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 superbclinicians, 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: nursing.pitt.edu and 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 Mental Health
  - 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

(rev. 8-11-15)
*PittOnline (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
- Refer to PittOnline for list of states in which the School of Nursing is authorized to enroll online students.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Post-BSN to DNP
- Current RN license in Pennsylvania upon start of program
- 3.0 or higher GPA in BSN or entry level MSN (from CCNE, NLN, ACICS or ACEN accredited program)
- Competitive GRE score: Verbal and Quantitative sections ($\geq 50^{th}$ percentile), Analytical Writing ($\geq 3$)
- Prerequisite statistics course (within 10 years) with grade of B or higher
- Experience
  - Neonatal Nurse Practitioner: Equivalent of two years full time (within last five years) practice experience as a RN caring for critically ill newborns, infants and children in critical care inpatient settings, preferably a Level III NICU. Students may enroll in pre-clinical courses while obtaining the practice experience.
  - Nursing Administration: 2 years management experience

Post-Master’s DNP (must have master’s degree in the Post-Master’s DNP track being pursued)
- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or geographical area (online students) where student intends to complete clinical practice requirements/capstone project
- 3.0 or higher GPA in MSN (from CCNE, NLN, ACICS or ACEN accredited program) or masters in related field
  - 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.
  - Competitive GRE score: Verbal and Quantitative sections ($\geq 50^{th}$ percentile), Analytical Writing ($\geq 3$)
    - (May be waived if MSN GPA $\geq 3.5$) EXCEPTION: Anesthesia applicants must submit GRE
- Prerequisite statistics course (within 10 years) with grade of B or higher
- 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
  - Nursing Administration: 2 years management experience

APPLICATION
- Online application: nursing.pitt.edu
- International applicants: nursing.pitt.edu and cis.pitt.edu (onsite students only)
- 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
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for a telephone interview)

DNP COORDINATORS
Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Adult-Gerontology
  - Dr. Patricia Tuite
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- Psychiatric Mental Health
  - Dr. Kathryn Puskar
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- Nurse Anesthesia
  - Dr. Michael Neft
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- Nurse Practitioner
  - Adult-Gerontology Acute Care
    - Dr. Kathy Magdic
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  - Adult-Gerontology Primary Care
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  - Family (Individual Across the Lifespan)
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  - Neonatal
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  - Pediatric Primary Care
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