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 health care systems and delivery models from a Christian worldview.

The DNP Program is designed as a full-time cohort-based program that begins the fall of each year.

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

DNP Program Goals
1. To provide doctoral nursing education that builds on the foundational education of the registered nurse.
2. To prepare the graduate for enhanced knowledge and skills in a specialized area of practice.
3. To develop the graduate as a leader of one’s specialty area of practice implementing the Christian worldview.

DNP Expected Student Outcomes
The graduate of the DNP will be able to:
- demonstrate expertise in an area of specialized advanced nursing practice
- integrate biosciences, education, research, business, and technology into advanced nursing practice within the Christian worldview
- formulate organizational and systems components for leadership and quality improvement toward enhancing patient outcomes
- promote transformation of health care through interprofessional collaboration, policy development and technology utilization within an area of specialized advanced nursing practice
- 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 for All Tracks
1. Completed application with application fee of $50
2. Completion of an accredited nursing program with a cumulative graduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions must be submitted directly through NursingCAS. Please do not send transcripts for non-traditional nursing programs to Undergraduate Admissions. Transcripts must be received by NursingCAS in a sealed envelope from all previous academic institutions attended. Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions must be sent to: NursingCAS, P.O. Box 9201, Watertown, MA 02471.
4. Current unencumbered RN and APN licensure (if applicable) in state of residence
5. Eligible for licensure as registered nurse and APN (if applicable) in Tennessee
6. Interview with the Nursing Graduate Admissions Selection Committee
7. Applicants from a country where the native language is not English must show proof of English proficiency with scores from TOEFL, IELTS, or iTEP courses. Minimum scores are TOEFL 560 (Internet-based 80), IELTS 6.5, or iTEP 4.4. In addition, students must provide WES evaluations of transcripts.
8. Three letters of professional/academic reference specifying the applicant’s capabilities for graduate study to include one letter of reference from the current supervisor
9. Statement of professional goals to include:
   - Your reasons for seeking a clinical doctorate
   - Your plans to use this degree to transform your practice and the profession of nursing
   - A problem statement reflective of an issue in your practice you have identified as an opportunity for a practice inquiry project
   - How you have prepared for success in this program
10. Submission of Curriculum Vitae

Additional requirements for the RN to DNP and BSN to DNP Nurse Practitioner track includes a Science GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale, defined as Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2, and Statistics is preferred.

Additional requirements for the CRNA-DNP track include a current unencumbered RN and CRNA license in state of residence and students will be required to have 1,000 clinical hours post BSN degree.
Additional requirements for the RN to BSN or BSN to DNP Nurse Anesthesia tracks include:
1. At least one year of critical care experience as an RN, preferably within the last year
2. Eligible for RN licensure in TN, KY, and MS
3. Science GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale; defined as Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2, and statistics
4. CCRN preferred
5. Experience as a preceptor and/or charge nurse preferred
6. Leadership within the ICU or place of employment with professional or clinical development projects preferred, such as:
   - Policy development
   - Practice change initiatives
   - Evidence-based practice initiatives
   - Instructor in BLS/ACLS/PALS
7. If applicant has been dismissed from or withdrawn from a nurse anesthesia program, he or she must provide a letter from the previous program director addressing this dismissal/withdrawal

RN to DNP Without Previously Earned Bachelor’s Degree;
Nurse Practitioner and Executive Leadership Tracks Only
1. Applicants must complete the following undergraduate courses:
   - Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2 – 8 hrs.
   - Microbiology – 3 or 4 hrs.
   - Pathophysiology – 3 hrs.
   - Christian Studies – 6 hrs.
   - English Composition 1 and 2 – 6 hrs.
   - Social Science – 9 hrs.
   - Humanities – 9 hrs.
2. When these courses are completed, the applicant will notify the track coordinator no later than December 31 prior to the year they wish to start.
3. The following undergraduate nursing courses must be completed with a grade of “B” or above by May 31st of the year the applicant plans to be considered for the DNP cohort. The nursing courses may be in progress when the applicant notifies the coordinator of their readiness to be considered for the DNP applicant pool.
   - NUR 306 Scientific Writing
   - NUR 330 Research

The RN to DNP does not award a BSN or MSN.
Acceptance to the RN to DNP program does not guarantee acceptance to any DNP track. Applicants who are not selected to progress to the DNP track will be given the opportunity to enter the RN to BSN program.

Students entering the BSN to DNP program with a previously earned MSN may be awarded transfer credit above the 9 hours for the following courses upon evaluation of transcript: NUR 515, NUR 533, NUR 559, NUR 544, BIO 500, NUR 622

Students admitted to the program must have and maintain while in the program:
1. Current CPR certification for nurse anesthesia, nurse practitioner, and Executive Leadership students
2. Evidence of Hepatitis B, MMR, and tetanus vaccination
3. Varicella titer showing active immunity
4. Freedom from tuberculosis as evidenced by a negative PPD or health provider examination
5. Current ACLS and PALS certifications (nurse anesthesia only)
6. Health insurance

Conditional Admission
Applicants who do not meet the regular admission requirements to the DNP program may be admitted conditionally at the discretion of the DNP 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 DNP program.

