Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available in the form of graduate loans. Information is available at: www.umass.edu/umfa

Additional aid opportunities:
- Grants
- Fellowships
- Traineeships
- Assistantships
- Minority student assistantships
- Employment opportunities

The Nursing Program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), a national nursing education accrediting body and approved by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing.

Accreditation

The University of Massachusetts Amherst College of Nursing offers award-winning graduate programs. This distance accessible program is offered through an asynchronous delivery method of online courses with practicum experiences arranged in the student’s own community. All course work is offered through Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) at www.umassulearn.net.

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

Graduates of the DNP program will practice at the highest level. Specific expected outcomes of the program are to prepare 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
- 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

Accreditation

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Application and General Information:
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The Vision of the College of Nursing is to be a force for innovation, learning and discovery in preparing culturally-proficient nurses for leadership in health for a global society.

Program Information

Students who enter this DNP Program option must be Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) who are currently certified as: FNP, AGPCNP, AGACNP, ANP, PNP, GNP, ACNP, Nurse Midwife, Nurse Anesthetist, and CNS.

This option is not applicable to Generic MS degrees, CNLs, Nurse Educators, MBAs, or MPHs.

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www.umass.edu/nursing
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

DNP Program Information

Please visit our website at www.umass.edu/nursing for more information on our program, and visit the CPE website for online learning and distinct education at www.umassulearn.net. Students may transfer credit hours once matriculated into the program. The transfer credit policy is as follows: No more than a total of twelve (12) graduate credits may be transferred. Of these, a maximum of six (6) credits may be from any one of the following sources:

• Course(s) taken at another regionally accredited college/university within the United States
• Course(s) taken while enrolled as a non-degree graduate student (see Non-Degree)
• Course(s) taken as an undergraduate student over and above requirements for the baccalaureate degree
• Response course(s) offered through the Division of Continuing and Professional Education

Admission Criteria

Applicants must meet the entrance requirements of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School and the College of Nursing. Each applicant must be a graduate of nationally accredited school or college of nursing and hold a current professional license.

Applicants must present evidence of the following:

• Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
• Master’s degree and certification as Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Midwife, or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
• Grade Point Average of 3.0 (B) or higher
• Two letters of recommendation
• Scholarly writing sample e.g., scholarly paper, publication (see application for instructions)
• Statement of professional goals (see application for instructions)
• 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

A post master’s student who is not an APN (see examples below) will choose one of our role options and complete the necessary courses for that APN role specialization. Applicants will receive an individual transcript review and tailored plan of study for that role upon admission. (Examples: MBA, MS, MPH, MS with Nurse Educator Role, or MS with administrator role).

Clinical Experience

All students are required to secure their own clinical practicum sites and preceptors in this program. Our Clinical Placement Coordinator will assist students as needed. Practicum arrangements are made prior to beginning selected courses and must be approved by the College of Nursing faculty, the Clinical Placement Coordinator, or the Program Director.

These arrangements are made prior to beginning selected courses and must be approved by the College of Nursing faculty.

DNP Core Courses

All students will take a minimum of 36 semester credit hours at UMass Amherst College of Nursing. The typical credit hours needed for the Post Master’s DNP completion is about 36 – 42 credits. An individually tailored plan of study will be created for each student upon admission.

Foundation Core:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Course Credit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N645</td>
<td>Assessment &amp; Diagnosis of Mental Health Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N651</td>
<td>Nursing Ethics, Health Policy &amp; Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N701</td>
<td>Healthcare Quality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N704</td>
<td>Health Disparities and Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCH-MGMT 680</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N725</td>
<td>Leadership of Public Health Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N726</td>
<td>Health Disparities and Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N735</td>
<td>Intermediate Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N740</td>
<td>Healthcare Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
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Capstone Courses:

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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Course Credit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N742</td>
<td>Capstone I: Defining Evidence for Problems and Solutions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N778W</td>
<td>Capstone II Practicum: DNP Project Proposal Development (112 contact hours)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>N788W</td>
<td>Capstone III – Practicum: DNP Project Proposal Finalization and Approval (56 contact hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>N840</td>
<td>Capstone IV: Project Implementation &amp; Monitoring (168 contact hours)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>N848</td>
<td>Capstone V: Role Immersion Practicum (168 contact hours)</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total: 36

Application Deadline

Application deadline is December 15 each year, however, applications will be reviewed until program reaches set capacity. Apply online at: umass.edu/gradschool