

# Doctor of Nursing Practice

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is an academic partnership offered by Southeastern Louisiana University and the University of Louisiana Lafayette. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a terminal professional degree that focuses on the clinical aspects of nursing rather than academic research. The curriculum for the DNP program is consistent with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice.

## PURPOSE

The purposes of the DNP program are to prepare graduate students at the highest level of nursing practice to:

- 1) Provide complex hospital and community-based care for patients and families;
- 2) Redesign and evaluate nursing and health care systems, and,
- 3) Address shortages of clinical nursing faculty to mentor and educate nurses.

## ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES

Applicants to the DNP program must apply to the University and the Southeastern Graduate Nursing Program at the same time. See admission to the University section for application deadlines and fees.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students are admitted as a cohort into the post-master's DNP Program. Cohorts will be admitted in fall semesters. Didactic courses are offered online; however, students will be required to participate in on-campus activities immediately prior to start of the program and at the conclusion of the program when presenting synthesis projects. In addition, there are several courses in the curriculum (i.e., Residency, I-III) with practicum requirements. Prior to enrolling in Nursing 801: Biostatistics, students must provide evidence of completion of a graduate-level statistics course. The graduate-level statistics course must be approved by the DNP Program Coordinator.

Requirements for admission to the DNP Program include:

1. A completed application form and payment of the application fee submitted on or prior to the application date.
2. Receipt of official transcripts from each degree-granting college or university previously attended.
3. An earned master's degree in one of the following areas of advanced nursing practice:
  - a. Nurse practitioner
  - b. Nursing administration/leadership
4. Cumulative GPA of at least 3.30 on a 4.0 scale on Master's-level course work.
5. Evidence of current, unencumbered U.S. nursing licensure (no restrictions):
  - a. RN license
  - b. APRN license (nurse practitioners)
6. Three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the applicant's capacity for doctoral study.
  - a. One letter must be from a former faculty member in a nursing program, a current or former nursing supervisor or nursing leader.
  - b. One letter must be from someone who can attest to the competencies and expertise of the applicant at the Advanced Practice level.
  - c. The third letter is from an individual of the applicant's choice; however, the letter should address the applicant's ability to successfully complete a doctoral education in nursing.
7. Current resume or curriculum vitae.
8. A document, prepared by the applicant which addresses the applicant's *Essentials* goals for doctoral study which are congruent with the DNP Program goals (See *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice* which can be accessed at [www.aacn/nche.edu/publications/position/DNPEssentials.pdf](http://www.aacn/nche.edu/publications/position/DNPEssentials.pdf))
  - a. focused area of interest for synthesis project,
  - b. expression of how acquiring the DNP degree is important to fulfilling his/her career goals.
  - c. The document must be typewritten, double-spaced, in 12 point, Times New Roman font and should be no longer than three pages in length.
9. Completion of a telephone interview with the DNP Program coordinator.
10. Prior to enrollment, students will be required to submit to background checks, drug and alcohol screening, and must meet program health requirements. These screenings will be conducted at the student's expense.
11. Students should be proficient with methodologies utilized in distance education and must possess computer equipment and technology which is compatible with university learning management systems such as Blackboard and Moodle.

## RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Core courses taken at either school in the collaborative are applicable to requirements of each member institution. NURS 809 – Advanced Directed Studies and practicum hours required in Residencies I, II, and III can only be taken at the home institution.

## DNP CURRICULUM

The post-master's DNP program will consist of 39 credit hours beyond the master's degree. All of the courses required in the DNP programs will be delivered in distance accessible formats. Courses are designed to comply with the recommendations in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Essentials of Doctoral Education.

### Semester 1:

NURS 800 Scholarly Foundations for Advanced Practice .....	3 hours
NURS 801 Biostatistics .....	3 hours
NURS 802 Epidemiology .....	3 hours
NURS 803 Project Planning .....	3 hours

### Semester 2:

NURS 804 Clinical Scholarship and Analytic Methods for Evidence Based Practice .....	3 hours
NURS 805 Preventive Care for Populations .....	3 hours
NURS 821 Residency I.....	2 hours

### Semester 3:

NURS 806 Health Care Informatics .....	3 hours
NURS 807 Organizational and Systems Leadership.....	4 hours
NURS 822 Residency II .....	4 hours

### Semester 4:

NURS 808 Ethics and Health Care Policy .....	4 hours
NURS 823 Residency III .....	4 hours

### Semester 5:

NURS 809 Advanced Directed Study.....	3 to 6 hours
---------------------------------------	--------------

### Synthesis Project

Each candidate for the DNP is required to complete a synthesis project in the student's area of interest, which incorporates DNP course work and represents an evidenced based intervention, evaluation and dissemination of findings. A student actively engaged in a synthesis project must be officially enrolled in NURS 809, Advanced Directed Study, or a Residency course for credit.