Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program
Distance Accessible

The DNP is a practice-focused terminal degree to prepare graduates to practice at the highest level in specialty practice or to assume leadership positions in healthcare. Graduates of the DNP program will focus on providing care to populations and communities with an emphasis on improving quality and access to underserved, diverse populations. The three components of the DNP are advanced clinical specialty practice, leadership, and practice inquiry. Graduates will employ abilities and skills in these areas to advocate for reasonable, rational, and data-driven health regulations, standards, and evidence-based practices; sustain collaborative and strategic relationships, promote innovative, effective health care programs; and form partnerships with diverse groups to address health disparities. In addition, graduates will be prepared to assume clinical faculty positions to address the critical nursing faculty shortage. Graduates of the DNP program will be able to:

Outcomes

- Synthesize scientific evidence for the development of clinical interventions for practice.
- Evaluate policy, healthcare delivery, and organizational systems for current and future health care needs.
- Translate scientific, theoretical, and ethical principles into healthcare for individuals, families, and populations.
- Incorporate knowledge of current and emerging health technologies to improve healthcare delivery and organizational systems.
- Advocate for social justice, equity, and ethical policies in healthcare.
- Demonstrate intra and inter-professional collaboration to address health disparities and to improve the quality of healthcare across diverse populations and cultures.
- Assume complex leadership roles to advance clinical practice and healthcare delivery at the organizational and systems level and to improve health outcomes of individuals and populations.

DNP Admissions Requirements

- A master’s degree in an area of advanced nursing practice (nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nursing administration, or nurse anesthetist) from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to that in the UAB School of Nursing. **Students must hold an advanced practice certification or be eligible to sit for advanced certification and pass their specific certification exam prior to completing 12 credit hours of coursework. Until advanced certification is achieved, students will be considered as a conditional admit.**
- A graduate grade point average of at least 3.0 overall (based on a 4.0 scale) or in the last 60 hours of earned credit.
- Three favorable completed Evaluation Forms from persons who have knowledge of the applicant’s potential for success for graduate nursing studies and advanced-practice nursing.
- Current professional certification as an advanced practice nurse where applicable.
- Evidence of a license as an advanced practice nurse where applicable, and (2) advanced practice nurse or eligibility in the state in which they plan to practice plus (3) QPR certification. **all documents must be notarized if applicant is not a licensed nurse in Alabama.**
- Personal goal statement that is congruent with the program goals (300 words or less)
- Resume or curriculum vitae.
- A personal interview by phone or in person with a School of Nursing faculty member or designee.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the program online? This is a distance accessible DNP program. All core courses are offered in an online format; however, electives taken outside the School of Nursing may not be available in an online format. Students will be required to come on campus for program orientation, and between the first and second year for a two to three day intensive experience. Students may be required to come to campus to work with their advisor on their Scholarly Project. Applicants to any of our distance-accessible programs should become familiar with the regulations governing distance accessible programs in their state. Prospective students residing in states other than Alabama should contact their state’s Board of Nursing and Department of Education for specific rules and regulations pertaining to completion of clinical learning experiences in that state when enrolled in a distance accessible program. The ability to conduct course work is only guaranteed for student is Alabama and in states with an established agreement.

Do I have to come to campus for Orientation? Attendance at an on campus orientation is **required** for the DNP program. Our orientation process consists of a two-day “Computer Boot-Camp” and discussions related to Scholarly Projects, course requirements, and the UAB SON’s expectations of DNP student performance. During orientation, students will spend a significant amount of time familiarizing themselves with numerous computer programs that support course work, including SPSS, End-Note, Excel, PowerPoint, and ACCESS. Time is also provided for students to meet with program advisors and to interview with faculty that may be well suited to Chair their Scholarly Projects.

Can I be a part-time student? Yes, but you should plan to take six credits a term (approximately 2 courses per semester) as a part-time student in order to progress and keep your knowledge base current throughout the coursework. Staying current is essential to success in completion of the Scholarly Project, as this will require use of numerous skills and the knowledge gained in previous course work, such as the ability to design studies, develop and organize research databases, and run statistical analyses.

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How long does it take to complete the program? If you are a full-time student (9 credits per term) you can complete the coursework in five semesters. If you are part time student (6 to 9 credits per term), the program can be completed in six to seven semesters. Completion of the Scholarly Project may require an additional 1-2 semesters, although student focus is largely tied to project completion time.

Can I enter the program any time during the year? No, summer (May) and fall (August) terms are the only semesters a student can begin the sequence of coursework.

Can I enroll in non-degree coursework before I am admitted to the DNP program? No, due to the nature of this program, non-degree courses taken prior to entering the program are not allowed. An exception to this policy is made for students who require additional coursework to complete the requirements for admission. (Example: students who need more coursework to become eligible for certification as an advanced practice nurse).

Can I take courses elsewhere? Yes. A maximum of six semester credits may be taken at another campus of the University of Alabama System Joint DNP Program or other approved institutions. Prior approval is required, and you should have the courses evaluated by the DNP Program Coordinator at UAB before enrollment in classes at other institutions to ensure the courses will be considered equivalent coursework for the DNP program requirements. To do so, you must obtain the course syllabus and catalog description and send both to the DNP Program Coordinator for consideration. This can be a lengthy process therefore you are encouraged to seek approval from the DNP Program Coordinator at least 8 weeks prior to enrollment at another institution.

Can I work full-time and complete the program? The School of Nursing does not have a policy that prohibits students from full-time work, unless the student is a UAB employee. However, during the interview process, the faculty will determine what plans you have made to balance the various aspects of your life in order to be successful in the completion of the program. We have found that some individuals working full-time with major family responsibilities are unable to complete the coursework and withdraw early in the program. However, there are examples of dedicated, motivated individuals who work full time and attend school who are successful, although it can be quite stressful. Students must be certain to allow adequate time for doctoral study. It is unlikely that full-time employees can successfully balance full-time doctoral level course work, therefore part-time studies will probably be the best option for most employed students.

How much time should I be prepared to spend on the scholarly project? For most students, the Post-Master’s DNP curriculum will be a minimum of 40 credits, which includes the development of a practice or leadership focused project. This Scholarly Project is designed to synthesize scholarship in advanced practice and serves as a capstone program experience. All courses are offered in a distance accessible format and students develop the Scholarly Project under the direction of program faculty and onsite mentors.

Does this DNP program prepare graduates to teach? The required DNP course credits prepare you for advanced practice or leadership positions. The SON recognizes that some students in this program may have had a teaching career and others may not desire to prepare for the faculty role. Therefore, courses that specifically support the instructor role are not required in the basic DNP program of studies. How ever, coursework is available to students to prepare for the faculty role should they desire teaching as a career goal. Teaching courses may be added to the basic DNP program of study.

Are there funds to support doctoral students? A listing of School of Nursing scholarships can be found on the School of Nursing web site. Information regarding the application process for these funding opportunities can be obtained from the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at the School of Nursing by calling (205) 934-5483. There are numerous sources of funding, all of which are competitively awarded. Students can apply for funding after they have been admitted to the School of Nursing.

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**Course List**

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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Prereqs</th>
<th>Pre or Co-Credits</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Semester</th>
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**How do I apply?**

The application for the DNP program is available online through the UAB Graduate School, using a program called Apply Yourself. The link to the page is: [https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=uab-grad](https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=uab-grad)

For additional information, visit our website at: [http://main.uab.edu/Sites/nursing/](http://main.uab.edu/Sites/nursing/) or contact:

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General information about the application process  
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