NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

Doctor of Nursing Practice
Unit: School of Nursing (https://louisville.edu/nursing) (GN)  
Program Website (https://louisville.edu/nursing/academics/dnp)  
Academic Plan Code(s): See Degree Requirements tab.

Program Information
The Doctor of Nursing Practice is designed to prepare nurse leaders in the clinical and systems arena to meet the challenges of today’s healthcare environment. The DNP is focused on developing the advanced practice knowledge and skills to improve health outcomes of individuals or populations through direct care, management of care, administration of organizations, and implementation of health policy. The University of Louisville offers both the BSN-DNP and the MSN-DNP options. The BSN-DNP requires a minimum of three years of full-time study. The last two years of the program include 1,000 clinical and project hours. The MSN-DNP is designed for advanced practice nurses and focuses on leadership for population health. A minimum of two years of part-time study is required. Clinical hours vary depending on previous masters preparation. Students must provide documentation of previous clinical hours and complete a minimum of 330 project hours, for a total of 1,000 hours.

Specialties Available
- Adult Gerontology Acute Care
- Adult Gerontology Primary Care
- Family
- Neonatal
- Psychiatric/Mental Health

Program Academic Policies

Academic Progress in the Graduate Program
Satisfactory academic progress in a program involves maintaining the academic and professional standards expected in a particular discipline or program and many include a demonstration of the ability to function as a professional practitioner. Failure to maintain these standards or demonstrate such abilities may result in the termination of the student’s admission to the program.

Time Limitations for Degree-Seekers
Students must complete the degree requirements within six years of beginning the program of study.

Removal from Clinical
A student who is unsafe in a clinical area or research setting is subject to academic action including dismissal from the program.

Course Offerings
Course offerings are subject to cancellation due to insufficient enrollment. Preceptorship/clinical experiences are scheduled on any day of the week based on availability of clinical sites and preceptors. Limited evening and weekend preceptorship experiences may be available. Preceptorship experiences throughout the state are also possible but not guaranteed. The office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs oversees student placement with preceptors, in collaboration with the Clinical Placement Coordinator and course faculty.

Late Complete Withdrawal after the Deadline
Upon proper documentation of extreme circumstances, a decision for approval of late complete withdrawals may be made by the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. Late complete withdrawals are those requested after the deadline has passed and before the instructor has assigned a grade.

Students may not withdraw from any course after the published deadline in the online Schedule of Courses without the approval of the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. This is granted only because of illness or conditions beyond the student’s control. The grade report would reflect a grade of W.

Student Health Services Requirements
Each student must comply with the current student health policy of the Health Sciences Center. All costs associated with the compliance are the responsibility of the student. Because of contractual Agreements with agencies and the changing needs of society, this policy is updated periodically. The current health policies are listed below. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain his/her health in order to ensure safety for other students and clients. If faculty or the agency deems that any student creates a health risk, the student may be excluded from the clinical experience and/or the program.

Note: Health policies are constantly under review by faculty based on CDC changing requirements and community expectations. Students will be notified of any policy changes, and compliance will be required.

Clinical Requirements
Before beginning the first clinical course in the DNP program, students must be in clinical compliance. Detailed information is provided at student orientations, the School of Nursing Graduate Student Handbook and is available through the School of Nursing, Office of Student Services.

Repeating Nursing Courses
DNP students who receive a grade of C+ or below in a required DNP program course at the University of Louisville must repeat the course. Students who receive more than one C+ or below in their required DNP curriculum will be dismissed from the program. Students are allowed to repeat a course on a space-available basis.

Probation and Dismissal
If the cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0, the student will be placed on academic probation for the next regular semester. If the cumulative grade point average is not raised to a minimum of 3.0 by the end of the probation semester, the student will be dismissed from the program. The dismissal will be reflected on the student’s transcript. If a student wishes to continue at the university, he/she must apply and be accepted to another unit in order to continue to enroll in classes.

Admissions Criteria
Application deadline for fall admissions is February 1, with Fall semester admissions only.

A holistic review process is used when considering applications for admission to the DNP program. The holistic review considers multiple criteria for admission, including: the applicant’s professional career goals, academic capabilities, GPA, work experience, certifications, leadership and community engagement.
To be considered for admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, the following items must be submitted:

**To the Graduate School**
1. Completed Graduate Admission Application (https://louisville.edu/graduate/apply) including an application fee.
2. Transcripts
3. Three letters of recommendation from individuals chosen from among: former faculty, current or immediate past employer, or other nursing/health professional who can speak of academic and/or professional nursing capabilities and potential. At least one recommendation should be from a nurse. These letters should accompany the Letter of Evaluation form required by the Graduate School.
4. Goal Statement that discusses career goals, areas of expertise, and reasons for pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (maximum of three pages, double-spaced, 12-point font).
5. Resume including your RN license number. Include RN verification of licensure from the Board of Nursing.
6. Proof of English Proficiency: International students for whom English is not their primary language must show English language proficiency by 1) demonstration of a degree awarded from an acceptable English language institution or 2) acceptable examinations: TOEFL; International English Language Testing System (IELTS); successful completion of the exit examination for the advanced level of the intensive English as a Second Language Program. Recommended test scores are available on the University International Student website.

