

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Degree Program

The Doctor of Nursing Practice academic degree requires a minimum of 72 nursing graduate credit hours and a minimum of 1,000 residency hours. There are two track options: 1) Nurse Practitioner, and 2) Leadership-Population Health.

The BSN-DNP program is a distance-mediated curriculum requiring a minimum of 72 nursing graduate credit hours. In addition, a minimum of 600 direct patient-care hours for nurse practitioner students or 600 education/leadership hours are part of the 1,000 required residency hours. A clinical scholarship project is required in the last year of the program and accounts for 300-400 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 classroom sessions. There are six required on-campus "intensive" three-day workshops during the program.

The MSN-DNP program is also a distance-mediated curriculum. MSN graduate credit hours are applicable towards the DNP required credit hours (for a minimum of 72 nursing graduate credit hours). The residency or practicum hours from an accredited advanced practice registered nursing (APRN), nursing education, or nursing leadership master's program applies towards the 1000 minimum residency hours required for the DNP. A required clinical scholarship project accounts for 300-400 residency hours. Additional residency hours are required only if needed to obtain a minimum of 1,000 residency hours. While most course work is on-line, there are some courses that have "live" or synchronous virtual classroom sessions. The part-time, two-year program (six semesters) consists of 3-9 credit hours per semester. There are two required on-campus "intensive" three-day workshops during the program.

There are additional options for the non-APRN MSN (e.g., nursing education or clinical nurse leader) seeking APRN certification eligibility while acquiring the DNP, and for the MSN APRN seeking additional certification eligibility while acquiring the DNP. APRN certification eligibility requires 500-600 residency hours of direct patient care in the population of study, but the hours apply towards the DNP academic degree.

DNP Population Program Tracks Offered at UMSL:

- Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care (AGNP-PC)
- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Leadership – Population Health
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Primary Care (PNP-PC)
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Acute Care (PNP-AC)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
- Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP)

Coursework: DNP includes courses in biostatistics, epidemiology, healthcare informatics, healthcare policy, quality improvement, healthcare economics and leadership. All coursework is in the English language.

Comprehensive Examination: None.

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/login.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 3.3 (BSN) and a 3.5 GPA (MSN) on a 4.0 scale.
5. Official transcripts from all universities attended for each degree obtained:
 - a. Applicants must have a BSN and/or MSN degree from a program with U.S. national nursing accreditation (e.g., CCNE).
6. Successful completion (i.e., grade of 'B' or better) of an undergraduate or graduate level general statistics course before starting the program or concomitant with the first semester of the program.
7. For the BSN and MSN: Evidence of registered nurse licensure in all states licensed to practice.
8. For the APRN MSN: Evidence of advanced practice certification from one of the recognized national board certification entities and evidence of recognition for advanced practice status with the State Board of Nursing in which the APRN practices.
9. Two to three page, double-spaced, APA format original essay:
 - a. Introduction (One-paragraph)
 - i. include personal/professional background, but not personal identifiers such as name, place of employment, etc.
 - ii. population track of interest (e.g., leadership, AGNP, FNP, etc.)
 - iii. academic degree sought (e.g., BSN-DNP, MSN-DNP, post-graduate certificate, etc.) and why
 - b. Learning (One-paragraph)
 - i. describe how you think about and pursue learning in your profession
 - c. Diversity (One-paragraph)
 - i. discuss how understanding diversity impacts your nursing practice
 - d. Meaningful Activities (One-paragraph)
 - i. explain a professional practice issue of interest and activities you are involved in regarding the issue
 - e. Leadership (One-paragraph)
 - i. describe indirect or direct leadership experience(s)
 - f. Summary (One paragraph)
10. 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 a following fall admission, or April 1 if space is still available. Applications must be received in full (i.e., all required documents are submitted) for consideration. Acceptance notification will occur in March for January applicants, and May for April applicants (if applicable).

Application Fee

\$50 for domestic applicants; \$40 for international applicants

DNP Program Director

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

Contact: Laura L. Kuensting, Director, MSN/DNP Programs

Phone: 314-516-7129

Email: kuenstingl@umsl.edu