

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE  
GRADUATE PROGRAM**

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**TITLE OF POLICY:**                   **ADMISSION, DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE  
PROGRAM**

**ORIGINAL DATE:**                   MARCH 3, 2008

**LAST REVIEWED/REVISED:**       FEBRUARY 2014

**POLICY:**       Applications to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) are screened by the Major/Area of Concentration faculty, who review credentials, interview the applicants, and DNP Admission Committee makes admission decisions based on established School of Nursing criteria.

The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University's mission. This applies to admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs and activities. Additional information on this policy is available at [www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/07/07-01-03.html](http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/07/07-01-03.html).

Applicants to the Doctor of Nursing Practice should meet all of the following criteria:

1. A competitive GPA: A minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. On most recent degree (Bachelor of Science in Nursing [BSN] or masters).
2. A current license to practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the state or U.S. territory where the student will complete the clinical practice requirements. International applicants should see the section below on Admission of Students from Other Countries and Policy 201
3. A pre-admission interview. If the applicant resides at a great distance, a telephone interview may be substituted.
4. Evidence of ability to communicate in writing through the required personal essay, and achievement of 3 or above on the analytical writing section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) when required (see item #8)
5. Pre-requisite statistics course within the last 10 years with a grade of B or better.
6. Applicants to the DNP Program must have a BSN or an entry level MSN (that incorporated AACN BSN Essentials from an NLN-or CCNE-accredited program in nursing) or masters in a related field.
7. Applicants to the Master DNP Program must have a master's degree in nursing (from an NLN-, CCNE-, ACEN, or ACICS- accredited program) or masters in a related field.

8. GRE is required for all BSN-DNP applicants and MSN-DNP applicants with GPA less than 3.5 (most recent degree). A competitive score is required. Competitive applicants are expected to score in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on both the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE and 3 or above on the analytical writing section. GRE scores are acceptable for five years after the test date.
  9. Specific Areas of Concentration/Majors may have additional eligibility criteria.
  10. A DNP area of concentration Coordinator may seek consultation from the Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee (APG) committee when deciding upon a recommendation for admission.
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## **PROCEDURE:**

Application may be made online at [www.nursing.pitt.edu](http://www.nursing.pitt.edu) or in hard copy. Application materials are available in the Student Services Office, University of Pittsburgh, School of Nursing, 3500 Victoria Street, 239 Victoria Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15261. Each applicant should then submit the following:

1. Completed application form
2. Non-Application fee
3. Complete official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate education
4. Admission test scores if applicable
5. Three letters of professional recommendation in sealed envelopes indicating the reviewer's support of the student's ability to successfully complete a demanding graduate level academic and clinical program. At least one recommendation should come from a current or recent direct supervisor.
6. Personal essay stating one's philosophy of nursing, reasons for wanting to study in a particular area of specialization, expectation of the DNP Area of Specialty, and future career goals
7. Applicants to the DNP should include in their essay an area of interest for consideration as a capstone project
8. Current CV or resume

All completed applications are to be submitted to the Associate Director, Student Services, Graduate Program, who will forward them to the Major/Area of Concentration Coordinator or representative for review and appropriate action.. DNP admission decisions are the responsibility of the DNP Admissions Committee.

DNP admissions committee chair presents summary of admission decisions to the DNP council including: number and status of students offered admission. The report will then be forwarded to the Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee (APG) for final review of the process. APG will relate to the Coordinator of the Major/Area of Concentration and DNP Council any concerns they may have with the implementation of the admission process.

Student Services will notify applicants of the admission decision. Applicants who do not qualify for admission to full graduate status may be considered for provisional status except for international applicants.

### **Admission of International Students**

Application is made through the Student Services Office, School of Nursing, University of Pittsburgh, 239 Victoria Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, USA. Applications from international students are reviewed according to the DNP programs admission criteria stated above and are admitted as stated above. The application must be completed in English and accompanied by official academic credentials with notarized English translations. Applicants to the Post-Master's DNP Program must have a degree comparable to the U.S. master's degree in nursing.

Applicants to the BSN to DNP Program must have a degree comparable to the U.S. baccalaureate degree in nursing or entry level master's degree in nursing. The official transcripts must show all high school and post-high school work, including grades in each course, examination grades and standing in examinations and classes, and whatever other credentials are available to give a clear description of the student's academic accomplishments. "Applicants to the DNP Programs from other countries should review Policy 201 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSION, GRADUATE

PROGRAM for additional admission criteria for international students.”

**Admission of the RN-DNP program students**

Applicants to the RN-DNP program must graduate from a CCNE or NLN accredited associate degree program or diploma school of nursing. Admit to the DNP program pending satisfactory completion of the 24 graduate bridge credits and completion of the BSN

Approved by DNP Council: 3/14

Approved by Total Faculty: 11/2008, 1/2009, 2/2009, 3/14