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Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree Program

School of Nursing

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Program description

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is the terminal degree for nurses in clinical practice. It is a 38-credit, post-master's program intended to prepare nurse leaders for clinical practice.

Registered Nurses who possess a DNP degree are prepared to assume clinical and leadership roles in both academic and practice settings. Knowledge acquisition in the DNP program includes the ability to analyze organizational and clinical systems, critique evidence to support clinical practice and improve patient outcomes, and develop practice guidelines to enhance patient safety.

Doctor of Nursing Practice program objectives

Building on the foundation of the master's program, the DNP program will prepare the student for the highest level of clinical nursing practice. The DNP graduate will:

1. Integrate the science and theory of nursing practice with scientific and theoretical knowledge from other disciplines to improve nursing practice and patient outcomes.
2. Integrate knowledge of effective communication and leadership skills based on professional standards to work as an effective member of an inter-professional team in the provision of safe, high quality, patient-centered care.
3. Demonstrate the appropriate and ethical use of information technology and research methods to improve practice and the practice environment.

Application terms and deadlines

Before an applicant's file can be reviewed for full program admission, all application documents must be received in Graduate Admissions by the semester deadlines listed below. Currently, students are admitted for the fall semester only.

- July 15 for the fall semester

Application requirements

To be considered for graduate admission, applicants must submit all of the following university and program application documents by the published application deadlines.

University graduate application requirements

- [Online Application for Admission to Graduate Study](#)
- Official transcripts providing evidence of an earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited U.S. institution, OR a degree equivalent to a four-year U.S. baccalaureate degree from a college or university of government-recognized standing.
- Official transcripts for all post-secondary educational institutions from which the applicant earned a degree (beginning with the first baccalaureate) and for all enrollment in graduate-level coursework beyond the bachelor's degree. International university transcripts must be evaluated by a professional credential evaluation service.
 - As part of the admission requirements, graduate programs may require official transcripts from post-secondary educational institutions from which the applicant earned an associate's degree and all enrollment in coursework both pre- and post-bachelor's degree.
- Two official and original [Recommendation for Graduate Admission](#) forms.
- Proof of English language proficiency
- [International supplemental application and supporting documentation](#) must be submitted before international applicants can be issued the Certification of Eligibility (I-20). This certificate is required to apply for a student visa from the U.S. embassy or consulate.

Program application requirements

- Completion of a master's degree in nursing in a clinical area (includes nursing administration but not nursing education) from an institution accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education with a graduate cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above.
- Proof of current certification in their specialty area.
- Applicants who have a master's degree in nursing education can apply to the DNP program, but will first have to complete the academic requirements of a post-master's certificate in an advanced practice specialty, and pass the respective certification exam.
- Proof of Practicum Experience
 - DNP applicants must provide evidence of how many clinical practicum hours they completed in their master's educational programs. Students may receive credit for up to 640 clock hours of practicum accrued in their master's program (you may not count unsupervised post-graduate clinical practice). Clinical practicum hours are assessed individually for each applicant.
 - DNP applicants must submit a completed Validation of Supervised Clinical Practice Hours form found in School of Nursing Supplemental Application.
- Copy of unrestricted license to practice as a Registered Nurse in one of the 50 states or U.S. Territories.
- [School of Nursing Supplemental Application](#).
- Both recommendations (above University requirements) must be from professionals and must include at least one from an advanced practice nursing colleague familiar with the applicant.
- Written goal statement of 500 to 1,000 words. The goal statement should focus on the applicant's professional experiences as an advanced practice nurse, how the DNP will enhance the applicant's professional development, and the applicant's career goals following completion of the program. The goal statement will be evaluated on many areas, including content and appropriate use of grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. The goal statement should be written on a word-processor in size 12 Times New Roman font.
- Individual interview with a School of Nursing faculty member.

Admission review and assessment

Admission to graduate study at Oakland University is selective. In making admission recommendations to Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning, each department assesses the potential of applicants for success in the program by examining their undergraduate records, goal statement, letters of recommendation, prerequisite courses and any other admission requirements established by the academic department.

Degree requirements

The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree requires Registered Nurses who graduated with an advanced practice focus in their master's programs to complete a minimum of 38 credits, depending on prior course/clinical work taken at the master's level. All DNP students must satisfy a minimum of 1000 supervised clock hours of practicum experience to demonstrate attainment of the doctoral level competencies. Students may receive credit for up to 640 clock hours from their master's educational program; each applicant's supervised clock hours of practicum experiences from their master's programs are assessed individually. Registered Nurses without an advanced practice clinical focus to their master's degree must complete the necessary coursework to obtain a post-master's certificate, and pass their respective certification exam, in addition to completing the 38 credits of DNP coursework.

All DNP students must complete a minimum of 38 credits of required coursework, of which at least 24 credits must be taken at Oakland University. In the DNP program, graduate credit will not be awarded for courses in which a grade less than 3.0 is earned. All numerical grades earned are used in computing a student's grade point average.

Post MSN – DNP Program

A. Foundation Courses (13 credits)

- [NRS 800 - Advanced Nursing Theory](#) (3 credits)
- [NRS 810 - Health Systems, Policy and Regulation](#) (3 credits)
- [NRS 820 - Leadership and Collaboration](#) (3 credits)
- [NRS 830 - Health Care Informatics](#) (4 credits)

B. Clinical Core (7-17)

- [NRS 841 - Introduction to Clinical Immersion](#) (2 credits)
- [NRS 842 - Clinical Immersion Practicum](#) (5 credits)
- (NRS 842 is a 5-credit course. DNP students must register for 5 to 15 credits of NRS 842.)

C. Research (18)

The purpose of the research sequence is to prepare DNP students to evaluate current research, develop a research proposal, carry out the research process, and prepare a report that could take the form of a manuscript submitted for publication, a grant proposal submitted for funding, or a report that represents the outcomes of the research effort.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing, *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice* (2006) and the policies of Oakland University Graduate Study and Lifelong Learning will be used as guides for what constitutes appropriate formatting for the final project.

DNP students must identify faculty who will serve as advisers on their DNP project and supervise the student's progress in completing the project, ensuring that all human investigation requirements are met. It is permissible for students to work in pairs (no more than two students) on the final project, with permission of the advising committee. The [School of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice Student Handbook](#) provides information and policies related to the project.

- [NRS 595 - Statistics in Advanced Nursing Practice](#) (3 credits)
- [NRS 890 - Advanced Research Methods](#) (4 credits)
- [NRS 892 - Epidemiology](#) (3 credits)
- [NRS 899 - DNP Final Project](#) (8 credits)

Teaching Strategies:

Oakland University School of Nursing uses a variety of teaching formats for its graduate programs. All required MSN Foundation courses are offered via distance learning technology. The MSN Clinical Core and Specialty coursed and DNP courses may be taught entirely using distance learning technology, use a combination of distance learning technology and classroom formats, or be entirely classroom-based. Distance learning courses at Oakland University may require up to three face-to-face sessions during a semester. For students unable to attend any course's required face-to-face sessions, every effort will be made to arrange alternate assignments.

All data in this document reflects information, as it was available on the publication date. School of Nursing and Oakland University reserve the right to revise all information contained in this publication at its discretion and to make reasonable changes in requirements to improve or upgrade academic and non-academic programs. Oakland University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action institution.