

School of Nursing

*9th in DNP & 12th in MSN, U.S. News & World Report's 2020 Best Nursing Grad Schools
4th in NIH funding (2018) among schools of nursing
Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)*

OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is a practice-focused doctoral program that prepares nursing leaders for the highest level of clinical and health systems executive leadership. The DNP focuses on evaluating evidence and using evidence in clinical decision-making, executive leadership skills, implementing viable clinical innovations, and applying research and theoretical understanding to plan and make changes in patient care.

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 executive leadership, clinical research and analytical methods for evidence-based practice, informatics and patient care technology for 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. Knowledge is then expanded upon through cognates within selected areas of focus. A rigorous DNP Project 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 or systems-focused care and executive leadership. They are 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 as executive leaders.

CURRICULUM FORMAT

BSN to DNP

- Onsite
- Full-time (3 years) / Part-time (5 years)
- 1,000 minimum clinical hours
- Fall Term admission
- ▶ Nurse Anesthesia: Full-time (only) and Spring Term admission (only)

FOCUS AREAS

Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist

Nurse-Midwife (BSN to DNP only)

Nurse Anesthesia

Nurse Practitioner (NP)

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care
- Family (Individual Across the Lifespan)
- Neonatal
- Pediatric Primary Care
- Psychiatric Mental Health

Nurse Specialty Role

Health Systems Executive Leadership (MSN or BSN with master's degree in related focus to DNP only)

MSN to DNP

- Onsite or (online* with master's degree in same focus)
- Full-time (1-2 years) / Part-time (varies)
- 36-41 credits⁺
- 1000 minimum clinical hours post-BSN⁺
- Fall Term admission
- ▶ Nurse Anesthesia: online* (only)
- ▶ Health Systems Executive Leadership: (online* also available with BSN and master's degree in related focus)

⁺ Upon admission, faculty review official master's transcript for:

- clinical hours completed for applicability toward 1,000 clinical hours
- coursework for permissible transfer credits (additional coursework may be required)

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

- View Virtual Open House
- 24/7 access to library, computing resources, and virtual tech support

ADMISSION CRITERIA

BSN to DNP

- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- ≥ 3.0 GPA in BSN from ACEN, NLN, ACICS, or CCNE accredited program
- Competitive GRE scores
- Prerequisite statistics course (within 10 years) with grade of B- or higher
- RN Options-Early Admission to DNP is available for graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs
- Clinical experience for select focus areas*

MSN to DNP

- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- ≥ 3.0 GPA in MSN (from accredited program) or master's in related field (must have BSN from accredited program)
- Competitive GRE scores (may be waived if MSN/master's GPA ≥ 3.5)
- Prerequisite statistics course (within 10 years) with grade of B- or higher
- Clinical experience for select focus areas*
- Nurse Anesthesia (additional requirements)
 - Current Nurse Anesthetist certification in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete DNP Scholarly Project
 - ≥ 3.0 GPA in MSN or MS in Nurse Anesthesia from accredited program

***Clinical experience for select focus areas**

- Health Systems Executive Leadership: 2 years management experience preferred
- Neonatal NP BSN to DNP: Equivalent of 2 years full time (within last 5 years) practice experience as a RN caring for critically ill newborns, infants and children in critical care inpatient settings, preferably Level III NICU.
 - The practice experience is required before beginning the neonatal clinical courses which begin in Fall Term, Year 3 of the Full-Time curriculum.
- Nurse-Midwife: 1 year nursing experience in a Labor and Delivery unit preferred, but not required
- Nurse Anesthesia BSN to DNP: minimum 1 year full-time ICU/critical care nursing experience (within last 5 years) by start of program (may apply if employed in ICU/critical care & will have required experience before admission term)

APPLICATION (Holistic Review Process)

- Online application: nursing.pitt.edu
- International applicants: nursing.pitt.edu & ois.pitt.edu
- Pre-admission interview (applicants residing at a distance may arrange for telephone interview)
- Deadlines: February 15 or May 1 (international applicants are advised to apply by Feb. 15)
 - Complete applications received by **Feb. 15** - admission decision expected by **June 1**
 - Complete applications received by **May 1** - admission decision expected by **June 30**

Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) Option

- Prospective applicants may enroll in a maximum of 12 core, non-clinical graduate credits before beginning the program
- Submit an application to the Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) option at nursing.pitt.edu
 - Application fee waived if previous applicant within one year
- After receipt of the application, an academic advisor will contact student regarding course selection/enrollment

DNP COORDINATORS

<u>Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist</u>	Dr. Patricia Tuite	ptuite@pitt.edu
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