

# NURSING, DNP

Banner Code: PH-DNP-NURS

## Academic Advising

Website: <https://publichealth.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising>  
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The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is the terminal practice degree in the profession. The objective of the program is to prepare graduates for the highest level of nursing practice. Emphasis will be placed on evaluating and applying the evidence that supports practice, understanding and creating practice delivery systems based on patient outcomes, and assuming leadership roles in practice settings. The curriculum will allow students with diverse nursing academic and clinical backgrounds the flexibility to enter a program of study tailored to their future professional goals. In the curriculum, five concentrations are available. The concentrations are configured into two foci as recommended by the American Academy of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) *Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (2006)*, the guidance document for DNP programs. The two foci are:

1. Care of individuals with three concentrations, Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; and
2. Care of aggregates with the Administration in Nursing concentration.

The DNP program is approved by the Virginia State Board of Nursing and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The nurse practitioner concentrations have been approved by the state boards of nursing and medicine in Virginia.

## Admissions & Policies

### Admissions Requirements

Applicants must meet the admission standards and application requirements specified in Graduate Admissions (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) and must apply using the online Application for Graduate Admission (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/>). Applicants must be graduates of accredited baccalaureate (BSN) programs in nursing and must have passed a statistics course within the last five years. Applicants who have not passed a statistics course in the past five years may be provisionally admitted and must pass statistics in their first semester. Applicants for the master's to DNP curriculum must also have a master's degree in nursing or a related field. All applicants must submit a copy of their current state-based/US nursing license and show evidence of at least one year of experience as an RN prior to admission. For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, refer to the College of Public Health Admissions website (<https://publichealth.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines/>).

## Policies

### Transfers Between Programs or Concentrations

Approval from the school and college is required for students who wish to transfer between concentrations of the DNP or who wish to resign from the DNP and transfer to the MSN program.

Students must meet the institutional requirements stated in AP.6 Graduate Policies. (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>)

### Transfer of Credit

Students may transfer a maximum of 9 credits into the DNP program from graduate courses taken at other institutions or taken at Mason in non-degree status, including courses offered through the college's Academic Outreach program. Transfer credit is governed by university transfer of graduate credit policy and the university requirements for doctoral degrees, and transfer credit must be approved by the program director and/or dean. Students who enroll initially through non-degree studies or the Academic Outreach program should seek course advising through the department and should submit their application to the DNP program as soon as possible after beginning their study in non-degree status.

### Reduction of Credit

Students who come into the master's to DNP program will complete 72 credits, including up to 30 hours of relevant graduate credit awarded for past master's-level courses.

### Time Requirements

The total time to degree will not exceed eight (8) calendar years for BSN to DNP students and will not exceed six (6) calendar years for master's to DNP students.

### Academic Termination

Academic termination is governed by university policy described in AP.6.6.2 Academic Termination (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-6-2>). Additionally, a failing grade of F in a practicum course may result in termination from the program. Any graduate course in which a student earns a C grade or below must be repeated to earn a grade of B or better. A course may be repeated only once. A student may also be terminated from the program due to a finding of violation of the university Honor Code (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>) or after demonstrating a significant lack of progress.

### Grading

Consistent with the university, the DNP program does not provide a D grade. Final grades for all DNP courses are submitted to the university as letter grades.

Grade	Quality Points	Graduate Courses
A (90-100%)	4.00	Passing
B (80-89%)	3.00	Passing
C (70-79%)	2.00	Failing
F (69% or lower)	0.00	Failing

A graduate course in which a grade of C or below is earned must be repeated to earn a grade of B or better. A course may be repeated only once. Graduate students (both master's and doctoral) may repeat no more than two courses in their total program of study.

## Practicum Hour Requirements

The DNP degree requires a minimum of 1,000 practice hours. The 1,000 hours of precepted or mentored practice are distributed among introductory and upper-level graduate courses. Variable hours in the clinical practicums (NURS 921 and NURS 922) will assure a minimum total of 1,000 clinical hours prior to DNP graduation.

