

# 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 master's preparation. Students must provide documentation of previous clinical hours and complete a minimum of 330 project hours, for a total of 1,000 post-baccalaureate hours.

## Specialties Available

- Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

## Admissions Criteria

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, leadership, and community engagement.

The University of Louisville School of Nursing participates in Nursing's Centralized Application Service (<https://nursingcas.org/>) (NursingCAS), which provides you with an online application. NursingCAS collects and processes your application documents and verifies your transcripts.

The School of Nursing will receive your application information from NursingCAS and use it to make admission decisions.

To be considered for admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, the following items must be submitted:

### To the Graduate School

- Completed Graduate Admission Application (<https://louisville.edu/graduate/apply/>) including a reduced application fee.

### To NursingCAS

#### 1. Transcripts

- **BSN -DNP applicant:** Official transcripts representing all college coursework with a recommended undergraduate cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. BSN degree

must be from a regionally accredited institution and a CCNE-, ACEN-, or NLN-accredited nursing program.

- **MSN-DNP applicant:** Official transcripts representing all college coursework with a recommended graduate cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.25 on a 4.0 scale. BSN degree must be from a regionally accredited institution. BSN and MSN degrees must be from CCNE-, ACEN-, or NLN-accredited nursing programs.
2. Applicants who have attended a college or university outside the United States are also required to submit a course by course 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.
  3. **Two letters of recommendation** from individuals who can speak of academic and/or professional capabilities and potential for a scholarly career. Recommendation should be requested from former faculty, current or immediate past employers, or other nursing/health professionals. Recommendations must be completed within the last year.
  4. **Current resume or curriculum vitae (CV)** including your RN license number.
  5. **Unencumbered RN license** from a US state board of nursing.
  6. **Responses to all questions** asked on the NursingCAS application.
  7. Students for whom English is not their primary language must show English Proficiency (<https://louisville.edu/graduate/futurestudents/application-directions/>).

### Additional Admission Requirements for Acute Care Specialties

**Neonatal specialty:** Minimum of one year of RN clinical experience in a Level III or Level IV NICU prior to admission. All NNP applicants must have the equivalent of two years of full-time RN clinical experience within the last five years in a Level III or Level IV NICU inpatient setting before beginning clinical courses.

**Adult Gerontology Acute Care specialty:** One year of RN clinical experience in an ICU **or** one year of RN clinical experience in any area and a commitment to complete one year of RN clinical practice in an ICU before beginning clinical courses. Applicants that do not have one year of RN experience at the point of application, but will complete one year before beginning clinical courses, will satisfy the work requirement.

**Pediatric Acute Care:** One year of RN clinical practice experience in an acute care setting **or** one year of RN experience in any area and a commitment to complete one year in an acute care setting before beginning clinical courses.

## Program Requirements

### BSN-DNP Curriculum

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Core Courses Required for All Specialties</b>		
NURS 605	Theoretical Application for Practice	3
NURS 607	Foundational Concepts of Evidence Based Practice	3
NURS 657	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Culturally Diverse and Vulnerable Populations	3
NURS 725	Analysis of Leadership and Health Policy	3
NURS 740	Advanced Pharmacology <sup>1</sup>	3
NURS 741	Advanced Pathophysiology	4

NURS 742	Advanced Physical Assessment <sup>1</sup>	3
NURS 743	Epidemiology	3
NURS 744	Synthesis and Evaluation of Evidence in Practice	3
NURS 745	Informatics in Advanced Practice Nursing	3
NURS 746	Program Development & Evaluation	3
NURS 747	Finance Management	2
NURS 748	Transformational Leadership	3
NURS 749	The Business of Healthcare	3
NURS 750	DNP Project I: Project Inception	3
NURS 751	DNP Project II: Project Implementation	3
NURS 752	DNP Project III: Project Evaluation, Analysis and Dissemination	3
NURS 787	Clinical Practicum for the DNP NP I <sup>1</sup>	4
NURS 788	Clinical Practicum II <sup>1</sup>	3
NURS 789	Clinical Practicum for the DNP NP III <sup>1</sup>	1
NURS 791	Applied Statistics for Evidence Based Practice	3
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>62</b>

## MSN-DNP Curriculum

Academic Plan Code(s): NURSDNPMSN

Code	Title	Hours
NURS 725	Analysis of Leadership and Health Policy	3
NURS 740	Advanced Pharmacology <sup>2</sup>	3
NURS 741	Advanced Pathophysiology <sup>2</sup>	4
NURS 742	Advanced Physical Assessment <sup>2</sup>	3
NURS 743	Epidemiology	3
NURS 744	Synthesis and Evaluation of Evidence in Practice	3
NURS 745	Informatics in Advanced Practice Nursing	3
NURS 746	Program Development & Evaluation	3
NURS 747	Finance Management	2
NURS 748	Transformational Leadership	3
NURS 749	The Business of Healthcare	3
NURS 750	DNP Project I: Project Inception	3
NURS 751	DNP Project II: Project Implementation	3
NURS 752	DNP Project III: Project Evaluation, Analysis and Dissemination	3
NURS 754	Clinical Reasoning in Advanced Practice Nursing <sup>2</sup>	1
NURS 791	Applied Statistics for Evidence Based Practice	3

Specialty coursework required for non-nurse practitioner MSN-DNP or for nurse practitioner seeking an additional specialty.

