

School of Nursing

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

OVERVIEW

The Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) DNP is a practice-focused doctoral program that prepares nurses to be leaders at the highest level of clinical nursing practice. Graduates manage the health care of high-risk infants within families, and children up to 2 years of age in collaboration with other pediatric clinicians. They assume leadership roles in a variety of clinical settings including intensive care nurseries of various levels, newborn nurseries, and high-risk follow-up clinics. Graduates select and perform diagnostic and therapeutic invasive procedures on newborns in the intensive care setting and are prepared to participate in research.

Course work and clinical practice hours focus on developing knowledge and skills necessary for the care and management of critically ill and convalescent premature and full-term infants. Clinical experiences may be in a variety of clinical settings including newborn nurseries, Level III/IV NICUs, and outpatient clinics. A culminating DNP Project reflects the practice interest of the student and synthesis and application of scientific knowledge gained through the curriculum

Graduates are eligible to sit for the national certification exam for Neonatal Nurse Practitioners offered by the National Certification Corporation (NCC). After passing the exam, the graduate should consult the licensing board of the state in which they intend to practice for legal (credentialing) and practice information.

CURRICULUM FORMAT

BSN to DNP

- Onsite (Select core courses may be transmitted synchronously to PA residents who live more than 50 miles from campus - additional fees may apply)
- Full-time (3 years) / Part-time (varies)
- 96 credits (includes 1,020 clinical hours)
- Curriculum Plans: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu) / Part-time (individualized with program coordinator)
- Fall Term admission

MSN to DNP

- Onsite (**online*** with master's degree as NNP)
- Full-time (3 years) / Part-time (varies)
- 43 credits (includes 1,000 minimum clinical hours post-BSN)⁺
- Curriculum Plans: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu) / Part-time (individualized with program)
- Fall Term admission
- ⁺ Upon admission, faculty will review official master's transcript for:
 - clinical hours completed for applicability toward 1,000 minimum clinical residency hours
 - coursework for permissible transfer credits (Additional coursework may be required)

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

- View a 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
- 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
- ≥ 3.0 GPA in BSN from ACEN, NLN, ACICS, 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

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
 - ≥ 3.0 GPA in master's in related field (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)
- **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 maximum of 12 core, non-clinical credits before beginning the program
- Application to Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) option: nursing.pitt.edu / no documents required
 - 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

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