DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE
(DNP) DEGREE PROGRAM

Accreditation
The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

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 advanced 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.

DNP 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.

PROGRAM 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 1,000 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 program are assessed through a written validation form found in the supplemental application. 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.

ADMISSION TERMS AND APPLICATION DEADLINES
July 15 for the fall semester.

Before an applicant’s file can be reviewed for full program admission, all application documents must be received in the department of graduate admissions by the semester deadline.

Currently, students are admitted for the fall semester only.

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

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
To be considered for graduate admission, applicants must submit all of the required university and program application documents by the published deadline.

Select courses (NRS 810, 820, 830, 841, 892) will include assignments designed to provide supervised practice experiences that provide 250 clock hours toward the required minimum of 1000 required for the DNP. Additional practice hours are included in NRS 842 Clinical Immersion Practicum.
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. Note: Some programs require more than two recommendation forms. Refer to the program application requirements listed below for the total number of recommendations and specific requirements for the recommendations.
- 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
- Supplemental application – Doctor of Nursing Practice program.
- Copy of unrestricted license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the United States or its territories.
- Requirements for recommendations:
  - Both recommendations must be from professionals and 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 prepared in size 12 Times New Roman font.
  - Individual telephone interview with the School of Nursing’s director of graduate programs.

POST MSN – DNP PROGRAM

I. FOUNDATION COURSES (12 CREDITS)

- NRS 800 – Advanced Nursing Theory (3 credits)
- NRS 810 – Health Care Policy (3 credits)
- NRS 820 – Organization and Systems Leadership (3 credits)
- NRS 830 – Nursing and Healthcare Informatics Leadership (3 credits)

II. CLINICAL CORE COURSES (4-7 CREDITS)

- NRS 841 – Intraprofessional and Interprofessional Collaboration (2 credits)
- NRS 842* – Clinical Immersion Practicum (2-5 credits)
- NRS 842 is a clinical immersion course that can be taken across a number of semesters for a range of credits. Additional NRS 842 credits may be required, depending on the number of validated supervised hours of clinical experiences acquired in the student's master's program.

III. ELECTIVE (3-4 CREDITS)

IV. RESEARCH (18 CREDITS)

The purpose of the research sequence is to prepare DNP students to evaluate current research, develop a research proposal, and carry out the research. The final report will summarize the literature relevant to the topic of interest, methods, findings and discussion of the results including significance to nursing and plan for sustainability.

If appropriate, the project may be disseminated as a presentation, manuscript or executive summary. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing, The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (2006) and the policies of Oakland University Office of 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 DNP project team members (one faculty chair and one or more members) on their DNP project to 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 team members. The School of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice Student Handbook provides information and policies related to the DNP project.

- NRS 595 - Statistics in Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credits)
- NRS 890 - Advanced Research Methods (4 credits)
- NRS 892 - Clinical Prevention and Population Health (3 credits)
- NRS 899 - DNP Final Project (8 credits)