**Minimum Total Hours** 46

<sup>1</sup> Not required for Neonatal

<sup>2</sup> Required for advanced practice if not a licensed nurse practitioner.

## DNP Specialties

### Adult-Gerontology Acute Care

Academic Plan Code(s): NURSDNPAAC

Adult Gerontology Acute Care specialty requires one year of RN clinical experience in an ICU or one year of RN clinical experience in any area

and a commitment to complete one year of RN clinical practice in an ICU before beginning clinical courses.

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

### Adult-Gerontology Primary Care

Academic Plan Code(s): NURSDNPAPC

Code	Title	Hours
NURS 753	Adolescent Well Child Theory	1
NURS 754	Clinical Reasoning in Advanced Practice Nursing	1
NURS 755	Diagnosis and Management of Adult Health in Primary Care	4
NURS 756	Procedures & Diagnostics for Adult Health	2
NURS 757	Diagnosis and Management of Women's Health in Primary Care	2
NURS 758	Diagnosis and Management of Mental Health in Primary Care	2
NURS 759	Diagnosis and Management of the Older Adult in Primary Care	2
NURS 760	Gerontology Pharmacology	1
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

### Family Nurse Practitioner

Academic Plan Code(s): NURSDNPFNP

Code	Title	Hours
NURS 754	Clinical Reasoning in Advanced Practice Nursing	1
NURS 755	Diagnosis and Management of Adult Health in Primary Care	4
NURS 756	Procedures & Diagnostics for Adult Health	2
NURS 757	Diagnosis and Management of Women's Health in Primary Care	2
NURS 758	Diagnosis and Management of Mental Health in Primary Care	2
NURS 760	Gerontology Pharmacology	1
NURS 761	Pediatric & Adolescent Well Child Theory	2
NURS 762	Diagnosis & Management of Pediatrics in Primary Care	2
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>16</b>

## Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Academic Plan Code(s): NURSDNPNNP

Neonatal specialty requires a minimum of one year of RN experience in a Level III or Level IV NICU prior to admission. All neonatal applicants must have the equivalent of two years of full-time RN experience within the last five years in a Level III or Level IV NICU inpatient setting before beginning clinical courses.

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

## Pediatric Acute Care

Academic Plan Code(s): NURSDNPPAC

Pediatric Acute Care specialty requires one year of RN experience in an acute care setting **or** one year of RN experience in any area and a commitment to complete one year in an acute care setting before beginning clinical courses.

Code	Title	Hours
NURS 761	Pediatric & Adolescent Well Child Theory <sup>1</sup>	2
NURS 762	Diagnosis & Management of Pediatrics in Primary Care <sup>1</sup>	2
NURS 800	Pathophysiology for Pediatric Acute Care	1
NURS 801	Pharmacology for Pediatric Acute Care	1
NURS 802	Procedures for Pediatric Acute Care	1
NURS 803	Diagnosis and Management for Pediatric Acute Care I: Special Needs in Chronic Illness	3
NURS 804	Diagnosis & Management Pediatric Acute Care II: Acute Illness	2
NURS 806	Pediatric Acute Care Role	1
NURS 805	Diagnosis and Management for Pediatric Acute Care III: Critical Illness Management	3
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>16</b>

<sup>1</sup> NURS 761 and NURS 762 are waived for Family or Pediatric Nurse Practitioners upon gap analysis of first population focus transcript.

## Psychiatric Mental Health

Academic Plan Code(s): NURSDNPPMH

Code	Title	Hours
NURS 770	Advanced Psych Assessment & Clinical Interview	2
NURS 771	Psychopathology	2
NURS 772	Psychopharmacology	2
NURS 773	Management of Psychiatric/Mental Health Conditions: Foundation of Individual Psychotherapy	3
NURS 774	Diagnosis and Management in Psych/Mental Health: Group Psychotherapy and Care of Special Populations	3
NURS 775	Diagnosis and Management of Psychiatric/Mental Health Conditions	3

**Minimum Total Hours** **15**

DNP graduates from the UofL School of Nursing are prepared to apply for APRN certification in their population track upon graduation; however, educational preparation does not guarantee professional licensure. If you have questions regarding Kentucky APRN licensure, please contact the Kentucky Board of Nursing (<https://kbn.ky.gov/Pages/advanced-practice-registered-nurse.aspx>). For APRN licensure questions in other states, please contact the respective state board of nursing (<https://ncsbn.org/contact-bon.htm>).