

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Degree Program

The Doctor of Nursing Practice academic degree requires a minimum of 70 nursing graduate credit hours and a minimum of 1,000 post-baccalaureate practice hours. Students with a BSN degree can enter the program through the BSN to DNP track, while students with an MSN degree can enter the program through the MSN to DNP track.

BSN-DNP Track

The BSN-DNP program is an online curriculum with six required on-campus, three-day “Intensives” and a minimum of 70 nursing graduate credit hours. In addition, a minimum of 600 direct patient-care practice hours for nurse practitioner students or 600 leadership residency practice hours are part of the minimum 1,000 required residency hours. The full-time, three-year program (nine semesters) consists of 5-11 credit hours per semester. The part-time, four-year program (12 semesters) consists of 5-9 credit hours per semester. While most course work is on-line, there are some courses that have “live” or synchronous virtual classrooms.

- Full-Time plan of study: <http://www.umsl.edu/~nursingweb/files/pdfs/doctoral/sample-plans-of-study/bsn-to-dnp-full-time-plan-of-study.pdf>
- Part-Time plan of study: <http://www.umsl.edu/~nursingweb/files/pdfs/doctoral/sample-plans-of-study/bsn-to-dnp-part-time-plan-of-study.pdf>

MSN-DNP Track

The MSN-DNP program is also an online curriculum. MSN graduate credit hours may be applicable towards the DNP required credit hours (for a minimum of 70 nursing graduate credit hours). There are six required on-campus, three-day “Intensives”.

- Plan of study: <http://www.umsl.edu/~nursingweb/files/pdfs/doctoral/sample-plans-of-study/msn-to-dnp-part-time-plan-of-study.pdf>

BSN-DNP Population Program Tracks Offered at UMSL:

- **Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care (AGNP-PC)**
 - Coordinator: Allison Brauch, DNP, APRN, AGNP-BC, PMHNP-BC (braucha@umsl.edu)
- **Family Nurse Practitioner- Primary Care (FNP)**
 - Coordinator: Natalie Murphy, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC (murphyn@umsl.edu)
- **Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Acute Care (PNP-AC)**
 - Coordinator: Jessica Mann, DNP, APRN, PNP-AC (jk154a@mail.umsl.edu)
- **Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care (PNP-PC)**
 - Coordinator: Lisa Merritt, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC, PMHS (schaegE@umsl.edu)
- **Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner- Primary Care (PMHNP)**
 - Coordinator: Allison Brauch, DNP, APRN, AGNP-BC, PMHNP-BC (braucha@umsl.edu)
- **Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner- Primary Care (WHNP)**
 - Coordinator: Laura Kuensting, DNP, APRN, PCNS-BC, CPNP, CPEN (kuenstingl@umsl.edu)
- **Leadership in Population Health and Healthcare Systems**
 - Coordinator: Laura Kuensting, DNP, APRN, PCNS-BC, CPNP, CPEN (kuenstingl@umsl.edu)

Clinical Scholarship Project: An applied project analyzing a clinical practice, education, leadership, or legislative issue that implements an evidence-based practice improvement change or legislative policy change. A publishable paper, poster

presentation and an oral presentation/defense is required. The nursing graduate faculty and the graduate school must accept the project, results, and professional presentation.

Comprehensive Examination: The proposal defense for the clinical scholarship project serves as the comprehensive examination.

Program Website: <http://umsl.edu/go/DNP>

Application Requirements

1. Complete the Graduate School on-line application: <http://umsl.edu/go/Apply-Now>
2. Complete the DNP College of Nursing Application:
https://apps.umsl.edu/webapps/ITS/Nursing_apps/index.cfm
3. Evidence of U.S. permanent resident or citizen (e.g., social security card, passport, etc.) or visa to the United States.
4. Grade point average: Minimum of 3.25 (BSN) and/or a 3.25 (MSN) GPA on a 4.0 scale.
5. Submit transcripts:
 - a. Official transcripts from all universities attended
 - b. International applicants are required to document English proficiency by providing scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission
 - c. MSN-DNP applicants must reflect successful completion (i.e., grade of 'B' or higher) graduate coursework (5000 level or higher) in advanced health assessment, advanced pathophysiology, and advanced pharmacology.
 - Applicants must have a BSN and/or MSN degree from a program with U.S. national nursing accreditation (e.g., CCNE).
 - Successful completion (i.e., grade of 'C' or higher) of an undergraduate or graduate level general statistics course before starting the program or concomitant with the first semester of the program.
 - BSN-DNP applicants who are alumni of UMSL's undergraduate nursing programs with a 3.75 (BSN) grade point average for the last 60 hours will have guaranteed admission into the program. Once admitted, students must maintain a 3.25 GPA.
6. Evidence of current registered nurse licensure in all states licensed to practice.
7. Current CV/Resume
8. An essay, which should respond to the following attributes:
 - Introduction (250 word max.):
 - Include professional background, but not personal identifiers such as name, place of employment, etc., and the population track of interest (i.e., leadership, FNP, AGNP, etc.).
 - Learning (250 word max.):
 - Describe how you think about and pursue learning in your profession.
 - Diversity (250 word max.):

- Discuss a nursing practice experience that changed or impacted your understanding of diversity and why.
 - Meaningfulness (250 word max.):
 - Describe an activity that brings meaning to your life.
 - Leadership (250 word max.):
 - Describe direct or indirect leadership experiences you have had.
 - Final Summary
9. Two letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the applicant's likely success in the DNP program.
 10. A copy of your Advanced Nursing Practice Document of Recognition (if applicable)
 11. A copy of your National Advanced Practice Certificate (if applicable)

Application Deadline

The deadline for receipt of all admission materials is January 15 of each year for the following fall admission. A rolling admission will occur until class is full. Applications must be received in full (i.e., all required documents are submitted) for consideration. Acceptance notification will occur by March for January applicants, and within four weeks during rolling admission.

Application Fee: \$50 for domestic applicants; \$40 for international applicants

Program Contact Information:

PGC/DNP Program Director

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