-Master's DNP Open House
- Access to same faculty as on-campus students, library/computing resources, and 24/7 virtual technical support
- Please refer to PittOnline for states in which the School of Nursing is authorized to enroll online students.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Post-BSN to DNP

- Valid RN license (all students must obtain a Pennsylvania license)
- Competitive GPA in highest nursing degree (from CCNE, NLN, ACICS or ACEN accredited program)
- Official GRE scores
- Pre-requisite statistics course (within 5 years)
- Experience
 - ✓ **Neonatal Nurse Practitioner** - Equivalent of two years full time (within the last five years) practice experience as a registered nurse caring for children in acute care inpatient settings before enrolling in clinical courses. Students may enroll in pre-clinical courses while obtaining the practice experience.
 - ✓ **Nursing Administration** - 2 years management experience
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for a telephone interview)

Post-Master's DNP (*must have a master's degree in the post master's DNP track being pursued*)

- Valid RN license from U.S. state/territory or geographical area (online students) where student intends to complete clinical practice requirements/Capstone Project
- Competitive GPA in MSN/master's (from CCNE, NLN, ACICS or ACEN accredited program)
 - ✓ **Nursing Administration** - Applicants with BSN, master's in management and 2 years management experience may apply. Upon admission, program coordinator will compare official master's transcript to DNP curriculum; previous coursework will be reviewed for permissible transfer credits. Additional coursework may be required.
- Official GRE scores (may be waived if MSN GPA ≥ 3.5) **EXCEPTION:** Anesthesia applicants must submit GRE
- Pre-requisite statistics course (within 5 years)
- Licensure
 - ✓ **Nurse Anesthesia** - current Nurse Anesthesia certification in U.S. state/territory or geographical area (online students) where student intends to complete clinical practice requirements/Capstone Project
 - ✓ **Nurse Practitioner** - current NP licensure in U.S. state/territory or geographical area (online students) where student intends to complete clinical practice requirements/Capstone Project
- Experience
 - ✓ **Neonatal Nurse Practitioner** - Equivalent of two years full time (within the last five years) practice experience as a registered nurse caring for children in acute care inpatient settings before enrolling in clinical courses. Students may enroll in pre-clinical courses while obtaining the practice experience.
 - ✓ **Nursing Administration** - 2 years management experience
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for a telephone interview)

Additional Information

- Complete online application: www.nursing.pitt.edu
- International applicants: additional information at www.nursing.pitt.edu (DNP page) and www.ois.pitt.edu
- **Deadlines:** **February 15** or **May 1** (*international applicants are advised to apply by Feb. 1*)
 Complete applications received by **Feb. 15** - admission decision expected by **June 1**
 Complete applications received by **May 1** - admission decision expected by **June 30**

DNP COORDINATORS

Clinical Nurse Specialist

Adult-Gerontology	Dr. Patricia Tuite	ptuite@pitt.edu
Psychiatric Mental Health	Dr. Kathryn Puskar	krp12@pitt.edu
Nurse Anesthesia	Dr. Michael Neft	neftm@pitt.edu
Nurse Practitioner		
Adult-Gerontology Acute Care	Dr. Kathy Magdic	kma100@pitt.edu
Adult-Gerontology Primary Care	Dr. Donna Nativio	dgn@pitt.edu
Family (Individual Across the Lifespan)	Dr. Donna Nativio	dgn@pitt.edu
Neonatal	Dr. Donna Nativio	dgn@pitt.edu
Pediatric Primary Care	Dr. Donna Nativio	dgn@pitt.edu
Psychiatric Mental Health	Dr. Heeyoung Lee	leehee@pitt.edu
Nursing Administration	Dr. Linda Dudjak	dudjak@pitt.edu