

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Degree Program

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. Additional information about NC-SARA Authorization can be found here: <https://www.umsl.edu/services/academic/nc-sara-authorization/index.html>

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.umsl.edu/degrees/doctorate/dnp-nursing.html>

Admission Criteria

BSN to DNP

The post-baccalaureate entry point is designed for registered nurses who have completed a Bachelor 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
- BSN from a nationally accredited nursing program
- BSN 3.0 GPA (calculated on the last 60 hours of BSN coursework)
- Current professional licensure
- Completion of an undergraduate or graduate general statistics course

Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP-AC) track requires at least one (1) year of inpatient pediatric nursing experience

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) track requires at least one (1) year of inpatient or outpatient psychiatric nursing or emergency room nursing experience

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. This option is not available for PNP-AC or PMHNP emphasis areas.

General Admission Criteria:

- Admission to the [University by completing the UMSL Graduate School](#) 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 the last 60 hours of BSN coursework
- Essay which meets expectations and attributes listed in the essay portion of the application
- Current professional licensure
- Completion of an undergraduate or graduate general statistics course

*This option is not available for PNP-AC and PMHNP tracks

Students admitted via the Direct Admit Option in the BSN to DNP Program, who do not have previous clinical experience as a Registered Nurse (RN), will be required to maintain clinical practice as a Registered Nurse throughout the duration of their tenure as an UMSL DNP student.

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.

Required Application Materials

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 complete 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.

Program Contact Information:

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