

Doctor of Nursing Practice BSN to DNP – Family Nurse Practitioner

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. Graduates of our DNP program are prepared as nurse leaders in interprofessional health care teams and work to improve systems of care, patient outcomes, quality, and safety.

The BSN to DNP curriculum is a 70 semester-hour curriculum that prepares nurses for entry into advanced practice. The curriculum is designed for students who have earned a bachelor's (or higher) degree in nursing, and who now wish to pursue a DNP with an advanced nursing practice specialty focus as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). The FNP program of study requires 70 semester hours, inclusive of 840 clinical practice hours. The program requires completion of a four-semester DNP project.

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 BSN to DNP

- A baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited nursing program.
- A minimum of one year of experience as a Registered Nurse (RN).
- Grade-point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale on all graduate work.
- GRE Waiver (with GPA above 3.4) or acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) within the past five years.
- Currently non-restricted license to practice as a registered nurse (RN) in North Carolina or NCSBN-compact state. International applicants must work with the Commission of Graduate Foreign Nursing Schools to 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.
- Successful completion of a graduate statistics course which includes inferential statistics within the past five years is recommended.
- An undergraduate research course.
- Basic computer competency with proficiency in development and use of databases, patient information systems, statistical sets, and use of various statistical packages for data analysis.
- 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. See <https://nursing.ecu.edu/dnp/admissions/> for instruction on E-portfolio.
- An online interview via Interview Stream to include a discussion of the student's practice interests/career goals and research.

Requirements for All Courses

Information regarding clinical requirements can be found in the ECU College of Nursing Student Handbook. 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.

**Sample Curriculum Plan
BSN to DNP
Family Nurse Practitioner Tract
4-Year Part-Time Plan of Study**

YEAR 1								
<u>Fall</u>		<u>Spring</u>		<u>Summer</u>				
NURS 6611	Clinical Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3	NURS 6610	Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	3	NURS 8113	Advanced Practice Nursing: Introduction to the Primary Care of Adults	3
NURS 8261	Conceptual Foundations and Application of Translational Science	3	NURS 6050	Human Physiology and Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3	NURS 8270	Population Health in Advanced Interprofessional Practice	3
Sem. Total:		6	Sem. Total:		6	Sem. Total:		6
YEAR 2								
<u>Fall 2</u>		<u>Spring 2</u>		<u>Summer 2</u>				
NURS 8114	Advanced Practice Nursing with Families: Primary Care of Adults	3	NURS 8116	Advanced Practice Nursing: Obstetrical Healthcare	3	NURS 8263	Interprofessional Leadership and Role Development for Excellence in Practice, Policy and Ethics	3
NURS 8115	Advanced Practice Nursing: Reproductive Healthcare	2	NURS8121	Advanced Practice Nursing: Care of Older Adults	3	NURS 8273	Healthcare Finance	3
Sem. Total:		5	Sem. Total:		6	Sem. Total:		6
YEAR 3								
<u>Fall 3</u>		<u>Spring 3</u>		<u>Summer 3</u>				
NURS 8118	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum I: Primary Care of Adults	3	NURS 8119	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum II: Obstetrics and Pediatrics	4	NURS 8269	DNP Project I	3
NURS 8267	Design and Statistical Methods for Advanced Nursing Practice	3	NURS 8117	Advanced Practice Nursing: Pediatric Healthcare	4	Sem. Total:		3
Sem. Total:		6	Sem. Total:		8	Sem. Total:		3
YEAR 4								
<u>Fall 4</u>		<u>Spring 4</u>		<u>Summer 4</u>				
NURS 8120	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum III: Synthesis in Primary Care	4	NURS 8124	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum IV: Transition to Practice	5	NURS8277	DNP Project IV	3
NURS 8272	DNP Project II	3	NURS 8274	DNP Project III	3	Sem. Total:		70
Sem. Total		7	Sem. Total		8	Program Total		70

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/ 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 Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at East Carolina University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. (CCNE) 655 K street, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001. Phone: 202.887.6791.

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

Updated June 26, 2019