**BSN-DNP applicants**
Official transcripts representing all college coursework from regionally accredited schools with a recommended cumulative undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 on 4.0 scale. Completion of an accredited (by NLN, CCNE or ACEN) baccalaureate program in nursing must be verified. Bachelor's degree from a nationally accredited university is required.

**MSN-DNP applicants**
Official transcripts representing all college coursework with a recommended cumulative graduate grade point average of 3.25 on 4.0 scale. Recommended minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 on 4.0 scale. Completion of accredited (by NLN, CCNE or ACEN) graduate and undergraduate programs in nursing must be verified. Bachelor's degree from a nationally accredited university is required.

Applicants who have attended a college or university outside the United States are also required to submit an evaluation of their transcript through World Education Services (WES) (http://wes.org) or Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) (http://ece.org). Please note that transcript evaluations can sometimes take several weeks.

**To the School of Nursing, Office of Student Services**
1. Completed online Legal Questionnaire
2. A Certified Background Check
3. A personal interview may be required.

Neonatal specialty requires a minimum of one year of work experience in a Level-III or Level-IV NICU prior to admission. Work experience recommended prior to the first DNP clinical course in all other specialties.

### Program Requirements

#### BSN-DNP Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 605</td>
<td>Theoretical Application for Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 607</td>
<td>Foundation Concepts of Evidence Based Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 608</td>
<td>Healthcare Systems and Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 652</td>
<td>Advanced Statistical Application</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 657</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Culturally Diverse and Vulnerable Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 725</td>
<td>Leadership and Health Policy for the Doctorally Prepared Nurse</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 740</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 741</td>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 742</td>
<td>Advanced Physical Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 743</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 744</td>
<td>Synthesis and Evaluation of Evidence in Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 745</td>
<td>Health Information Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 746</td>
<td>Program Development &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 747</td>
<td>Finance Management</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 748</td>
<td>Transformational Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 750</td>
<td>DNP Project I: Project Inception</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 751</td>
<td>DNP Project II: Project Implementation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 752</td>
<td>DNP Project III: Project Evaluation, Analysis and Dissemination</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 787</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 788</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 789</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum III</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Minimum Total Hours**: 62

#### MSN-DNP Curriculum

Academic Plan Code(s): NURSDNPNMSN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 608</td>
<td>Healthcare Systems and Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 652</td>
<td>Advanced Statistical Application</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 725</td>
<td>Leadership and Health Policy for the Doctorally Prepared Nurse</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 740</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 741</td>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 742</td>
<td>Advanced Physical Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 743</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 744</td>
<td>Synthesis and Evaluation of Evidence in Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 745</td>
<td>Health Information Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 746</td>
<td>Program Development &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 747</td>
<td>Finance Management</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 748</td>
<td>Transformational Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 750</td>
<td>DNP Project I: Project Inception</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 751</td>
<td>DNP Project II: Project Implementation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 752</td>
<td>DNP Project III: Project Evaluation, Analysis and Dissemination</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Specialty coursework required for non-nurse practitioner MSN-DNP or for nurse practitioner seeking an additional specialty.

Minimum Total Hours 46

1 Not required for Neonatal
2 Required for advanced practice if not a licensed nurse practitioner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 754</td>
<td>Clinical Reasoning in Advanced Practice Nursing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 760</td>
<td>Gerontology Pharmacology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 776</td>
<td>Procedures and Diagnostics for the Acute Care NP I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 777</td>
<td>The Adult/Gerontology Acute Care NP Role</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 779</td>
<td>Diagnosis &amp; Management in Acute Care I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 780</td>
<td>Procedures and Diagnostics for the Acute Care NP II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 781</td>
<td>Diagnosis &amp; Management in Acute Care II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 783</td>
<td>Diagnosis &amp; Management in Acute Care III</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum Total Hours</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 761</td>
<td>Pediatric &amp; Adolescent Well Child Theory</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 763</td>
<td>Advanced Neonatal Physiology &amp; Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 764</td>
<td>Neonatal Diagnostic Reasoning I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 765</td>
<td>Advance Neonatal Physiology &amp; Pathophysiology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 766</td>
<td>Neonatal Diagnostic Reasoning II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 767</td>
<td>Neonatal Residency I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 768</td>
<td>Neonatal Residency II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 769</td>
<td>Neonatal Residency III</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 784</td>
<td>Advanced Neonatal Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 785</td>
<td>Advanced Neonatal Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 786</td>
<td>Human Embryology and Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum Total Hours</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 770</td>
<td>Advanced Psych Assessment &amp; Clinical Interview</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 771</td>
<td>Psychopathology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 772</td>
<td>Psychopharmacology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 773</td>
<td>Management of Psychiatric/Mental Health Conditions: Foundation of Individual Psychotherapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 774</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Psych/Mental Health: Group Psychotherapy and Care of Special Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 775</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management of Psychiatric/Mental Health Conditions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum Total Hours</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>