



## Doctor of Nursing Practice Post-Master's DNP Leadership

### Program

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is a practice-focused terminal degree earned by specialists in advanced nursing practice. The DNP focuses on developing nursing experts in translating and applying research findings in clinical practice. The post-master's DNP curriculum expands the competencies of Nursing Leadership from the master's level to encompass knowledge required as nurse leaders in increasingly complex healthcare systems to assess published evidence informing practice, improving systems of care to improve healthcare outcomes, and to make changes to enhance the quality of care.

### Requirements for Admission

Admission to the doctor of nursing practice program requires the student to meet the minimum admission requirements for graduate study of the university and the following requirements of the College of Nursing:

### Admission Criteria for the Post-Master's DNP Leadership (Applicants with a MSN)

- One official transcript from each college or university attended.
- A master's degree in nursing from a nationally accredited nursing program in leadership/administration, informatics, or an advanced practice specialty (NP, CRNA, CNM or CNS)
- Certification as an APRN (if applicable) Note: It is preferred that APRNs have at least two years of management experience.
- Grade-point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale on all graduate work.
- Evidence of current unrestricted RN licensure from North Carolina or a National Council of State Boards of Nursing compact state. International applicants must work with the Commission of Graduate of Foreign Nursing Schools validate credentials before applying for RN licensure.
- Satisfactory performance on Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores where English is not the first language. Students on foreign student visas must present evidence of professional standing in their respective countries.
- Computer competency with proficiency in development and use of databases, patient information systems, statistical sets, and use of various statistical packages for data analysis.
- A graduate statistics course which includes inferential statistics within the past 5 years is recommended.
- A graduate research methodology course.
- GRE requirement waived for those with an earned MSN.
- Written statement of personal career, educational, and scholarship goals; identification of practice interests, leadership goals and match with program goals.
- Three written professional references from individuals with expertise to comment on the applicant's capability for doctoral scholarship (for example, university professors, employers). At least one of the references must be from a doctoral prepared nurse.
- A current curriculum vita.
- A representative E-portfolio limited to no more than 25 pages demonstrating evidence of professional practice accomplishments, community service and scholarship is recommended.
- An online interview via Interview Stream to include a discussion of the student's practice interests/career goals and research.

### Requirements for Clinical Courses

Information regarding clinical requirements can be found in the ECU College of Nursing Student Handbook at: [www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nursing/customcf/downloads/handbooks/grad\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nursing/customcf/downloads/handbooks/grad_handbook.pdf). Upon admission all graduate students are required to complete a criminal background check. Students will receive specific instructions from the Office of Student Services on how to complete this process.

(OVER)



## Sample Curriculum Plan – Post-Master’s Leadership DNP – Part-Time

### First-Year Students

#### Fall Semester

NURS 8273	Healthcare Finance	3
NURS 8267	Design and Statistical Methods for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>

#### Spring Semester

NURS 8261	Conceptual Foundations & Applications of Translational Science	3
NURS 8263	Inter-professional Leadership for Excellence in Practice, Policy, and Ethics	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>

#### Summer Semester

NURS 8270	Population Health in Advanced Inter-professional Practice	3
NURS 8269	DNP Project I	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>First-Year Total</b>		<b>18</b>

### Second-Year Students

#### Fall Semester

NURS 8291	Analytical Decision-Making in Complex Healthcare Systems	3
NURS 8272	DNP Project II	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>

#### Spring Semester

NURS 8290	Organizational Behavior in the Healthcare Environment	3
NURS 8274	DNP Project III	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>

#### Summer Semester

NURS 8292	Legal Aspects of Health Care Operations	3
NURS 8277	DNP Project IV	3
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Second-Year Total</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>Program Total</b>		<b>36</b>

Project: A minimum of 12 DNP Project credit hours divided over 4 semesters depending on project complexity.

In order to achieve the DNP competencies, programs must provide a minimum of 1,000 hours of practice post-baccalaureate as part of a supervised academic program. The required clinical hours for the 4 DNP Project courses will vary and will be calculated based upon the number of clinical hours completed in student’s MSN program.

**All PM DNP- Leadership students are admitted in a part-time plan of study.**

### Requirements for Graduation

- All graduate students are required to maintain a grade average of “B.”
- Graduation application must be submitted at least one semester prior to completing the degree requirements as stated in the graduate catalog.
- Students who do not register for courses for a semester must complete an electronic readmission form (available at [www.ecu.edu/gradschool/](http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/) and in the Graduate School Office).
- Students are required to keep graduate program/health requirements and liability insurance requirements up to date throughout their clinical courses.

### The University

The university is the third largest in the University of North Carolina system (UNC), which consists of the state’s sixteen degree-granting public institutions. ECU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degrees and is designated as an academic health center by the Association of American Health Centers. Governed by its own Board of Trustees, which is responsible to the UNC Board of Governors, ECU offers 80 departmental certificates, 93 baccalaureate degree programs, 76 master’s degree programs, two specialist degree programs, six first professional programs, and 15 doctoral programs in our professional colleges, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Dental Medicine, and the Brody School of Medicine. It confers more than 5,800 degrees annually and it has approximately 160,000 alumni.

**For more information, contact [ECUNursingGradPrgrms@ecu.edu](mailto:ECUNursingGradPrgrms@ecu.edu)**

East Carolina University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, creed, sexual orientation, or disability.  
An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, which accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.

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