

NURSING PRACTICE, DNP

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee prepares clinician advanced practice scholars and healthcare systems leaders. The degree represents the highest academic preparation in clinical nursing. Clinical practice is the core of the program with emphasis on inquiry, implementation science and quality management to inform health care policy and systems leadership.

The UWM DNP Program fully conforms to APRN Consensus Model and abides by curricular standards set by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists and the National Task Force.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a 72-credit program with options for full- and part-time study. The program admits students in Fall and Spring semesters. Students in this entry point receive one of the following transcript-designated concentrations:

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP)
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
- Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (AG-CNS)
- Nursing System Leadership (admissions suspended Spring 2026)

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

Admission

The admission requirements of the DNP program in Nursing follow standards specified by the Graduate School of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In addition, students must also meet the following requirements:

1. A bachelor's degree or a master's in Nursing from a nationally accredited program.
2. Minimum undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (4.0 scale) in the most recent degree program.
3. One year of RN practice experience at the time of program start.
4. Completion with a grade of B or higher of an upper-level undergraduate or graduate course in statistics within the last ten years.
5. A current unencumbered Registered Nurse license.
6. Two (2) letters of recommendation from persons most knowledgeable about the applicant's recent academic and work experiences.
7. Completion of a personal statement.
8. Current CV or resume.
9. Personal interview with a member of the DNP Program Holistic Admissions Committee.

This program is not eligible for F-1 visa status due to its delivery format.

Reapplication

A student who receives a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee must formally reapply for admission to the Graduate School before continuing studies toward the DNP.

Credits and Courses

Post Advanced Practice Master's

The Post Advanced Practice Masters Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is an online-only 26-32 credit entry point for students who are already have a master's degree and are board certified as one of the four designated Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Roles as defined by APRN Consensus Model. The variable credits reflect the credit intensive plans of study of typical master's programs preparing APRNs. Up to six credits from the student's previous program may be recognized based on review of the previous coursework and transcript.

The program includes the foundations core (3 credits), implementation science core (9 credits), and systems core (12 credits). All students in this entry point complete the DNP Project Core coursework and a DNP project (8 credits).

| Code | Title | Credits |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Core Theoretical Coursework | | |
| <i>Foundations Core</i> | | |
| NURS 728 | Population Health for Advanced Practice Nursing | 3 |
| <i>Implementation Science Core</i> | | |
| NURS 724 | Biostatistics and Epidemiology for Advanced Practice | 3 |
| NURS 725 | Advanced Evidence-Based Practice in Health Care | 3 |
| NURS 805 | Implementation Science Methods | 3 |
| <i>Systems Core</i> | | |
| NURS 750 | Quality Outcomes and Safety | 3 |
| NURS 773 | Applied Health Informatics | 3 |
| NURS 803 | Health Systems Policy and Economics | 3 |
| NURS 804 | Health Systems Leadership | 3 |
| Project Core | | |
| NURS 993 | DNP Project I: Plan | 2 |
| NURS 994 | DNP Project II: Proposal | 2 |
| NURS 995 | DNP Project III: Leadership Practice Immersion ¹ | 4 |
| Total Credits | | 32 |

¹ May be completed over 1 or 2 semesters with approval of the Program Director

Additional Requirements

Faculty Advisor

The student must have a Faculty Advisor to advise and supervise the student's studies as specified in Graduate School regulations. The student is assigned to a Faculty Advisor at the time of admission.

Leadership Practice Immersion

Both the post baccalaureate and post master's curriculum include a 4-credit DNP Project III, an experience that will include the required DNP

project. This residency experience will include 460 additional clinical hours in the student's specialty focus area and will include an emphasis on the evidence-based practice, leadership and system competencies of the DNP prepared graduate.

Time Limit

Students in the post baccalaureate DNP program must complete all degree requirements within seven years of the first enrollment semester as a degree student. Students in the post master's DNP program must complete all degree requirements within five years of the first enrollment semester as a degree student.

Minimum Grade Requirement

For continuation in the program, in addition to general Graduate School requirements (<https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/students/academic-policies-and-procedures/doctoral-resources/doctoral-requirements/>), students must achieve a minimum grade of B- in all required nursing courses. However, an overall GPA of 3.00 is still required for the degree.

Residence

The student must meet minimum Graduate School residence requirements.

DNP Project II: Proposal/Doctoral Preliminary Examination

The student must pass a doctoral preliminary examination to qualify for formal admission to candidacy for degree. The doctoral examination comprises a written portfolio and an oral component, taken in that sequence, with each component requiring a passing grade for successful completion. The examination is an integrative experience that is designed to validate the student's mastery of the content of the DNP curriculum and must be completed prior to beginning the residency experience.

DNP Project III: Leadership Practice Immersion

The candidate will complete a final comprehensive clinical project as part of the Leadership Practice Immersion experience which demonstrates the ability to implement the principles of evidence-based practice and translation under the direction of the faculty advisor.

The candidate must, as the final step toward the degree, pass an oral examination in defense of the clinical project. A candidate who does not pass this examination may apply for reexamination within one year from the initial examination date. This reexamination may occur only one time. A candidate who does not pass this examination within program time limits may be required to undergo another comprehensive preliminary examination and be readmitted to the program and/or candidacy.

Nursing Practice DNP Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from the Nursing Practice, DNP program will be able to:

- engagement with partners, communities, public health, industry, academia, health care, local government entities, and others.
4. Generate, synthesize, translate, and disseminate nursing knowledge using a spirit of inquiry to improve health and transform complex health care systems.
5. Design, lead, implement, and disseminate quality and safety initiatives using improvement science to enhance outcomes and minimize risk of harm to patients and providers through both system effectiveness and individual performance.
6. Lead interprofessional care teams to facilitate intentional collaboration with patients, families, and community partners, fostering a climate of mutual respect and shared values to enhance the healthcare experience and improve outcomes.
7. Direct transformation within complex healthcare system to use resources effectively and provide safe, quality, cost-effective, and equitable care within the advanced nursing practice specialty.
8. Use and evaluate healthcare, information, and communication technologies to gather data, inform decision making, provide and document safe care, and drive improvement that aligns with best practice and professional and regulatory standards.
9. Cultivate and model a professional identity in alignment with the school of nursing's mission, vision, and values, demonstrating wisdom and ethics for the advanced nursing role and leadership practice.
10. Cultivate personal health and resilience, to expand professional identity and leadership competencies through reflective practice and lifelong learning within the advanced nursing practice specialty role.

1. Lead, translate and integrate knowledge from nursing and other disciplines, including a foundation in liberal arts, natural and social sciences at the advanced nursing practice specialty level.
2. Design, lead, coordinate and evaluate person-centered care that is evidence-based, inclusive and respects patients as full partners in providing compassionate, developmentally appropriate, and culturally safe care at the advanced nursing practice specialty level.
3. Lead and evaluate initiatives that advocate for equitable population health outcomes across the healthcare delivery continuum, through