

### What is a DNP?

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is designed to prepare experts in nursing practice. It is the pinnacle of practice-focused nursing degrees, building upon master's programs by providing an educational foundation in quality improvement, evidence-based practice, and systems leadership, among others. DNP-prepared nurses bring a blend of clinical, leadership, economic, and organizational skills that puts them in a unique position to incisively critique nursing practice and design patient care programs that are economically feasible, locally acceptable, and that significantly impact healthcare outcomes.

<https://www.doctorofnursingpracticednp.org/what-is-a-dnp/>

| <b>Admissions</b>  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| What does the student need in order to apply for a DNP/PhD program?  |  |   |   |
| <b>9th</b>   | <b>10th</b>  | <b>11th</b>   | <b>12th</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Introduce a Doctorate degree<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Description<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Research based</li></ul></li><li>○ Length</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Detailed information about Doctoral programs</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Describe the responsibilities of each job within each program</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Admission Requirements for programs</li></ul> |

- **Ninth Grade**

- **What is a DNP?**

- The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is the highest level of education in the nursing field. The DNP can be completed in three to six years of study, depending on the program and personal schedule. To enter the program, schools will require applicants to hold a master's degree in nursing. However, some schools will allow students with a Bachelor's degree to take the program.
    - Doctor of Nursing Practice programs emphasize areas that support nursing leadership. The program delivers practice-based training on the clinical applications of higher-level nursing knowledge; other terminal degrees focus on research skills, scholarly inquiry or high-level specialty skills.

- <https://www.nursing.org/degrees/dnp/>

- **What is the length of the DNP programs?**
  - The DNP program at UT Austin is a total of 5 semesters.
    - <https://nursing.utexas.edu/academics/graduate/degree-offered/dnp>
  - The PhD program at UT Austin is a total of 4 years full time with only one entry date once a year.
    - <https://nursing.utexas.edu/academics/graduate/degree-offered/phd>
- **Tenth Grade**
  - **What is the difference between each Doctorate program?**
    - The PhD program at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing prepares students to become researchers and to assume advanced leadership roles in nursing and health care delivery. A combination of conceptual approaches, challenging interactions in seminar discussions, and work with active researchers produces a stimulating environment for scholarly development.
      - <https://nursing.utexas.edu/academics/graduate/degree-offered/phd>
    - The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program was developed to meet the demand for practitioners able to practice and to provide leadership at the highest levels of healthcare and to meet the demand for highly prepared clinical faculty for schools of nursing.
      - <https://nursing.utexas.edu/academics/graduate/degree-offered/dnp>
- **Eleventh Grade**
  - **What are the job responsibilities within each DNP program?**
    - The DNP's job responsibilities include:
      - Understand and respect the complementary roles, skills, and abilities of the interprofessional health team
      - Successfully collaborate with other professionals to improve the health status of persons or groups and provide an overview of models of interprofessional collaboration in real world settings
      - Comprehend organizational and systems improvement, outcome evaluation processes, healthcare policy, and leadership

- Serve as effective collaborative team leaders and participants; participate in the work of the interprofessional team and assume leadership of the team when appropriate
  - Share decision making and leadership to best meet the needs of the patient or population
  - Possess a thorough understanding of collaboration, communication, team processes, and leadership, and bring forth innovative strategies to improve health and healthcare
  - Articulate to the public, insurers, and policy makers the role that nurses play in promoting positive patient and family outcomes
  - Promote psychological safety within an organization by providing leadership and recommending resources
  - Employ strategies that enhance communication within the interprofessional team setting
    - <https://www.doctorofnursingpracticednp.org/the-role-of-dnp-educated-nurses-in-advanced-clinical-practice/>
- PhD-prepared nurses who teach, conduct research, evaluate programs, write books, lead health care organizations and work for the government. They may work as:
- **Nursing faculty member** - are responsible for creating, implementing and evaluating program curricula and mentoring nursing students. Oftentimes, in addition to their teaching responsibilities, they are expected to conduct research. They typically disseminate this research in scholarly journals and at research conferences.
  - **Director of nursing research** - serves as administrator of the nursing research department of a healthcare facility or coordinator of the facility's nursing research program. The director may supervise other nursing research employees, or he or she may be responsible for overseeing all nursing research projects conducted within the facility.
  - **Director of clinical services** - a clinical administrator who oversees daily operations of patient care departments in a healthcare facility. He or she is the liaison between upper management and department managers. Although the director is not involved in direct patient care, he or she is aware of the workflows in each department that promote optimal patient care. The director may generate or receive

reports addressing the efficiency of departmental work flows, and this information is then given to each department manager in an effort to increase efficiency and patient satisfaction.

