

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

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Admission Guidelines

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduate is a leader equipped to affect change in complex environments.

The DNP degree is designed for master's-prepared nurses with demonstrated or potential leadership ability who desire to enhance their skills in outcomes management, affecting policy and incorporating data into decision making. The DNP student may already be in a management position or desire to advance to a different leadership role.

Online, But Hands-On

This innovative program is designed for the working professional. It combines online, interactive coursework with three weekends of on-site instruction. The part-time program of study requires eight quarters or approximately two years to complete (post-master's). Two cohorts of students are admitted each year, one in the winter quarter and one in the summer. The DNP degree requires a minimum of 40 quarter hours of post-master's study.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree - Leadership and the Business of Health Care

Rush University College of Nursing is one of the first colleges in the nation to award the practice doctorate. Building on the established role of the master's-prepared nurse, the DNP program provides real-world experience in strategic planning, communication to affect change, data management and the application of critical business concepts.

The DNP degree is designed to prepare a leader able to affect change through system redesign and evidence-based decision making in a variety of clinical, organizational and educational systems. Through coursework, clinical practicum and project implementation, the DNP graduate is prepared to influence health care outcomes for diverse populations in a variety of settings.

A suitable candidate for the DNP program demonstrates promise and potential for leadership through already documented leadership experience, or is currently in a position that would make the DNP program of value in furthering his or her career goals.

Prospective students may also be considering a career transition. Examples of transitions for which the DNP degree would prove beneficial include the following:

- Nurse administrators who wish to expand their leadership responsibilities.
- Faculty leaders who want to design and implement new educational programs or support services.
- Advanced practice nurses who want to create or extend clinical services within a system or region.

An important component of the program is working with a project facilitator. Chosen from among established professional leaders in clinical, organizational or educational settings, the project facilitator guides the student through the planning and implementation of a leadership/outcomes project.

In the essay, required as part of the application, it is important to be clear about your career leadership goals and a prospective project. The essay topic is as follows: "Discuss a specific leadership position (e.g., clinical program leader, associate dean, national consultant) you wish to attain within 3-5 years after completing the DNP program. Identify a problem or question that requires a change in health care or educational services and/or policies that you might address in that role. This problem should have relevance to current and emerging health care or educational issues. The topic you identify should be the basis for your DNP project and congruent with your career goals. The scope of the project should be large enough that it would result in, for example, a system-wide change at the organizational, regional or national level, new or revised state health policy or the establishment of significant new services to a population or geographic region. It would be helpful to have a discussion with a potential sponsor to explore support for a project and where it might be implemented. Please include the details of your discussion in the essay." The essay is an important part of the application and serves as a basis for the interview with a faculty member.

The GRE requirement is waived for applicants with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 or nursing GPA of 3.0.

If you have questions about the DNP program, please contact:

The Office of Admissions

Phone: (312) 942-7100

E-mail to: Rush_Admissions@rush.edu

To view the program of study, [click here now](#).

[Click here to see examples of student DNP projects](#).