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 full-time or part-time cohort-based programs that begins the fall of each year.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Doctor of Nursing Practice is to connect Christian faith and the professional practice of nursing that is excellence-driven, Christ-centered, people-focused, and future-directed within the scope of their practice as determined by education, licensure, and specialty certification.

DNP Program Goals

1. To provide doctoral nursing education that builds upon one’s previous nursing education using evidence-based knowledge.
2. To prepare the graduate for advanced professional nursing practice with specific functional and clinical capabilities within a Christian worldview.
3. To develop the graduate as a leader of one’s specialty area of expertise.

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 by providing evidence-based care to improve the health of individuals, aggregates, and populations.
- Promote transformation of health care through interprofessional collaboration, policy development, and technology utilization within an area of specialized advanced nursing practice.
- Assume leadership role in organizational and systems activities for quality improvement to enhance patient outcomes.
- Contribute to and evaluate evidence-based research and interventions for a specialized area of nursing practice to improve the health of individuals, aggregates, and populations.
• How you have prepared for success in this program
11 Submission of Curriculum Vitae

For the RN to DNP and BSN to DNP Nurse Practitioner tracks, a Science GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale (Anatomy and Physiology I and II, 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 required
5. Shadowing hours required (minimum 40 hours)
6. Experience as a preceptor and/or charge nurse preferred
7. 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
8. Students dismissed from a nurse anesthesia or other advanced practice nursing program for academic, clinical or behavioral reasons will not be admitted to Union University’s Nurse Anesthesia BSN-DNP track. Students who have been enrolled in another program and withdrew in good standing or are still enrolled in good standing, must have a letter from their director stating that they are in good standing or withdrew when they were in good standing in order to be considered for admission to Union University’s Nurse Anesthesia BSN-DNP track.

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 cohort will be given the opportunity to enter the RN to BSN 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. 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 cohort 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
2. Evidence of Hepatitis B, MMR, and tetanus vaccination (TDaP unless TD within the past 2 years)
3. Proof of 2 Varicella vaccinations or positive antibody titer (If titer is negative, student must repeat the 2 vaccine series.
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.

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. In order to meet DNP Essentials, applicants may be required to audit courses at the recommendation of the faculty.

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

Students must maintain an overall B average. After completion of 9 graduate hours at Union University, a graduate student whose cumulative GPA from courses completed 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 cumulative GPA to 3.0 or greater to be removed from a probationary status. If the student fails to increase his or her cumulative GPA to 3.0 or greater during the following semester, the student will be dismissed from the graduate program.

Students will also be dismissed without opportunity for probation if they:

• Receive an “F” (i.e., any grade below a “C”) in any course
• Receive more than two “C”s in any non-track specific courses.

Students must make a grade of B or higher in all track specific and 700-level courses (excluding pass/fail courses) in order to progress in or graduate from the graduate nursing program.

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 their 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 appropriate Program Chair 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

RN to DNP tuition
Nurse Practitioner
Undergraduate..........................$490/credit hour
BSN to DNP ..............................$16,785/year (F, S, Su)
Psychiatric Mental Health.......$18,360/year (F, S, Su)
Executive Leadership
Undergraduate..........................$490/credit hour
RN to DNP ..............................$15,075/year (F, S, Su)
Nurse Anesthesia
Undergraduate..........................$490/credit hour
RN to DNP ..............................$30,750/year (F, S, Su)

BSN to DNP tuition
Nurse Practitioner
Family................................................$16,785/year (F, S, Su)
Psychiatric Mental Health.......$18,360/year (F, S, Su)
Executive Leadership ..............$15,075/year (F, S, Su)
Nurse Anesthesia ......................$30,750/year (F, S, Su)
Post-graduate DNP-all tracks.......$980/credit hour

Post-MSN DNP all tracks
RN to DNP and BSN to DNP ..........$240/term
Post-MSN DNP all tracks ..............$31/credit hr
Insurance fee (per year) ...................$25
Clinical Tracking System ...............$45/year
($30/year for BSN to DNP)

Course Evaluation Annual Fee ..............$105
Sitting fee for composite picture of class ....$35
Cap and Gown ..............................approx. $150
Castle Branch Medical Document Manager ....$35
Castle Branch Drug Screen and Background Check .. $110
Random Drug Screen ....................$37.50/year

Application Fee ..........................................................$50

General Student Fee
RN to DNP and BSN to DNP .......... $240/term

Any combination of the following payment is available.
1. Check, cash, or credit card
2. Federal Direct loan
3. Employer reimbursement
4. FACTS (an electronic monthly draft from a savings or checking account)
Books cost approximately $150 per course.
All financial information is subject to change without notice.
Financial Assistance

Financial aid information for graduate students is available on our website at www.university.edu/financialaid/graduate/. Generally, graduate students may be eligible for Federal Direct student loans or private alternative student loans, depending on the program of study and the eligibility of the borrower. Union University is also approved by the Department for Veterans Affairs to offer educational benefits to veterans, reservists, and dependents of veterans who qualify for Veterans Benefits. Any person who qualifies for VA Benefits should check with the Office of Student Financial Planning as soon as possible after acceptance into a graduate program.

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 (73-76 hours)
1. Complete the BSN to DNP Core for all tracks (above)
2. Complete the Advanced Practice Core (above)
3. Specialty for FNPs: NUR 617, 600, 547, 639, 650 (73 hours)
4. Specialty for Psychiatric Mental Health: NUR 566, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654 (76 hours)

BSN to DNP for 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 along side 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 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 36-month BSN to DNP option for students who are not CRNAs is also available, with first application deadline of October 11, followed by December 1 and February 1. 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.