

## Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program ~ *Online*

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 patient care.

The School has expert faculty in three roles:

**Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMH-NP) (Currently not accepting new application to this track), Public Health Nurse Leader (PHNL).**

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.

This program is partially funded by a Department of Health and Human Services and Health Resources and Services Administration grant D09HP07323-01-00 for \$947,621 for three years; July 2006 through June 30, 2009.

### Admissions 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:

- 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
- 2 letters of recommendation
- Scholarly writing sample
- Statement of professional goals
- Resume
- Documentation of professional licensure
- TOEFL scores if needed
- Evidence of completion of undergraduate statistics and health assessment course or equivalent if required by specialty.

Note: Applicants may choose to submit GRE scores as additional data if they believe their application does not adequately reflect their potential to succeed in the program.

Please visit our website at [www.umass.edu/nursing](http://www.umass.edu/nursing) for nursing application and Graduate School application.

**Application Deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup> each year**

### DNP Program Requirements

- Post-Baccalaureate students will complete 79-81 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.

### 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.**

All students are required to attend an on-campus orientation in early summer. Post Master's (PM) students can plan for a less than 1 week orientation. Post baccalaureate (PB) students plan for an additional Advanced Health Assessment leveling workshop. (PB) students will make 2 more on campus visits corresponding to role course requirements. All students will come to campus to present their capstone

presentation orally. It may also be recommended that students take PH540 Introductory Biostatistics prior to N797D Intermediate Biostatistics .

The DNP program is a distance accessible program offered through a mixed delivery method (coursework predominantly online with some campus visits required.) All course work is offered through Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) [www.umasslearn.net](http://www.umasslearn.net). Please visit our website at [www.umass.edu/nursing](http://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.

## Core Courses

All students will take 43 credits of core courses that include the following:

- N603 Theoretical Components of Nursing Science (3)
- N690L Leadership in Public Health Systems (3)
- N690I Healthcare Quality (3)
- N630 Research Methodology in Nursing (3)
- N790G Research Translation in Nursing (3)
- PUBHLTH 630 Principles of Epidemiology (3)
- SCH-MGMT 680 Organizational Behavior (4)
- PUBHLTH 524 Intro to Health Politics and Policy (3)
- N790J Healthcare Informatics (3)
- N797D ST- Intermediate Biostatistics (3)
- N704 Health Disparities and Social Justice (3)
- Comprehensive examination requirement**
- Capstone Experience:
  - Residency (6)
  - Capstone research project (3)

## Specialty Courses

### Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

- N690C Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (3)
- N615 Advanced Pathophysiology (3)
- N690D Advanced Pharmacology (3)
- N790A Pharmacotherapy Management (3)
- N610 Primary Health Care of Children, Adolescents & Young Adults (3)\*
- N620 Primary Health Care of Middle Aged and Older Adults (3)\*
- N670 Family Systems and Intervention (3)
- N698 Practica & Role Seminars (11; total across courses)\*
- N798 Practicum & Role Seminar (6)\*

\* Note: These courses are currently being revised. The credit hours will shift, but the total credit hours for the Specialty will remain the same.

### Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMH-NP) (Currently not accepting new application to this track)

- N690C Advanced Health Assessment (3)
- N615 Advanced Pathophysiology (3)
- N690D Advanced Pharmacology (3)
- N790A 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)
- NXX Advanced Public Health Nursing II (in development)
- N798 Practica (6; total across courses)
- PUBHLTH 763 Current Topics in PH Practice (3)
- PUBHLTH 620 Intro to US Hlthcare Systems (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 [umassonline.net](http://umassonline.net) under “programs”, “degrees” “DNP” then “tuition and fees” bar for current cost each semester.** Tuition is variable for each department.

Students may transfer a maximum of 12 credit hours once matriculated into the program. This includes 6 outside the University, and 6 inside the University. 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 does not guarantee admission to the program.

## For Application and General Information

- 1) Please visit UMass Online website at <http://www.umassonline.net/Home.html>
- 2) Karen Ayotte, DNP Program Office  
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Phone: (413) 545-1302  
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Visit our website at [www.umass.edu/nursing](http://www.umass.edu/nursing) for more information, to locate and RSVP for an information session.