RN to DNP With Previously Earned Bachelor’s Degree in a Field Other than Nursing; Nurse Practitioner, Executive Leadership, and Nurse Anesthesia
1. Applicants must complete or show evidence of completion of the following undergraduate courses:
   - Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2 – 8 hrs.
   - Microbiology – 3 or 4 hrs.
   - Pathophysiology – 3 hrs.
   - Any undergraduate statistics course – 3 hrs.
2. The above courses must be completed with by December 31st of the year prior to the year the applicant plans to be considered for the DNP cohort. When these are complete, the applicant will notify the track coordinator they wish to be considered for the applicant pool in the next cohort for that track.
3. The following undergraduate nursing courses must be completed with a grade of “B” or above by May 31st of the year the applicant plans to be considered the DNP cohort. The nursing courses may be in progress when the applicant notifies the coordinator of their readiness to be considered for the DNP applicant pool.
   - NUR 306 Scientific Writing
   - NUR 330 Research

The RN to DNP does not award a BSN or MSN.
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Transfer of Credit

Graduate credit for courses earned at a regionally accredited college or university or at a foreign college or university may be transferred to Union University if the courses are essentially the same as those required in the DNP program. The maximum number of semester hours that may be transferred to Union University and applied to the DNP degree is nine, upon review of transcripts.

Applicants may take a maximum of 2 DNP core courses prior to being enrolled in their respective DNP track cohort. Enrollment in core nursing courses does not guarantee acceptance into a specific track.

No grade less than “B” may be transferred. Courses taken more than five years before beginning the DNP program at Union University will be considered on an individual basis.

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 DNP Program. Students must make a grade of B or higher in all track-specific courses. No more than 2 Cs are allowed in the remaining courses in order to continue in the 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.

Financial Information

Tuition Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RN to DNP tuition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>$27,540/year (F, S, Su)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>$459/credit hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSN to DNP</td>
<td>$14,892/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Leadership</td>
<td>$459/credit hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>$13,260/year (F, S, Su)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSN to DNP</td>
<td>$27,540/year (F, S, Su)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Books cost approximately $150 per course.

Application Fee ...................................... $ 50
General Student Fee.................................. 205/term
Insurance fee (per year).............................. 25
Binding of Thesis or Scholarly Project........ 45
Course Tracking System.............................. 75
Course Evaluation Annual Fee....................... 100
Sitting fee for composite picture of class ...... 35
Cap and Gown ........................................... approx. 150
Certified Medical Document Manager............. 35
Certified Drug Screen and Background Check..... 110

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)

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 his/her 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 for the BSN–DNP nurse anesthesia track. A $300 tuition deposit is required for RN to MSN (Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Education, Nurse Administration) and RN to DNP (Nurse Practitioner and Executive Leadership) tracks. The deposit for all post-graduate DNP tracks is $800. 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 by the published deadline.
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

BSN to DNP Core for all tracks (49 hours)
1. NUR 515, 533, 559
2. NUR 710, 705, 715, 720, 725, 730, 745, 728
3. NUR 793, 791, 794, 735, 738, 739

BSN to DNP Advanced Practice Core for NPs and CRNAs (8 hours)
1. BIO 500
2. NUR 544, 622

BSN to DNP Executive Leadership (68 hours)
1. Complete the BSN to DNP core for all tracks (above)
2. Specialty: NUR 525, 593, 528, 693A, 695B, 535, 572, 615

BSN to DNP Nurse Practitioner (76 hours)
1. Complete the BSN to DNP core for all tracks (above)
2. Complete the Advanced Practice Core (above)
3. Specialty for FPNs: NUR 617, 600, 547, 639, 650
4. Specialty for PNP: NUR 627C, 600, 557C, 638C, 650
5. Specialty for Adult/Geriatric NPs: NUR 627A, 600, 557A, 638A, 650
6. Specialty for Psychiatric Mental Health: NUR 566, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654

BSN to DNP Nurse Anesthesia (99 hours)
1. Complete the BSN to DNP core for all tracks (above)
2. Complete the Advanced Practice Core for NPs and CRNAs (above)
3. Specialty: BIO 505/507, BIO 509; NUR 519, 609, 532, 534, 524, 611, 612, 554, 613, 614, 574, 691

CRNA-DNP for Licensed CRNAs with the BSN (46 hours)
1. Complete the BSN to DNP core for all tracks (above); except for NUR 728 which is not required for this track

Post-Master’s DNP (38 hours)
1. NUR 710, 705, 715, 720, 725, 730, 745
2. NUR 793, 791, 794, 735, 738, 739

DNP: Executive Leadership Track

The ability to serve as an executive leader within the healthcare setting requires a breadth of knowledge and skills that encompasses several disciplines. To prepare future nursing leaders for these high profile positions within healthcare organizations or academic institutions, this track offers the nurse the opportunity to serve alongside leaders of health care or academic institutions in gaining the knowledge, skills, and wisdom needed to lead health care 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. A 36-month BSN to DNP option is available, as well as a five-semester Post-Master’s option and an eight-semester part-time Post-Master’s option.

DNP: Nurse Anesthesia Track

As the acuity level of 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 36-month BSN to DNP option for students who are not CRNAs is also available, with an application deadline of October 15. In addition, a 5-semester Post-Master’s 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. A 36-month BSN to DNP option is available, as well as a five-semester Post-Master’s option and an eight-semester part-time Post-Master’s option. A 36-month CRNA-DNP option is also available for licensed CRNAs who do not currently hold a Master’s degree.

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 health care system. To address the increasing complexity of patient care and evolving practice issues, a 5-semester Post-Master’s DNP Program is available to enhance your effectiveness as a health care 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. A 36-month BSN to DNP option is available, as well as a five-semester Post-Master’s option and an eight-semester part-time Post-Master’s option.