

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

PURPOSE:

The DNP program at The University of Rochester School of Nursing is designed to prepare nurses at the highest level for advanced clinical practice in a specialty practice area. The program prepares leaders who can critically evaluate the evidence base for care and facilitate the translation and integration of research into clinical practice, deliver such care, set health care policy, manage clinical care units and health systems, solve health care dilemmas, work skillfully as members of interdisciplinary teams, and reduce disparities in health care. The faculty believes that critical thinking and decision-making are basic to doctoral education and the delivery of expert health care. The School of Nursing fosters individuality, self-direction, scholarship and commitment to lifelong learning. Creative, flexible programming is available to meet the diverse and changing needs of both learners and the nursing profession. Students work and study with faculty members developing strong and supportive relationships contributing to a unique sense of academic community.

CONTENT AND PROCESS:

At the University of Rochester School of Nursing, DNP faculty and learners adopt a philosophy that emphasizes an organizational interdependence among practice (including emphasis in leadership and systems), education, and research. This approach (the Unification Model), for which the School of Nursing is nationally known, creates outstanding opportunities for DNP students to develop their clinical skills and leadership expertise.

The DNP program is designed to facilitate students' full engagement in the learning process and their pursuit of clinical excellence. The program is founded on the creation of a student-centered learning milieu characterized by collaborative student-faculty relationships. Such qualities are consistent with motivational principles that originated with researchers at the University of Rochester and which have been shown to result in excellent student satisfaction and academic outcomes.

Learning experiences are developed to enhance the ability of students to deliver evidence-based, innovative clinical care. DNP students may pursue study in a variety of areas of scientific clinical interest represented by the faculty. Current areas of interest include innovations in nursing practice, advanced practice nurse outcomes measurement, palliative care, high-risk children and youth, health behaviors, aging and nursing home care, acute and critical care, health interventions in the community, and ethics.

The DNP program is a post-master's program, which can be completed in a minimum of 2 1/2 years of full-time study. Additional time may be needed to complete the individual student clinical objectives and/or capstone project. DNP students enter in September of each year and may be admitted for fulltime or structured part-time study. Applications are due February 1. Later applications are considered on a space-available basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE DNP PROGRAM, CURRICULUM, AND CLINICAL AREAS, CONTACT:

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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Master of Science degree in Nursing from an accredited program
2. RN licensure within the United States or US territory
3. Cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 for undergraduate work and 3.5 for graduate work (preferred)
4. Completed DNP application including essay/professional goal statement, writing sample, and Curriculum Vitae or resume
5. Competitive scores on the Graduate Record Examination (general test only) taken within past 5 years or successful completion of an accredited doctoral program
6. For international students for whom English is not the primary language or who did not complete their degree in nursing in an English speaking country, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL; minimum scores required as follows: above 560 (regular paper test) or above 230 (regular computer test) or 88 (new "I-based" test)
7. A minimum of three years of employment as a Registered Nurse in a clinical setting
8. National certification (if available) in advanced nursing practice specialty area
9. Favorable interview with at least two faculty members delineating motivation and goals for doctoral study and advanced nursing practice
10. Three positive letters of recommendation: At least one from an academician (with an earned doctorate), at least one from a supervisor in an employment setting, and at least one from a practicing Registered Nurse. Taken together, these references should speak to the applicant's intellectual ability, clinical proficiency, academic achievement, and professional commitment.

DNP Curriculum

The University of Rochester requires a minimum of 90 credit hours for completion of the DNP degree. A maximum of 30 credit hours from a master's degree can be transferred toward the 90 credit hour minimum. The remaining 60 credits must be taken at the University as a matriculated student.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program <i>(30 credits transferred in from prior graduate work)</i>			
Fall Semester Year 1 12-15 cr (2-5 clinical = 112-280 hours)		Spring Semester Year 1 12-15 cr (2-5 clinical = 112-280 hours)	
NUR 405	Principles of Evidence-Based Practice For Advanced Nursing Practice I	3	
NUR 510	General Linear Approaches I	3	
NLX 463	Foundations of Leadership & Organizational Behavior	3	
NUR 584	DNP Practicum I	3-6 (2-5)*	
			Summer Year 1 7 cr
			NLX 468 Politics, Public Policy, & Ethics in Leadership
			3
			NLX 471 Foundations & Application of Economics in Healthcare Systems
			4
			Qualifying Exam++
Fall Semester Year 2 14-15 cr (3-4 clinical = 168-224 hours)		Spring Semester Year 2 15 cr (4-5 clinical = 224-280 hours)	
NUR 572	Leading Evidence-Based Practice Initiatives in Health Care	3	Cognate
			3
NUR 573	Interprofessional Partnerships	3	
NUR 574	Strategic Planning & Evaluation of Health Delivery Systems	4	
NUR 586	DNP Policy Practicum	4-5 (3-4)*	
			12 (4-5)*
			(Capstone Project Defense)
			Total Credits = 60
			Total Clinical Hours = 616
			(1000 post baccalaureate minimum)
			*Credits vary depending on clinical hours in MS

++ Qualifying Exam: The purpose of the qualifying exam is to assess the student's ability to 1) understand and interpret key concepts from the first year courses foundational to analyzing complex clinical problems and 2) to use both oral and written forms of expression to present ideas logically and succinctly.

FINANCIAL AID: Financial assistance is not available through School of Nursing scholarships. Please see the School of Nursing website (www.son.rochester.edu) for information on outside opportunities and sources of support. Area health care institution reimbursement is the most common form of aid.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS, CONTACT:
Office of Student Affairs, (585) 275-2375