- [https://www.reflectionsonnursingleadership.org/features/more-features/Vol38\\_4\\_what-do-you-do-with-a-phd-in-nursing](https://www.reflectionsonnursingleadership.org/features/more-features/Vol38_4_what-do-you-do-with-a-phd-in-nursing)

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What are the admission requirements for the programs?**

- The admission requirements for the PhD program at UT Austin include:

- **Degree:** A bachelor's or a master's degree in nursing from an acceptable accredited program or a comparable degree from a foreign academic institution.
- **GPA:** 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or comparable GPA in upper-division work (junior- and senior- level courses) and in any graduate work completed
- **GRE:** The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within the last 5 years, is required for ALL applicants, there are no exceptions.
- **Recommendations:** 3 required
- Statement of Purpose
- Curriculum Vitae/resume
- **Nursing License:** Current RN licensure, if admitted.
  - <https://nursing.utexas.edu/academics/graduate/degree-offered/phd>

- The admission requirements for the DNP program at UT Austin include:

- **Degree:** A master's degree in nursing from an acceptable, accredited program or equivalent graduate degree.
- **GPA:** 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or comparable GPA in upper-division work (junior- and senior- level courses) and in any graduate work completed
- **GRE:** The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within the last 5 years. GRE waiver is applicable if the applicant meets the following requirements:
  - MSN cumulative GPA 3.25 or higher

- 3+ years professional nursing leadership
- **Recommendations:** 3 required
- Statement of Purpose
- Curriculum Vitae/resume
- **Work Experience:** 18 months of professional RN work experience
- **Nursing License:** Current Texas RN licensure or a license from "Nurse Licensure Compact" state, if admitted.
  - <https://nursing.utexas.edu/academics/graduate/degree-offered/dnp>

| <b>Programs and Professions in Nursing</b>                               |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>What certificate/degree can the student get in the nursing field?</b> |  |   |   |
| <b>9th</b>   | <b>10th</b>  | <b>11th</b>   | <b>12th</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nursing Introduction</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Types of schools to obtain certificate/degree at               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tech. school (certificate)</li> <li>○ Commun. College (certificate, associate's)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Job Opportunities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Job statistics               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pay</li> <li>○ Job growth</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

- **Ninth Grade**
  - **Nursing Introduction**
    - There are many different levels of professions available in the nursing field. The lowest level would be the Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), then the Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN), followed by a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (BSN), Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN), and Doctorate in Nursing (DNP). Each one of these levels takes different amounts of time to obtain, and have very different job opportunities and responsibilities.
   
<https://nursejournal.org/articles/types-of-nursing-degrees/>
- **Tenth Grade**
  - **What are the types of schools can the student earn these at?**

- Technical schools
  - Technical schools, also known as “vocational schools” offer targeted, shorter instruction at a lower tuition, or cost, leading to a certificate or an associate’s degree. Many technical schools in Texas offer dual enrollment opportunities for high school students.  
<https://scitexas.edu/technical-school/>
- Community College
  - A community college is an institution that offers short term certificates or two year associate’s degrees. Associate’s degrees transfer and often lead to four year degrees at partnering universities. Many community colleges in Texas offer dual enrollment opportunities for high school students. They typically offer less expensive education than four year universities. Most community colleges have open enrollment, meaning there are very few requirements for admission.  
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2012/03/what-is-community-college>
- College
  - A college is a four year institution that offers degrees in specific areas of study (i.e. medicine or law). These degrees can lead to graduate or professional school. Colleges may have open enrollment or may have strict admission requirements.  
<https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/college-vs-university.asp#university>
- University
  - A University is a four year institution that offers many different degrees through multiple “colleges” located on the same campus. Typically a university may have a “College of Education” or a “College of Health Sciences”. Universities also usually offer graduate (Master’s, Doctorates) and professional degrees. Typically, universities have strict admission requirements that include grades, placements tests, and admissions tests like the SAT/ACT.  
<https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/college-vs-university.asp#university>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **Where can the student work with the DNP degree or PhD?**

- Graduates with a DNP degree can work at or as:

- Nurse practitioners (NPs)
      - Certified nurse-midwives (CNMs)
      - Certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs)
      - Clinical nurse specialists
      - Chief executive officer
      - Chief operating officer
      - Chief information officer
      - Chief nursing executive officer
      - Chief clinical officer
      - Vice president, patient services
      - Chief patient experience executive

- <https://www.doctorofnursingpracticednp.org/careers/>

- Graduates with a PhD can work at or as:

- Hospital
      - medical laboratory
      - research facility or university as a research scientist
      - nursing school
      - college or university as a faculty member or department chair
      - a Ph.D. nurse may also work as a public health nurse in a government setting, helping to develop research-based solutions to public health issues.

