

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

Available on the Jackson and Germantown Campuses

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (DNP) prepares graduates for the specialty areas of executive leadership, nurse anesthesia, and nurse practitioner. The DNP Program provides the student with the opportunity to strengthen one's clinical skills by gaining intensive experiences in one's specialty area of practice, enhance the understanding of the theoretical underpinnings that supports one's specialty area of practice, and broaden one's perspective of healthcare systems and delivery models from a Christian worldview.

The DNP Program is designed as a full-time post-master's program that begins the fall of each year. Students are expected to be on campus for four 1-week sessions per year with an ongoing intensive online educational process through the use of Blackboard. The clinical fellowships are expected to be completed in the area in which you live with clinical agency support from the institution in completing your DNP Project.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Doctor of Nursing Practice is to prepare experts in specialized advanced practice with a Christ-centered focus. This mission is congruent with the

University's mission of providing Christ-centered education that promotes excellence and character development in service to Church and society.

Program Outcomes

- To demonstrate expertise in an area of specialized advanced nursing practice
- To integrate biosciences, education, research, business, and technology into advanced nursing practice within the Christian worldview
- To formulate organizational and systems components for leadership and quality improvement toward enhancing patient outcomes
- To promote transformation of health care through interprofessional collaboration, policy development and technology utilization within an area of specialized advanced nursing practice
- To evaluate outcomes of evidence-based research and design appropriate interventions for specialized areas of advanced nursing practice toward the improvement of the health of individuals, aggregates, and populations.

Program Admission Requirements

- Completed application with application fee of \$50.00
- Completion of a Bachelor of Science, preferably in Nursing, from an accredited program
- Completion of a masters degree in nursing from an accredited program preferred
- Earned masters degree other than an M.S.N. may be considered but may require additional coursework prior to enrollment. If applying for nurse practitioner or nurse anesthesia tracks, must demonstrate evidence of current national certification in the specialty area.
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Official transcript(s) from all undergraduate and graduate course work attempted
- Current unencumbered RN and APN licensure (if applicable) in state of residence
- Eligible for licensure as registered nurse and APN (if applicable) in Tennessee
- Interview with the Nursing Graduate Admissions Selection Committee
- International students must complete TOEFL with WES evaluations of transcripts
- Three letters of professional/academic reference specifying the applicant's capabilities for graduate study to include one letter of reference from the current supervisor
- Statement of past clinical and/or work experiences, scholarly activities, and community service that supports future goals in obtaining a practice doctorate

Conditional Admission

Applicants who do not meet the regular admission requirements to the D.N.P. program may be admitted conditionally at the discretion of the D.N.P. Graduate Admissions Committee. Conditional admission will require contractual agreement between the applicant and the Graduate Admissions Committee. The contract will specify the conditions and deadlines that must be met to matriculate to the regular D.N.P. program.

Academic Standards, Requirements for Progression, Probation, and Dismissal

After completion of 9 graduate hours at Union University, a graduate student whose cumulative GPA from courses taken at Union University for graduate credit is below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. A student placed on academic probation has one semester to increase his or her GPA to 3.0 or greater to be removed from a probationary status.

If the student fails to increase his or her GPA to 3.0 or greater during the following semester, the student will be dismissed from the D.N.P. Program. Students will also be dismissed if they receive an "F" (i.e. any grade below a "C") in any course.

Students must maintain an overall B average. The program faculty recognize that situations may arise which prevent students from successfully matriculating through

the program. Students who are concerned about their academic standing should contact his or her advisor. If it appears the student may not be able to achieve a minimum passing grade in a course they may be encouraged by the Chair of graduate program to withdraw from the program. This can potentially prevent the student from acquiring an F on their Union University transcript if the dropped class

occurs prior to the deadline listed on the academic calendar (“last day to drop a class”). All students who withdraw or who are academically dismissed from the program can reapply for admission. However, readmission is not guaranteed. In order to graduate with the D.N.P., students are required to have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for all courses taken for graduate credit at Union University.

Financial Information

Tuition is \$750 per semester hour.

