

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Degree Program

The Doctor of Nursing Practice academic degree requires a minimum of 70 nursing graduate credit hours and a minimum of 1,000 post-baccalaureate practice hours. There are two track options: 1) Nurse Practitioner, and 2) Leadership in Population Health and Healthcare Systems.

BSN-DNP

The BSN-DNP program is an on-line curriculum with six required on-campus, three-day “Intensives” and a minimum of 70 nursing graduate credit hours. In addition, a minimum of 600 direct patient-care practice hours for nurse practitioner students or 600 leadership practice hours are part of the minimum 1,000 required residency hours. The full-time, three-year program (nine semesters) consists of 9-12 credit hours per semester. The part-time, four-year program (12 semesters) consists of 6-9 credit hours per semester. While most course work is on-line, there are some courses that have “live” or synchronous virtual classrooms.

- Full-Time plan of study: <http://www.umsl.edu/~nursingweb/files/pdfs/doctoral/sample-plans-of-study/BSN%20to%20DNP%20FT%20PoS%202017.pdf>
- Part-Time plan of study: <http://www.umsl.edu/~nursingweb/files/pdfs/doctoral/sample-plans-of-study/BSN%20to%20DNP%20PT%20PoS%202017.pdf>

MSN-DNP

The MSN-DNP program is also an on-line curriculum. MSN graduate credit hours may be applicable towards the DNP required credit hours (for a minimum of 70 nursing graduate credit hours). There are two required on-campus, three-day “Intensives”: one intensive at the beginning of the program and the other at the end of the program.

- Plan of study: <http://www.umsl.edu/~nursingweb/files/pdfs/doctoral/sample-plans-of-study/MSN%20to%20DNP%20PT%20PoS%202017.pdf>

BSN-DNP Population Program Tracks Offered at UMSL:

- Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care (AGNP-PC)
 - Coordinator: Allison Brauch, DNP, APRN, AGNP-BC, PMHNP-BC (braucha@umsl.edu)
- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
 - Coordinator: Natalie Murphy, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC (murphyn@umsl.edu)
- Leadership in Population Health and Healthcare Systems
 - Coordinator: Laura Kuensting, DNP, APRN, PCNS-BC, CPNP, CPEN (kuenstingl@umsl.edu)
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Acute Care (PNP-AC)
 - Coordinator: Jessica Mann, DNP, APRN, PNP-AC (jk154a@mail.umsl.edu) or Catherine Reese, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PNP-AC (cige56@mail.umsl.edu)
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care (PNP-PC)
 - Coordinator: Lisa Merritt, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC, PMHS (schaegE@umsl.edu)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
 - Coordinator: Allison Brauch, DNP, APRN, AGNP-BC, PMHNP-BC (braucha@umsl.edu)
- Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP)
 - Coordinator: Laura Kuensting, DNP, APRN, PCNS-BC, CPNP, CPEN (kuenstingl@umsl.edu)

Comprehensive Examination: The proposal defense for the clinical scholarship project serves as the comprehensive examination.

Clinical Scholarship Project: An applied project analyzing a clinical practice, education, leadership, or legislative issue that implements an evidence-based practice improvement change or legislative policy change. A publishable paper, poster presentation and an oral presentation/defense is required. The nursing graduate faculty and the graduate school must accept the project, results, and professional presentation.

Program Website: <http://umsl.edu/go/DNP>

Application Requirements

1. Complete the Graduate School on-line application: <http://umsl.edu/go/Apply-Now>
2. Complete the College of Nursing Application:
https://apps.umsl.edu/webapps/ITS/Nursing_apps/index.cfm
3. Evidence of U.S. permanent resident or citizen (e.g., social security card, passport, etc.) or visa to the United States.
4. Grade point average: Minimum of 3.25 (BSN) and/or a 3.25 (MSN) GPA on a 4.0 scale.
5. Submit transcripts:
 - a. Official transcripts from all universities attended
 - b. International applicants are required to document English proficiency by providing scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission
 - c. MSN-DNP applicants must reflect successful completion (i.e., grade of 'B' or higher) graduate coursework (5000 level or higher) in advanced health assessment, advanced pathophysiology, and advanced pharmacology.
 - Applicants must have a BSN and/or MSN degree from a program with U.S. national nursing accreditation (e.g., CCNE).
 - Successful completion (i.e., grade of 'C' or higher) of an undergraduate or graduate level general statistics course before starting the program or concomitant with the first semester of the program.
 - BSN-DNP applicants who are alumni of UMSL's undergraduate nursing programs with a 3.75 (BSN) grade point average for the last 60 hours will have guaranteed admission into the program.
6. Evidence of registered nurse licensure in all states licensed to practice.
7. Curriculum Vita
8. Two to three page maximum, double-spaced, APA format. Essay contents:
 - Introduction (250 word max.)
Include professional background, but not personal identifiers such as name, place of employment, etc., and the population track of interest (i.e., leadership, FNP, AGNP, etc.).
 - Learning (250 word max.)
Describe how you think about and pursue learning in your profession.

- Diversity (250 word max.)
Discuss a nursing practice experience that changed or impacted your understanding of diversity and why.
- Meaningfulness (250 word max.)
Describe an activity that brings meaning to your life.
- Leadership (250 word max.)
Describe direct or indirect leadership experiences you have had.
- Summary (optional)

9. Two letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the applicant's likely success in the DNP program.

Application Deadline

The deadline for receipt of all admission materials is January 15 of each year for the following fall admission. A rolling admission will occur until class is full. Applications must be received in full (i.e., all required documents are submitted) for consideration. Acceptance notification will occur by March for January applicants, and within four weeks during rolling admission.

Application Fee: \$50 for domestic applicants; \$40 for international applicants

MSN/DNP Program Director

Laura L. Kuensting, DNP, APRN, PCNS-BC, CPNP, CPEN

Phone: 314-516-7129

Email: kuenstingl@umsl.edu

Graduate Academic Advisor

Stacy Pearson

Phone: 314-516-7082

Email: pearsonsr@umsl.edu

For more information:

Contact Stacy Pearson, the population track (area emphasis) coordinator, or the MSN/DNP program director.