

# **Doctor of Nursing Practice, BSN to DNP Admission and General Requirements**

The UMSL College of Nursing is committed to admitting a diverse group of students who will become nurse leaders responsive to the specific needs of the communities and populations we serve. We value diversity, intellectual discourse and rigor, caring, professionalism, mutual respect and support, innovation, collaboration, and transparency. Applicants will be selected using inclusive and balanced admission criteria that measure their potential in nursing practice, education, research, and scholarship. We measure our success by graduates who become lifelong learners and leaders in their communities and in the profession of nursing.

Applicants to the DNP program will be holistically reviewed using criteria such as GPA, a personal statement, an essay, work/volunteer experiences, professional activities, leadership roles, honors, award recognitions, etc.

Due to higher education regulation changes, the University of Missouri–St. Louis cannot admit students from all states for online programs. Please see the Center for Teaching and Learning for additional information: [http://www.umsl.edu/services/ctl/onlinelearning/state\\_authorization.html](http://www.umsl.edu/services/ctl/onlinelearning/state_authorization.html)

## **Admission Criteria BSN to DNP**

The post-baccalaureate entry point is designed for registered nurses who have completed a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree and desire to obtain a doctoral degree in nursing practice. The student will develop the knowledge, skills, and expertise to become clinical scholars, clinical experts, and transformational leaders who will function at the highest level of nursing practice.

### **General Admission Criteria:**

- Admission to the University by completing the UMSL Graduate School application
- Completion of College of Nursing supplemental application
- BSN from a nationally accredited nursing program

- BSN 3.0 GPA (calculated on last 60 hours of BSN coursework)
- Current professional licensure
- Completion of an undergraduate general statistics course

### **Direct Admit BSN to DNP Option**

Direct admission to the BSN to DNP program is selective and open to students who have earned a BSN from UMSL or completed the UMSL CON Externship in Nursing Summer program and earned a BSN degree from a nationally accredited nursing program.

#### **Admission Criteria:**

Admission to the University by completing the UMSL Graduate School application

- Completion of College of Nursing supplemental application
- BSN from UMSL **OR** completed the UMSL CON Externship in Nursing Summer Program and earned a BSN degree from a nationally accredited nursing program
- 3.75 GPA in last 60 hours of BSN coursework

Once admitted, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Spaces in the BSN to DNP program are limited and are first awarded to guaranteed applicants. Based on space availability, applications will be accepted until the class is full.

### **Degree Requirements**

#### **Core Content for BSN to DNP program**

Completion of the BSN to DNP program has seven program emphasis areas: six Nurse Practitioner emphasis areas and a Leadership in Healthcare Systems emphasis area. All programs include coursework in Foundational Concepts, Clinical Expertise, and Integration of Practice.

## Foundational Concepts

NURSE 6000	Writing Seminar	1
NURSE 6111	Healthcare Systems	3
NURSE 6130	Research, Interventions and Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURSE 6410	DNP Systems Level Thinking	3
NURSE 6424	Social Determinants of Health for Underserved Populations	3
<del>NURSE 7211</del>	<del>Biostatistics-I</del>	<del>3</del>
NURSE 7210	Biostatistics and Epidemiology	4
NURSE 7215	Evidence-Based Practice for the DNP	3
NURSE 7220	Leadership in Practice	3
<del>NURSE 7230</del>	<del>Epidemiology</del>	<del>3</del>
NURSE 7240	Health Informatics	3
NURSE 7260	Program Evaluation and Quality Management in Healthcare	3
NURSE 7443	Healthcare Policy and Economics	3
<del>Nursing elective</del>		<del>3</del>
<b>Total Hours</b>		<del>33</del> 31
<b>Clinical Expertise</b>		
NURSE 6518	Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURSE 6520	Pharmacology For Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURSE 6524	Health Assessment For Advanced Nursing Practice <sup>1</sup>	4
NURSE 6530	Introduction to Diagnostic Reasoning	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>13</b>

## Integration of Practice

<del>NURSE 6954</del>	<del>Advanced Practice Nursing: Residency I<sup>1</sup></del>	<del>2</del>
<del>—or NURSE 6934</del>	<del>Leadership in Population Health and Healthcare Systems Residency I</del>	
NURSE 6955	Advanced Practice Nursing: Practicum I <sup>1 2</sup>	1
NURSE 7954	Advanced Practice Nursing: Practicum II <sup>1 2</sup>	1
NURSE 7291	DNP Capstone I	2
NURSE 7292	DNP Capstone II	2
NURSE 7293	DNP Capstone III	2
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>14</b>

<sup>1</sup> Contains one credit hour clinical component. One clinical credit hour is equivalent to 75 practicum hours.

<sup>1 2</sup> All students must complete a minimum of 8 hours of residency. One credit hour is equivalent to 75 residency hours.

Prior to completion of the DNP program, students will complete a clinical scholarship project that satisfies the graduate school requirement.

### Justification for request:

Many of the incoming BSN-DNP students have trouble with academic writing. The DNP curriculum has several writing intensive courses in which students struggle with basic writing principles, grammar, paper structure and APA format, including the Capstone proposal. The goal is to address this lack of writing experience by adding 6000 Writing Seminar, in an intensive writing seminar, early in the program to help students develop their writing skills as they progress in the program. Because they are BSN prepared students, they do not have a master's level preparedness of writing. Many undergraduate BSN programs have little academic writing in their curriculum; therefore, students need help in working on improving their writing skills at the beginning of the program to increase their success in the program.

Students need a course before the Capstone sequence to outline and integrate the processes involved in a successful Capstone project and proposal. Presently this piece is missing in the curriculum. 6410 DNP Systems Level Thinking course is recommended in the template curriculum for BSN-DNP programs by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty and the National Task Force Standards for Nurse Practitioner Programs Document followed by the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education (CCNE) which accredits our program.

Presently biostatistics and epidemiology are taught separately in the DNP curriculum. PhD students who take biostatistics and epidemiology will not be affected by this change and their

separate courses will remain. 7210 Biostatistics and Epidemiology will be strictly focused for the DNP population of students.

Offering two courses as one course more closely aligns with recommendations in the template curriculum for BSN-DNP programs by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty and the National Task Force Standards for Nurse Practitioner Programs Document followed by the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education (CCNE) which accredits our program. Presently each course is 3 credits. This will be offered as a 4 credit course to meet national requirements.

Changing 6524 Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice from 3 credits to 4 credits. This adds 75 clinical practice (precepted clinical hours) hours to the course which is needed to more closely align with the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty BSN-DNP Template and the National Task Force Standards for Nurse Practitioner Programs Document followed by the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education (CCNE) which accredits our program.