- <https://www.registerednursing.org/phd/>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **How much does each profession earn? What is the projected job growth of each profession?**

- DNP

- The median pay for a DNP is about \$54.78 per hour - \$113,930 per year.
      - The projected job growth is 26%. The government expects to have 62,000 jobs available by 2028.

- <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>

| <b>Academic Pathway</b>   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>What coursework should be taken to enter the program?</b>  |   |  |   |
| <b>9th</b>  | <b>10th</b>   | <b>11th</b>  | <b>12th</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Relevant Coursework (High School)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How certain courses align with nursing</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● List examples of relevant coursework (University)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Program delivery</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Final GPA to be considered for the DNP Programs</li> </ul> |

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Is high school coursework relevant to the nursing field?**

- The student might not realize it, but preparing for a future career starts in high school (or even earlier). For example, did you know that nurses use algebra when calculating medication dosages? What the student learns in high school builds the foundation for their college education and career. If a student is considering nursing, they should take classes *now* that will prepare them for college *later*.

<https://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/>

- **Does high school GPA matter?**

- Most BSN programs often set the minimum GPA at 3.0. ADN programs are more likely to set the minimum somewhere in the 2.0 to 2.75 range. Grades in prerequisite courses may be considered separately. \*These are minimum requirements and **to be competitive, the student should aim much higher**. When interest exceeds available spots, grades are often an important factor. [Getting-into-a-nursing-program.html](#)

- **Tenth Grade**



- **What are examples of courses to take in high school to best prepare for nursing school applications?**

<https://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/>

- Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Anatomy & Physiology
  - Physics
  - Algebra
  - Geometry
  - Psychology
  - Speech
  - Foreign Language
  - Health courses
- 
- **What other coursework should be taken for the DNP programs?**
    - The curriculum for the DNP program includes:
      - **N 395E** - Doctor of Nursing Practice Role
      - **N 395F** - Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice
      - **N 395G** - Translating Evidence into Nursing Practice
      - **N 395T** - DNP Clinical Leadership Specialization Seminar & Practicum I
      - **N 395H** - Health Promotion Among Diverse Cultures
      - **N 395N** - Biostatistics
      - **N 395U** - DNP Clinical Leadership Specialization Seminar & Practicum II
      - **N 395K** - Leadership in Organizations & Systems
      - **N 395P** - Health Care Economics
      - **N 395V** - DNP Clinical Leadership Specialization Seminar & Practicum III
      - **N 395M** - Epidemiology and Population Health
      - **N 395S** - Healthcare Information Systems
      - **N 395W** - DNP Clinical Leadership Specialization Seminar & Practicum IV
      - **N 395J** - Health Policy Development & Implementation
      - **N 395L** - Quality Improvement & Patient Safety
        - [https://nursing.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/DNP\\_ADV\\_POW.pdf](https://nursing.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/DNP_ADV_POW.pdf)
    - The curriculum for the PhD program includes:
      - **N 380M.4** - Philosophy and Development of Nursing Science

- **N 381M.6B** - Nursing Science: Domain of Inquiry & Interdisciplinary Perspective
  - **N 382** - Sociocultural Influences on Health
  - **N 397L.3** - Conceptual Foundations of Research Design and Methods
  - **N 397L.4** - Critical Review of the Literature
  - **N 397L.5** - Quantitative Design, Methods, and Analysis
  - **N 397M** - Qualitative Research
  - **N 397Q** - Research Practicum I
  - **N 397R** - Research Practicum II
  - **N 397S** - Research Practicum III
  - The student must also take Focused study courses that are the minimum of 18 credit hours.
    - [https://nursing.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/phd\\_pow.pdf](https://nursing.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/phd_pow.pdf)
- **Eleventh Grade**
    - **How are the classes delivered in the DNP programs?**
      - The DNP program is taught in a hybrid format with classes that meet on campus two consecutive days a month with online assignments during the alternate weeks.
        - <https://nursing.utexas.edu/academics/graduate/degree-offered/dnp>
- **Twelfth Grade**
    - **What is the final GPA needed to be accepted into the DNP programs?**
      - To be accepted into the DNP program a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or comparable GPA in upper-division work (junior- and senior- level courses) and in any graduate work completed.
        - <https://nursing.utexas.edu/academics/graduate/degree-offered/dnp>
      - To be accepted into the PhD program a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or comparable GPA in upper-division work (junior- and senior- level courses) and in any graduate work completed.
        - <https://nursing.utexas.edu/academics/graduate/degree-offered/phd>

Want more information? Visit UT Austin's website:

<https://nursing.utexas.edu/academics/graduate/degree-offered>