

# School of Nursing

## Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

### Family (Individual Across Lifespan) Nurse Practitioner DNP

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

#### OVERVIEW

The Family (Individual Across the Lifespan) Nurse Practitioner (FNP) DNP is a practice-focused doctoral program that prepares nurses to be leaders at the highest level of clinical nursing practice. The FNP is prepared as a generalist, principal provider of primary health care to *individuals across the life span*. In this clinician leadership role, the FNP assumes responsibility for promoting, maintaining, and restoring health, including identification of health risks, promotion of wellness, diagnosis and management of acute and chronic illness, and referral to specialty services as needed. Graduates provide leadership in quality improvement, case management, and in mobilizing health services.

The curriculum includes didactic and clinical courses offered in a logical sequence. Underpinning courses, such as Pathophysiology & Pharmacology, precede diagnostic courses of physical exam, history taking, and differential diagnosis. Courses that prepare students for clinical management of patients across the lifespan follow. Didactic courses prepare students to carry out the required DNP Project. Project oversight and guidance is provided by the student's DNP Project Committee.

Graduates are eligible to sit for the national certification exam offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). After passing the exam, graduates 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)

92 credits (includes 1,000 minimum 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 in FNP)

Full-time (2 years) / Part-time (varies)

41 credits (includes 1,000 minimum clinical hours post-BSN)<sup>+</sup>

Curriculum Plans: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu) / Part-time (individualized with program coordinator)

Fall Term admission

<sup>+</sup> 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 Virtual Open House
- 24/7 access to library, computing resources, & virtual tech support

## ADMISSION CRITERIA

### BSN to DNP

- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- $\geq 3.0$  GPA in BSN from ACEN, NLN, ACICS, or CCNE accredited program
- Competitive GRE scores
- Prerequisite statistics course with grade of B or better
- RN Options-Early Admission to DNP is available for graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs

## ADMISSION CRITERIA

### MSN to DNP

- Current RN license in U.S. state/territory or locale where student will complete clinical requirements
- $\geq 3.0$  GPA in MSN (from accredited program)  
or  
 $\geq 3.0$  GPA in master's in related field (must have BSN from accredited program)
- Competitive GRE scores (may be waived if master's GPA  $\geq 3.5$ )
- Prerequisite statistics course with grade of B or better

## APPLICATION (Holistic Review Process)

- Online application: [nursing.pitt.edu](http://nursing.pitt.edu)
- International applicants: [nursing.pitt.edu](http://nursing.pitt.edu) & [ois.pitt.edu](http://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](http://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

Sandra Founds, PhD, FNP, CNM  
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