Program Description

Purpose

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a practice-focused terminal degree earned by advanced practice nurses (APNs). Students will analyze systems of care and provide transformational leadership that influences and impacts patient safety and quality of culturally competent care in southeastern, North Carolina. The DNP program consists of 42 credit hours of part-time coursework for 3 years including 10 hours concentrated on a scholarly clinical project.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze research evidence and theories from nursing and other relevant disciplines to integrate scientific foundations for developing new practice approaches in the advanced practice role.
2. Demonstrate leadership in health organizations and systems approaches to meet current and future needs of patient populations by evaluating the outcomes of quality of health care and safety.
3. Design processes through clinical scholarship for health care outcomes that meet the nation’s priority for patient-centered, high quality care that is seamless and affordable.
4. Implement programs that use critical elements of technology for patients, populations, and health care systems that are ethically sound and culturally appropriate to improve current health care information and communication networks.
5. Critically analyze health policies for the development and implementation of health care reforms that advocate for social justice and equity in all health care arenas.
6. Demonstrate leadership in inter-professional communication, collaboration and consultation to analyze complex practice and organizational issues.
7. Directly manage psychosocial and socioeconomic dimensions of healthcare for patients and populations to prevent disease and promote community, environmental and occupational health.
8. Demonstrate the advanced practice role for clinical judgment by assisting patients and populations to navigate through the health care systems for optimal outcomes.

Admission Requirements

1. Master’s degree in nursing or post-master’s certificate from a program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), or the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA).
2. Current unrestricted registered nurse (RN) license in the state in which practice will occur.
3. Advanced Practice RNs (APRN) must have current national certification and be licensed and approved to practice as an APRN in their state of residence and currently employed in an advanced practice role. The APRN roles as defined by the American Colleges of Nursing are nurse anesthetist, clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife or nurse practitioner.
4. GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher on all previous graduate coursework as documented by official transcripts with evidence of completion of graduate level pathophysiology, pharmacology, and advanced physical assessment courses from an accredited school.
5. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for international students which is acceptable for two years from the date the test is administered and shows the minimum achievement levels. Students with foreign student visas must present evidence of professional standing in their home countries.
6. Written essay addressing your advanced practice expertise, career goals, how earning the DNP will advance your role, and describe of DNP project area limited to 600 words.
7. Submit a completed application and the $50.00 application fee to the Graduate School.
8. Three professional letters of recommendation to substantiate practice and leadership capabilities (one each from a former nurse faculty member and a current or former employer, preferred).
10. Criminal Background Check and 12 Panel Drug Screen is required for all applicants. An annual drug screen may also be required. Costs for these requirements are the responsibility of the applicant.
11. Interview with the School of Nursing faculty may be required to determine

Degree Requirements

The program of study for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) includes 12 core courses. Electives at the graduate level which are specialization-specific may lead to a graduate concentration in Nursing Education, Transcultural Nursing, Nurse Executive Leadership and Technology and Informatics.

Required Courses

- NSG 685 – Philosophical and Theoretical Basis for Clinical Scholarship and Practice: Credits 3
- NSG 686 – Research Design and Statistical Analysis for Advanced Practice Nursing: Credits 3
- NSG 687 – Clinical Epidemiology and Genomics for Advanced Practice Nursing: Credits 3
- NSG 688 – Clinical Leadership, Ethics, and Legalities for Role Development: Credits 3
- NSG 689 – Health Care Systems Policy and Financial Management: Credits 3
- NSG 690 – Improving Health Outcomes: Understanding Global Justice and Social Determinants: Credits 3
- NSG 692 – Information Systems and Technology in Health Care: Credits 3
- NSG 696 – Methods for Evidence Based Practice in Specialty Focused Practicum I: Credits 3
- NSG 697 – Methods for Evidence Based Practice in Specialty Focused Practicum II: Credits 3
- NSG 698 – Methods for Evidence Based Practice in Specialty Focused Practicum III: Credits 3
- NSG 693 - DNP residency/orientation: Credits 2
- NSG 699 – Clinical Scholarly Project: Credits 10
Applications, Tuition/Fees, Financial Aid
This is a distance education program for all applicable fees. For further information regarding tuition, eligibility/course requirements, deadlines, or to apply, contact:

Graduate School
James Hall
910-962-7303
http://uncw.edu/gradschool

Office of Student Success
McNeil Hall, Room 1009
910.962.3208
Fax: 910.962.4921
Email: chhs@uncw.edu
www.uncw.edu/oss/students.html
http://www.uncw.edu/oss/DNPCHHSUNCW.html

School of Nursing
(910) 962-7410
Fax: (910) 962-3723
Email: son@uncw.edu
http://uncw.edu/son/

Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid
(910) 962-3177
Email: finaid@uncw.edu
http://www.uncw.edu/finaid/process.html

The University of North Carolina Wilmington is committed to equality of educational opportunity. Questions regarding program access may be directed to the Compliance Officer, UNCW Chancellor’s Office, 601 South College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403-3297. Phone (910) 962-3000; Fax (910) 962-4050.

Updated: 2/17/2016

School of Nursing
History and Facts
The School of Nursing at UNCW was established in 1984 and became part of the College of Health and Human Services in July, 2010. As a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the graduate and undergraduate programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The faculty are a community of health care professionals dedicated to excellence in teaching, scholarly endeavors, and professional practice.

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