Application Fee:	\$ 50
Graduation Fee:.....	25
Insurance fee (per year)	25
Binding of Thesis or Scholarly Project.....	45
Course Tracking System.....	50
Sitting fee for composite picture of class.....	35
Cap and Gown Rental	approx. 150
Criminal Background check	70
Urine Drug Screen	25

Any combination of the following payment is available.

1. Check, cash, or credit card
2. Federal Stafford loan
3. Employer reimbursement
4. FACTS (an electronic monthly draft from a savings or checking account)

Books cost approximately \$150 per course and are purchased from LifeWay Christian Stores.

Federal Stafford Loan

The Stafford loan application process will require that you:

1. Complete and forward the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to the federal government with Union University’s code of 003528.
2. Complete a Union Financial Aid Application and a Stafford Master Promissory Note and forward to the Union University Student Financial Planning Office.

3. For more information, contact the Student Financial Planning Office at 731-661-5015.

If Federal Stafford loan is not approved and available at the time of registration, the student must assume the cost by paying in full by check, cash, credit card, or FACTS.

Employer Tuition Reimbursement

1. The student is responsible for providing information to the university regarding their employer’s policies for reimbursement.
2. If the employer reimburses the student directly, the student must pay the university in full at the time of registration.
3. If the employer provides partial reimbursement directly to the university, the student must pay his/her portion of tuition at the time of registration.
4. The university will provide any required information to an employer when requested by the student.

Acceptance Deposits

A \$1,000 tuition deposit is required. All other M.S.N. tracks require a \$300 acceptance deposit. **These deposits are non-refundable if the student elects not to enroll.** Applicants accepted on an “alternative” basis will receive a full refund if status is not changed to “accepted” by the first day of class.

Graduation Requirements

1. Completion of the course work within each specified track.
2. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 for the required course of study.

3. File an application for graduation with the Graduate Nursing Office. The application deadline is October 1 for students who plan to complete degree requirements for December graduation. The deadline for August graduation is May 1.
4. Pay in full the student’s account in the Business Office
5. Discharge all other obligations (fines, credentials, fees, etc.) at the University.

Degree Requirements

All Tracks of the DNP require 40 semester hours which includes 660 practice hours. Each requires successful completion of the following:

NUR 720, Faith and Science	3
NUR 705, Organizational Leadership & Management...	3
NUR 710, Methods for Evidence-Based Practice	3
NUR 715, Technological Transformation of Health Care	3
NUR 725, Health Care Policy and Economics	3
NUR 730, Epidemiology	3
NUR 735, Fellowship I (180 clinical hours)	2

NUR 745, Leadership and Teaching Practice Strategies..	3
NUR 790, DNP Project Development.....	2
NUR 736, Fellowship II (240 clinical hours).....	2
NUR 791, DNP Project Implementation.....	3
NUR 737, Fellowship III (240 clinical hours).....	2
NUR 792, DNP Project Completion.....	2
Two Specialty Cognate—Elective courses Specific to the Track	3 each
TOTAL.....	40

DNP: Executive Leadership Track

The ability to serve as an executive leader within the hospital or academic setting requires a breadth of knowledge and skills that encompasses several disciplines. To prepare future nursing leaders for these high profile positions within hospitals or academic institutions, this track offers the nurse the opportunity to serve along side leaders of healthcare or academic institutions in gaining the knowledge, skills, and wisdom needed to lead healthcare institutions in the future. The student will strengthen their understanding of the profession of nursing while gaining business principles to support the future leadership role. An application deadline of March 1 is noted for priority acceptance into this track that begins in the fall of each year.

DNP: Nurse Anesthesia Track

As the acuity level of the surgical patients increase and the complexity of the practice continues to demand more of the nurse anesthetist, additional knowledge and skills are being required to serve as a leader in both the operating room suite and within one's practice. To address these growing demands upon the nurse anesthetist, a 5-semester (2 years) DNP Program is available to enhance your effectiveness as a practitioner and leader in the profession of nurse anesthesia. An application deadline of March 1 is noted for priority acceptance into this track that begins in the fall of each year.