Master's to DNP students can transfer in up to 600 hours (depending on the number of hours they accrued during their master's program). The number of clinical hours a student is awarded on admission is based on transcripts and course descriptions. Faculty will review clinical credits earned as part of the master's degree to determine the number of clinical hours awarded.

## Requirements

### Degree Requirements

Total credits: 72

#### BSN to DNP Curriculum

##### Level I Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 665	Theoretical and Ethical Foundations Related to Nursing	3
NURS 688	Organization of Nursing and Health Care Delivery Systems	3
NURS 758	Nursing Research and Biostatistics II	3
Total Credits		9

##### Level II Core Essentials Courses

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 643	Community-Oriented Primary Care	3
NURS 715	Nursing Informatics Inquiry	3
NURS 808	Translating Nursing and Health Care Research into Evidence-Based Policy	3
NURS 870	Nursing and Health Care Administration I	3
NURS 883	Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare	4
Total Credits		16

##### Public Health Requirement

Code	Title	Credits
GCH 700	Social and Ecological Determinants of Health	3
Total Credits		3

##### Advanced Practice Competency Courses

Complete requirements of one concentration.

#### CONCENTRATIONS

- Concentration in Nursing Administration (NUAD)
- Concentration in Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (AGNP)
- Concentration in Family Nurse Practitioner (FNUP)
- Concentration in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHN)

#### Concentrations in Advanced Nursing Care of Aggregates Concentration in Nursing Administration (NUAD)

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 654	Nursing Administration Financial Management	3
or HAP 703	Financial Management in Health Systems	
NURS 763	Administrative Theory in Nursing	3
NURS 765	Practicum in Nursing Administration I	3
NURS 766	Administrative Strategies in Nursing	3
NURS 768	Practicum in Nursing Administration II	3
NURS 871	Nursing and Health Care Administration II	2
NURS 874	Internship in Health Care Administration/Policy/Education	4
Electives toward career goal <sup>1</sup>		5
NURS 921	Clinical Practicum I <sup>2</sup>	8
NURS 922	Clinical Practicum II	2
Total Credits		36

1

All electives must be approved by advisor prior to the start of the course.

2

NURS 921 Clinical Practicum I credits will be taken over multiple semesters.

#### Concentrations in Advanced Nursing Care of Individuals Concentration in Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (AGNP)

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 714	Health Assessment in Clinical Practice	2
NURS 724	Health Assessment Practicum	1
NURS 761	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NURS 769	Physiology and Pathophysiology in Advanced Practice	3
NURS 713	Decision Making and Pharmacologic Management in Practice	3
NURS 786	Adult Gerontology Primary Care Practicum I	2
NURS 787	Adult Gerontology Primary Care I	2
NURS 788	Adult Gerontology Primary Care Practicum II	4
NURS 789	Adult Gerontology Primary Care II	3
NURS 790	Adult Gerontology Primary Care Practicum III	4
NURS 791	Adult Gerontology Primary Care III	4
NURS 921	Clinical Practicum I	3
NURS 922	Clinical Practicum II	2
Total Credits		36

**Concentration in Family Nurse Practitioner (FNUP)**

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 713	Decision Making and Pharmacologic Management in Practice	3
NURS 714	Health Assessment in Clinical Practice	2
NURS 724	Health Assessment Practicum	1
NURS 761	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NURS 769	Physiology and Pathophysiology in Advanced Practice	3
NURS 738	Family Primary Care I	2
NURS 742	Family Primary Care Practicum I	2
NURS 739	Family Primary Care II	4
NURS 744	Family Primary Care Practicum II	4
NURS 741	Family Primary Care III	3
NURS 749	Family Primary Care Practicum III	4
NURS 921	Clinical Practicum I	3
NURS 922	Clinical Practicum II	2
Total Credits		36

