

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Degree Program

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

BSN-DNP Track

The BSN-DNP program is an online curriculum with four required on-campus, 2-3 day “Intensives” and a minimum of 70 nursing graduate credit hours. In addition, a minimum of 600 direct patient-care practice hours are part of the minimum 1,000 required practicum hours. The full-time, three-year program (nine semesters) consists of 5-10 credit hours per semester. The part-time, four-year program (12 semesters) consists of 5-7 credit hours per semester. While most course work is on-line, there are some courses that have “live” or synchronous virtual classrooms.

- [Sample Plan of Study](#)

- **DNP Population Program Tracks Offered at UMSL:**
- Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care (AGNP-PC)
- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Acute Care (PNP-AC)
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Primary Care (PNP-PC)
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
- Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP)

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”.

- [Sample Plan of Study](#)

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: <https://www.umsf.edu/degrees/doctorate/dnp-nursing.html>

Application Requirements

1. Complete the on-line [UMSL Graduate School Application for Admission](#).
2. Provide evidence of U.S. permanent resident or citizen or visa to the United States.
3. Grade Point Average: Minimum of 3.0 (BSN) and/or a 3.0 (MSN) GPA on a 4.0 scale.
4. Submit transcripts:
 - Submit final and official transcripts from all universities attended.
 - International applicants are required to document English proficiency by providing scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission.
- ❖ Applicants must have a BSN or MSN degree from an accredited nursing program in the United States.
- ❖ Successful completion (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.
5. Submit the College of Nursing DNP supplemental application materials.
- ❖ Essay, which should respond to the following attributes:

BSN-DNP Essay

- Introduction: Include professional background, but not personal identifiers such as name, place of employment, etc. Include your population track of interest (i.e. leadership, FNP, AGNP, etc.). Share why you are interested in your track specialty of choice. (250-400 words max)
- Learning: What experiences make you qualified and excited to pursue a doctorate in nursing practice for this specific population? Why are you choosing to obtain a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree? (250-400 words max)
- Why UMSL?: The University of Missouri St. Louis Core Values are integrity, inclusion, innovation, access, success, and engagement. After reading the description of core values [HERE](#), explain how you embody the core values of integrity, inclusion, and innovation. (250-400 words max)

MSN-DNP Essay

- Introduction: Include professional background, but not personal identifiers such as name, place of employment, etc. Include your population track of interest (i.e. leadership, FNP, AGNP, etc.). Please share why you are interested in obtaining a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree to further your NP practice. (250-400 words max)
- Learning: Name 2-3 concrete ways you see this additional education enhancing your current practice. (250-400 words max)
- Why UMSL?: The University of Missouri St. Louis Core Values are integrity, inclusion, innovation, access, success, and engagement. After reading the description of core values [HERE](#), explain how you embody the core values of integrity, inclusion, and innovation. (250-400 words max)
- ❖ Current CV/Resume. Applicants may use the CON CV Template
- ❖ Two Letters of Recommendation
 - Two (2) letters of professional recommendation from individuals who can attest to the applicant's potential success in the DNP program.
 - **References should be from master's or doctorally prepared nurses or faculty members** who can address the applicant's potential or ability to function in the advanced practice nursing role.
 - Applicants currently enrolled in a nursing program must submit at least one (1) recommendation from a current faculty member in that program.
 - Applicants currently practicing as a nurse practitioner, a professional recommendation from a practicing colleague is encouraged.
 - Recommendations from family, friends, fellow staff nurses or religious leader will not be accepted.
- ❖ Current Professional Licensure
 - Copies of current, unencumbered Registered Nurse license(s).
 - Copies of all advanced practice nursing certification and/or credentialing/recognition documents for applicants with a master's degree as applicable.

Application Deadline

The priority deadline for receipt of all admission materials is January 15 of each year for the following fall admission. After January 15, rolling admissions will occur until class is full or by July 31st whichever comes first. Only completed applications with all required documents (official transcripts, letters of recommendation, essay, etc.) are reviewed for admission.

The BSN- and MSN-DNP programs currently offer a fall start only. A required DNP program orientation is held Thursday and Friday the week prior to the first day of fall term.

Notification of acceptance to the DNP program occurs in March for applications received by the priority deadline. Notification of acceptance occurs within four weeks during the rolling admission period.

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

Program Contact Information:

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