

## **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 FNP (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, inclusive of 500 hours over the four project courses.

### **Requirements for Admission**

Admission to the DNP 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 (Waived with GPA above 3.4) or acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) within the past five years.
- Current 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**

<b>EAR 1Y</b>										
<b>Fall</b>			<b>Spring</b>			<b>Summer</b>				
NURS 6610	Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	3	NURS 6611	Clinical Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3	NURS 8113	Advanced Practice Nursing: Introduction to the Primary Care of Adults	3		
NURS 8267	Design and Statistical Methods for Advanced Nursing Practice	3	NURS 6050	Human Physiology and Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3	NURS 8261	Conceptual Foundations and Application of Translational Science	3		
<b>Sem. Total:</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>Sem. Total:</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>Sem. Total:</b>		<b>6</b>		
<b>YEAR 2</b>										
<b>Fall 2</b>			<b>Spring 2</b>			<b>Summer 2</b>				
NURS 8114	Advanced Practice Nursing with Families: Primary Care of Adults	3	NURS 8116	Advanced Practice Nursing: Obstetrical Healthcare	3	NURS 8270	Population Health in Advanced Interprofessional Practice	3		
NURS 8115	Advanced Practice Nursing: Reproductive Healthcare	2	NURS8121	Advanced Practice Nursing: Care of Older Adults	3					
<b>Sem. Total:</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>Sem. Total:</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>Sem. Total:</b>		<b>3</b>		
<b>YEAR 3</b>										
<b>Fall 3</b>			<b>Spring 3</b>			<b>Summer 3</b>				
NURS 8118	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum I: Primary Care of Adults	3	NURS 8119	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum II: Obstetrics and Pediatrics	4	NURS 8263	Interprofessional Leadership and Role Development for Excellence in Practice, Policy and Ethics	3		
NURS 8273	Healthcare Finance	3	NURS 8117	Advanced Practice Nursing: Pediatric Healthcare	4	NURS 8272	DNP Project II	3		
			NURS 8269	DNP Project I	3					
<b>Sem. Total:</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>Sem. Total:</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>Sem. Total:</b>		<b>6</b>		
<b>YEAR 4</b>										
<b>Fall 4</b>			<b>Spring 4</b>							
NURS 8120	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum III: Synthesis in Primary Care	4	NURS 8124	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum IV: Transition to Practice	5					
NURS 8274	DNP Project III	3	NURS 8277	DNP Project IV	3					
<b>Sem. Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>Sem. Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>Program Total</b>		<b>70</b>		

**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 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**

East Carolina University (ECU), a public, four-year university established in 1907, is located in Greenville, North Carolina. ECU has 11 degree-granting colleges/school/institutes. Serving a largely rural population in the coastal region of the state, ECU is one of 17 constituent institutions within the University of North Carolina (UNC) System. ECU accomplishes its mission - to be a national model for student success, public service and regional transformation - through education, research, creative activities and service. As of Fall 2018, ECU is the fourth largest institution in the UNC System. ECU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. The UNC System is governed by a Board of Governors, which delegates significant responsibility to ECU's Board of Trustees. The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education classifies ECU as a Doctoral University: Higher Research Activity. In 2010 and 2015, ECU received the Community Engagement Classification from the New England Resource Center for Higher Education.

**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

**Updated May 20, 2021**

