

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program ~ *Online* Post Master's and Post Baccalaureate Options

The University of Massachusetts Amherst offers the Doctor in Nursing Practice (DNP) degree to prepare advanced practice nurses at the highest level. This professional nursing preparation will include advanced coursework in leadership, research translation, and clinical knowledge and skills. This change was driven by evolving nursing roles in an increasingly complex health care system, new scientific knowledge, and ongoing concerns about the quality and outcomes of nursing care.

The School has expert faculty in two roles:

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
Public Health Nurse Leader (PHNL).

Currently our Psych track is closed until further notice.

Graduates of the DNP program will practice at the highest level. Specific expected outcomes of the program are to graduate nurses who will:

- engage in nursing practice using the advanced knowledge from nursing and related disciplines to improve health outcomes
- provide leadership and collaborate with leaders in other professions for change in systems of care
- synthesize and translate evidence from nursing and other disciplines to manage complex health problems
- provide culturally proficient care to respond to health disparities and societal needs.

Core competencies essential for those preparing for direct care roles and for population based roles build on eight essential content areas:

- scientific underpinnings for practice
- organizational and systems leadership for quality improvement, and systems thinking
- clinical scholarship and analytic methods for evidence-based practice
- technology and information for the improvement and transformation of healthcare
- health care policy for advocacy in health care
- interprofessional collaboration for improving patient and population healthcare outcomes
- clinical prevention and population health for improving the nation's health

- advanced nursing practice for improving the delivery of patient care.

Admission Criteria

Applicants to the program must meet the entrance requirements of the University of Massachusetts Graduate School and the School of Nursing. Each applicant must be a graduate of a nationally accredited school of nursing and hold a current professional license. Applicants must present evidence of the following:

- Official transcripts from colleges/universities attended
- Baccalaureate or master's degree in nursing, or an associate degree in nursing and a non-nursing baccalaureate degree
- Grade Point Average of 3.0 (B) or higher
- Two letters of recommendation
- Scholarly writing sample (e.g., scholarly paper, publication)
- Statement of professional goals
- Current Resume or CV
- Documentation of professional licensure and certifications
- Evidence of completion of undergraduate statistics and health assessment course or equivalent if required by specialty.
- TOEFL scores where applicable

Please visit our website at www.umass.edu/nursing for nursing application and detailed instructions on how to complete the application process.

Application Deadline is February 1st each year

DNP Program Requirements

- Post-Baccalaureate students will complete 82-84 credit hours in the DNP program.
- Post-master's applicants will receive a portfolio review based on transcripts, certification status, licensure designation, and resume, to determine the number of credits required for the DNP. There is a minimum of 36 credits that must be completed.

DNP Course Requirements

Note: if a student is interested in taking two or more courses per semester it is recommended that the student does not work full time.

The DNP program is a distance accessible program offered through a mixed delivery method (coursework predominantly online with practicum experiences

arranged in the students own community. Occasional campus visits may be required for some students. All course work is offered through Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) www.umasslearn.net. Please visit our website at www.umass.edu/nursing for more information on our program, and visit the CPE website for online learning and distant education. Please preview an online course at <http://www.umassonline.net/CourseDemo.cfm> and see if online learning is the education choice for you. Support is available for those new to online learning.

Students may transfer credit hours once matriculated into the program. Please see the Graduate School website for their Transfer Credit Policy at <http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/handbook/> under *Educational Records*. Courses taken as non-degree student does not guarantee admission to the program.

DNP Core Courses

All students will take 46 credits of core courses that include the following:

- N603 Theoretical Components of Nursing Science (3)
- N701 Healthcare Quality (3)
- N630 Research Methodology in Nursing (3)
- N690L Leadership of Public Health Systems (3)
- N704 Health Disparities and Social Justice (3)
- N790G Research Translation in Nursing (3)
- N735 Informatics for Nursing Practice (3)
- PUBHLTH 630 Principles of Epidemiology (3)
- SCH-MGMT 680 Organizational Behavior (4)
- PUBHLTH 524 Intro to Health Politics and Policy (3)
- PUBHLTH 540 Introductory Biostatistics (3)
- N797D ST- Intermediate Biostatistics (3)
- Comprehensive examination requirement**
- Capstone Experience:
 - 898A DNP Practicum: Immersion Experience (6)
 - 890C DNP Capstone Project (3)

DNP Specialty Courses

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

- N614 Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (3)
- N615 Advanced Pathophysiology (3)
- N619 Advanced Pharmacology (3)
- N703 Pharmacotherapy Management (3)
- N610 Primary Health Care of Children, Adolescents & Young Adults (3)
- N620 Primary Health Care of Middle Aged and Older Adults (3)
- N690W Primary Health Care of Women (3)
- N790C Complex and Chronic Health Care (3)
- N670 Family Systems and Intervention (3)
- N698 & N798 Practica & Role Seminars (12 credits total)

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMH-NP). *This track is currently closed until further notice*

- N690C Advanced Health Assessment (3)
- N615 Advanced Pathophysiology (3)
- N690D Advanced Pharmacology (3)
- N790D Pharmacotherapy Management (3)
- N660 Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Individuals I (3)
- N790I Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing with Individuals II (3)
- N670 Family Systems and Intervention (3)
- N665 Psych Mental Health Nursing with Groups (3)
- N698 Practica & Role Seminars (7 total across courses)
- N798 Practicum & Role Seminar (6)

Public Health Nurse Leader (PHNL)

- N640 Advanced Public Health Nursing I (3)
- N791P Advanced Public Health Nursing II
- N698 & N798 Practica & Role Seminars (9 credits total)
- PUBHLTH 763 Current Topics in PH Practice (3)
- PUBHLTH 620 Intro to the US Health Care System (3)
- PUBHLTH 565 Environmental Health Practices (3)
- PUBHLTH 601 Application of Social & Behavioral Theories in Pub Health Education and Intervention (3)
- PUBHLTH 525 Ethical Issues in Public Health (3)
- PUBHLTH 628 Financial Management of Health Institutions (3)
- PUBHLTH 780 Public Health Law (3)
- PUBHLTH 704 Health Program Planning (3)

Cost per credit is variable, and may change. Please check <http://www.umassonline.net> under “programs”, “degrees” “DNP” then “tuition and fees” bar for current cost each semester. Tuition is variable for each department.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available in the form of graduate loans. Information is available at www.umass.edu/umfa. Additional aid opportunities include grants, fellowships, traineeships, assistantships, minority student assistantships, and employment opportunities.

For Application and General Information

- 1) Please visit the UMass School of Nursing website at <http://www.umass.edu/nursing>
- 2) Please visit the UMass Online website at <http://www.umassonline.net/Home.html>
- 3) Karen Ayotte, DNP Program Office
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