**Concentration in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHN)**

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 632	Pathogenesis of Mental Disorders	3
NURS 633	Individual Psychotherapy	3
NURS 634	Group, Family and Couple Psychotherapy	1
NURS 714	Health Assessment in Clinical Practice	2
NURS 724	Health Assessment Practicum	1
NURS 743	Clinical Psychopharmacology	3
NURS 761	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NURS 769	Physiology and Pathophysiology in Advanced Practice	3
NURS 782	Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Practicum I	4
NURS 783	Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Seminar I	2
NURS 784	Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Practicum II	5
NURS 785	Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Seminar II	2
NURS 921	Clinical Practicum I	2
NURS 922	Clinical Practicum II	2
Total Credits		36

**DNP Project**

The final step in completion of the degree is the implementation of a DNP project in the practice inquiry courses. The proposal for this project must be prepared with ample time for submission to the Human Subjects Review Board at George Mason University. One School of Nursing faculty member will serve as chair for the project. The student must demonstrate competence of the AACN *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education (2021)* by planning, developing, and implementing a scholarly DNP project that uses evidence to inform practice. This entails (1) identifying a problem; (2) searching, analyzing, and synthesizing the literature for evidence, (3) translating the evidence into a strategy/method to address the problem; (4) designing a plan and implementing the project (when possible); and (5) evaluating the outcomes, process, and/or experience (AACN, 2021).

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 980	Practice Inquiry I	4
NURS 981	Practice Inquiry II	4
Total Credits		8

**Master's to DNP Curriculum**

Students in the master's to DNP program will complete 72 credits. Up to 30 hours of relevant graduate credit may be awarded for past master's-level courses, and students will complete the remaining minimum of 42 additional credits following the curriculum below.

The core essentials build on previous master's education and must be completed in the first year of full-time study or two years of part-time study. They prepare the student to develop and implement the DNP project in the final two semesters of study. The core essentials for master's to DNP students will be individualized based on the content from the student's master's degree academic program.

Students must complete 1,000 hours of precepted or mentored practice including those obtained during previous master's education (individually awarded based on evaluation of master's clinical hours up to 600 hours). Students also must take additional electives to meet the total requirement of 72 credits required to complete the program.

Students may add one of the following concentrations to their DNP application: Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, or Nursing Administration.

**Level II Core Essentials Courses**

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 654	Nursing Administration Financial Management	3
or HAP 703	Financial Management in Health Systems	
NURS 715	Nursing Informatics Inquiry	3
NURS 758	Nursing Research and Biostatistics II	3
NURS 808	Translating Nursing and Health Care Research into Evidence-Based Policy	3
NURS 870	Nursing and Health Care Administration I	3
NURS 883	Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare	4
Total Credits		19

**Public Health Requirement**

Code	Title	Credits
GCH 700	Social and Ecological Determinants of Health	3
Total Credits		3

**Advanced Practice Competency Courses**

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 921	Clinical Practicum I	1-10
NURS 922	Clinical Practicum II	1-10
Total Credits		2-20

**DNP Project**

The final step in completion of the degree is the implementation of a DNP project in the practice inquiry courses. The proposal for this project must be prepared with ample time for submission to the Human Subjects Review Board at George Mason University. One School of Nursing

faculty member will serve as chair for the project. The student must demonstrate competence of the AACN *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education (2021)* by planning, developing, and implementing a scholarly DNP project that uses evidence to inform practice. This entails (1) identifying a problem; (2) searching, analyzing, and synthesizing the literature for evidence, (3) translating the evidence into a strategy/method to address the problem; (4) designing a plan and implementing the project (when possible); and (5) evaluating the outcomes, process, and/or experience (AACN, 2021).

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
NURS 980	Practice Inquiry I	4
NURS 981	Practice Inquiry II	4
Total Credits		8

**Electives**

If needed, elective courses should be taken to complete the required 42 program credits. All electives must be approved by the advisor prior to the start of the course.