OVERVIEW
The demand for change in how health care is defined and delivered has never been more pressing. The DNP program focused on Health Systems Executive Leadership prepares nurses to function in executive leadership and management roles that focus on creating or redesigning systems to meet the demands of the emerging healthcare market. Graduates of this program will lead the transformation of healthcare as chief executive officers, chief nursing officers, and executive directors of quality, clinical informatics, population health, and clinical practice in hospitals, ambulatory clinics, and non-profit and governmental organizations.

The curriculum focuses on developing the knowledge and skills to effectively lead in complex clinical environments with an emphasis on organizational behavior; evidence-based management, practice, and quality improvement; leadership in complex systems; finance and healthcare economics; health policy; and data analytics and clinical systems design.

Customize your program: Take advantage of other academic programs at Pitt to tailor your learning to meet your future goal. Students may pursue a certification or joint degree through the Katz School of Business, School of Education, School of Law, Graduate School of Public Health, or Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

Students have a uniquely designed clinical residency with a senior-level mentor. During residency, students complete a DNP Project designed to synthesize and apply knowledge gained throughout the program.

Faculty include individuals with extensive experience in leadership of clinical systems, executive practice, professional communication and development, and health policy.

CURRICULUM FORMAT
MSN/master's to DNP
Onsite or online*
Full-time (1.5 years) / Part-time (varies)
43 credits (includes 1,000 minimum clinical residency hours post-BSN)*
Curriculum Plans: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu) / Part-time (individualized with program coordinator)
Fall Term admission
* Upon admission, faculty will review official master's transcript for:
  • clinical hours completed for applicability toward minimum 1,000 clinical residency 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, & virtual tech support

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ADMISSION CRITERIA

MSN to DNP

- Two years of management experience preferred
- 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
  ≥ 3.0 GPA in master’s degree (must have BSN from accredited program)
- Competitive GRE scores (may be waived if master’s GPA ≥ 3.5)
- Prerequisite statistics course (within 10 years) with grade of B- or higher

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 a telephone interview)
- Complete applications: reviewed when received and admission decisions conveyed promptly

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Judith Zedreck Gonzalez, DNP, RN
Health Systems Executive Leadership Coordinator
412-648-3047 or jfz5@pitt.edu