DNP: Nurse Practitioner Tracks

The practice environment of a nurse practitioner is constantly changing. These changes are based on the increasing complexity of patient care and evolving practice issues of the healthcare system. To address the increasing complexity of patient care and evolving practice issues, a 5-semester (2 years) DNP Program is available to enhance your effectiveness as a healthcare leader in the profession as a nurse practitioner. An application deadline of March 1 is noted for priority acceptance into this track that begins in the fall of each year.

Course Descriptions: Nursing (NUR)

705 Organizational Leadership and Management (3)

Provides opportunities to examine the leadership and management principles essential in providing a Christ-centered health care environment. Focus will be operational principles, organizational theory, and principles of organizational behavior in establishing a Christ-centered organization and practice.

710 Methods for Evidence-Based Practice (3)

Provides the opportunity for synthesis and evaluation of evidence-based clinical practice and focuses on critique of literature, evaluation of clinical practice, and effective dissemination of evaluation findings. The student will use evidence-based health care as the springboard for discussion of issues in contemporary research.

715 Technological Transformations of Health Care (3)

Designed to prepare the student to evaluate current health care technology and its effect on health care outcomes. The student will analyze and apply today's information technology, clinical technology, and simulation technology within the health care environment. The student will address quality improvement evaluation to support changes in practice and administration, analysis of ethical-legal implications of digital record systems and distance health care.

720 Faith and Ethics (3)

The philosophical underpinnings of the Christian worldview as it applies to faith and science in the arena of health care. An understanding of faith as the basis for hope and humanity in delivering quality health care will be discussed while incorporating the quantitative analysis of scientific principles.

725 Health Care Policy and Economics (3)

To prepare the student to critically evaluate the relationship between problems in health care legislation and the development of economic, political, social, and ethical issues that impact nursing. Students will synthesize the components of the Christian worldview related to issues in health care legislation and apply this philosophy to the development of effective health care policies. Students will be prepared to enact fiscally responsible and effective changes in local, state and national health care policies.

730 Epidemiology (3)

Designed to prepare students to employ evidence-based strategies to promote health, reduce risk, and prevent illness in individuals, aggregates, and populations from the Christian worldview approach. Emphasis will be placed on objectives of Health People 2020 and the analysis of epidemiological, biostatistical, occupational, and environmental data. Other integral topics include collaboration with other disciplines, cultural diversity and sensitivity, emergency and disaster preparedness, and infection control.

735 Fellowship I (2)

An introductory course designed to prepare the student to serve within their scope of practice at a high level of complexity. The student will be supported with application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of knowledge gained through core D.N.P. course work to improve clinical practice. Minimum 180 clinical hours. Course is graded Pass/Fail.

736, 737 Fellowship II, III (2 each)

This course is designed to further prepare the student to serve within their scope of practice at a high degree of complexity. The student will be supported with application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of knowledge gained through core D.N.P. course work to improve clinical practice. Minimum 240 clinical hours per course. Course is graded Pass/Fail.

745 Leadership and Teaching Practice Strategies (3)

Designed to prepare the student for the leadership and instructional role, this course will focus on expectations of leaders and educators within academic, practice, and health care systems.

750 Specialty Cognate (3)

A course designed to broaden the student's knowledge and competence in a specialty area. Specific objectives and requirements are determined by contractual agreement prior to graduation. Course may be repeated for credit with distinct content.

790 DNP Project Development (2)

A faculty-guided scholarly experience to allow the student to develop a proposal for an evidence-based practice project addressing a clinically relevant problem using a collaborative interdisciplinary design.

791 DNP Project Implementation (2-3)

A faculty-guided scholarly experience to allow the student to implement an evidence-based practice project addressing the clinically relevant problem. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 8 semester hours credit.

792 DNP Project Completion (2)

A faculty-guided scholarly experience to allow the student to evaluate and disseminate findings of the evidence-based practice project addressing a clinically relevant problem.

755 DNP Special Study (1-4)

Group studies which do not appear in the School course offerings. Content will be determined by need. Course may be repeated for credit with distinct content.

765 DNP Independent Study (1-4)

Individual research and study under the guidance of a nursing faculty member. Course may be repeated for credit with distinct content.

779 DNP External Domestic Study (1-4)

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel. Course may be repeated for credit with distinct content.

780 DNP Study Abroad (1-6)

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel. Course may be repeated for credit with distinct content.