

THE OVERVIEW

The DNP is designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice and offers an alternative to research-focused doctoral programs. It focuses on advanced nursing roles in clinical practice and nursing leadership and management. The curriculum is comprised of field courses in the areas of adult nurse practitioner; family nurse practitioner; and nursing leadership and management.

Courses are designed to increase the clinical competency of graduates by focusing assignments and the clinical research project on clinically based problems. Courses become progressively more demanding as students develop and refine critical-thinking, decision-making, and evaluative skills.

A clinical research project immerses students in a practice environment, allowing for a synthesis and integration of the students' work and laying the foundation for future scholarship. The course work is delivered through distance education as well as selected on-campus experiences.

Graduates of the DNP Program will enhance advanced practice nursing through their ability and commitment to:

- Provide high-quality patient care.
- Solve emerging quality issues and implement change.
- Facilitate critical appraisal and translation of research.
- Design evidence-based interventions.
- Collect and analyze clinical practice data.
- Lead interprofessional teams in efforts for improving patient and population health outcomes.
- Develop strategies to improve efficiency and effectiveness of health care through information technology.



The GW Department of Nursing Education was formed in 2004.

THE METHOD

Emphasis throughout the course of study is on interdisciplinary teamwork and effective communication across health settings and systems of care. The faculty believe that optimal learning occurs when education is student centered and adult learners are recognized for their professional knowledge, life experience, and self-reflection that serve as a resource for their patients, colleagues and the healthcare system.

The primary mode of educational delivery is through Web-based distance education, as well as selected on-campus experiences. This combination of distance-based learning and on-campus activities will help the working professional nurse achieve the goal of advanced education in nursing.

Students also have access to all campus services, and the Department of Nursing Education's staff and faculty members are available to assist students in negotiating all aspects of the university system.

THE FINANCING

Department of Nursing Education tuition rates are calculated on a per-credit basis, which offers students many options on financing their education. Among them are:

- **Financial aid:** Students may be eligible for financial aid through student loan programs. To learn more, visit <http://cfs.gwu.edu/sfa/>.
- **Scholarships:** Some states offer scholarships and fellowships for students pursuing a post-baccalaureate degree.
- **Tuition reimbursement:** Many business and government organizations will help pay for your tuition.

THE FORMAT

Our distance-education programs are similar to an on-campus experience: Students follow regular semester schedules and are required to buy textbooks, work on group assignments, and complete final exams or projects. However, there are several benefits to online studying:

- It provides an opportunity to pursue a formal, academic degree or certificate from the convenience of your own home or office site.
- Classes are conducted in flexible, convenient, and interactive formats to allow easy access to course materials, faculty, health care and research experts, as well as other students' expertise.
- Courses may use videotapes, audiotapes, Internet research, printed study guides, textbooks and/or CD-ROMs, conference calls, I-Chats, and synchronous discussions.
- Distance education offers options for busy adult learners with competing professional, personal, and financial commitments.
- Selected on-campus experiences give students the opportunity to visit campus and utilize their skills during course seminars. Students also get to meet their classmates and instructors, all while in the nation's capital.



Located in GW University Hospital, the Department of Nursing Education is at the heart of the D.C. medical community.

THE PROGRAM

Students enter at the post-baccalaureate or post-master's level. (Post-master's students will begin at Step 3.) Students with a bachelor's degree in nursing will first complete the credit hours required in their particular field of study. The program begins every fall.

* NOTE: Classes designated with an asterisk have an on-campus component. Most of these experiences are held during the summer, and students are generally given notice at least six months in advance. Additional on-campus activities may be required during the course of the program.

1. BSN-to-DNP students begin their program with 12 semester hours of professional core classes:

Theoretical Foundations of Nursing	[3]
*Nursing Leadership	[3]
Research Methods for Health Professionals I	[3]
Research Methods for Health Professionals II	[3]

2. Then students choose ONE concentration from the following focus areas of study:

Adult Nurse Practitioner 27 credits		Family Nurse Practitioner 30 credits		Nursing Leadership & Management 24 credits	
Advanced Health Assessment	[3]	Advanced Health Assessment	[3]	Human Resource Management	[3]
Advanced Pathophysiology	[3]	Advanced Pathophysiology	[3]	Health Information, Quality, and Outcomes	[3]
Pharmacology	[3]	Pharmacology	[3]	Marketing Clinical Services	[3]
*Primary Care Seminar	[2]	*Primary Care Seminar	[2]	Health Economics and Finance	[3]
Primary Care of the Adult	[8]	Primary Care of the Family	[8]	Leadership and Change	[3]
Assessment & Management of the Adult	[8]	Assessment & Management of Family Care	[8]	Issues and Trends in Healthcare	[3]
		Advanced Family Primary Care	[3]	Elective	[6]

3. After completing their necessary field work, students complete 36 credits of doctoral course work.

Post-master's students will enter the program here:

Concepts in Population Health	[3]	Healthcare Quality Improvement	[3]
Healthcare Enterprise	[3]	Elective	[3]
Organizational and Interdisciplinary Concepts	[3]	Elective	[3]
Knowledge Management in Healthcare	[3]	*Clinical Research Project Proposal	[3]
Translating Research into Practice	[3]	Clinical Research Project	[3]
Health Services Research and Policy for Nursing	[3]	Clinical Research Project	[3]

For additional information regarding the Doctor of Nursing Program, please contact:

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Inquiries concerning the application of this policy and federal laws and regulations concerning discrimination in education or employment programs and activities may be addressed to The Associate Vice President for Human Resources, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. 20052, (202) 994-4433, or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education.

Disabled students who need special information should call the Office of Disabled Student Services (202) 994-8250 (TTD/voice).