

### 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><u>Admissions</u></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 program and track program</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 each DNP program?**

- The BSN-DNP track program at UTSA is a three year program
      - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/bsn-to-dnp/program-overview>
    - The DNP program at UTSA is a 41-48 credit hour program.
      - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/dnp/dnp-program-overview>
    - The PhD program at UTSA is a 4-5 year program.
      - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/phd/overview>
- **Tenth Grade**
  - **What is the difference between each Doctorate program?**
    - The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Nursing program is a research-based doctoral degree. The program prepares the student for a career as a clinical nurse scientist who, through course selection and experiences, develops as a teacher and disseminator of knowledge within professional, academic, and clinical arenas.
      - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/phd>
    - The DNP program curriculum emphasizes core leadership courses in public policy advocacy, improving organizational effectiveness, health informatics and financial and business management; and, scientific inquiry based on translational science and evidenced-based practice, population health and advanced specialty clinical practice. Students choose from leadership tracks in Advanced Practice Leadership, Executive Administrative Management, or Public Health Nurse Leader.
      - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/dnp>
    - This BSN to DNP program is designed for nurses who already hold either a bachelor's degree or master's degree in nursing. The DNP curriculum emphasizes core leadership courses in public policy advocacy, improving organizational effectiveness, health informatics and financial and business management; and, scientific inquiry based on translational science and evidenced-based practice, population health, and advanced specialty clinical practice.
      - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/program/bsn-to-dnp>
- **Eleventh Grade**

- **What are the job responsibilities within each DNP program?**
  - The graduate from the BSN-DNP program will:
    - Integrate nursing science, ethics, biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, and organizational sources to provide the highest level of specialty nursing practices.
    - Develop, implement, and evaluate healthcare practices in healthcare systems that ensure quality improvement and patient safety.
    - Use analytic methods and evidence-based practices to improve practice outcomes and the practice environment.
    - Implement and evaluate ethical healthcare information systems and patient care technology to improve the quality of patient health outcomes and care systems.
    - Advocate for healthcare practices that advance social justice, equity, and ethical policies within all healthcare arenas.
    - Employ interprofessional collaborative teams to improve patient and population health outcomes and healthcare delivery systems.
    - Lead the integration and institutionalization of (evidence-based) clinical prevention and population-based health guidelines.
    - Use clinical judgment, systems thinking, accountability, and specialized knowledge to design, deliver, and evaluate evidence-based, culturally proficient care to improve patient, population, and health systems outcomes.
      - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/bsn-to-dnp/learning-outcome>
  - The graduate from the DNP program will:
    - Integrate nursing science, ethics, biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, and organizational sources to provide the highest level of specialty nursing practices.
    - Develop, implement, and evaluate healthcare practices in healthcare systems that ensure quality improvement and patient safety.
    - Use analytic methods and evidence-based practices to improve practice outcomes and the practice environment.

- Implement and evaluate ethical healthcare information systems and patient care technology to improve the quality of patient health outcomes and care systems.
- Advocate for healthcare practices that advance social justice, equity, and ethical policies within all healthcare arenas.
- Employ interprofessional collaborative teams to improve patient and population health outcomes and healthcare delivery systems.
- Lead the integration and institutionalization of (evidence-based) clinical prevention and population-based health guidelines.
- Use clinical judgment, systems thinking, accountability, and specialized knowledge to design, deliver, and evaluate evidence-based, culturally proficient care to improve patient, population, and health systems outcomes.
  - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/dnp/dnp-learning-outcomes>
- The graduate from the Nursing PhD program will:
  - Advance the discipline of nursing through the generation of new knowledge and theory.
  - Demonstrate excellence as a clinical researcher in the health sciences in a focal area of nursing.
  - Synthesize theories from natural and/or behavioral sciences for application to a specific area of nursing.
  - Advance evidence-based clinical practice.
  - Assume nurse scientist roles within academic health centers and other interdisciplinary health sciences and educational institutions.
  - Evaluate the value and knowledge components of philosophical and ethical dimensions of issues confronting healthcare and nursing.
    - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/phd/learning-outcomes>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What are the admission requirements for each DNP program?**

- The PhD program admission requirements include:

- All Ph.D. applicants will be required to submit three professional references with their NursingCAS application. In addition, candidates for graduate admissions will be invited to interview and submit a writing sample.
- Ph.D. applicants will need to have taken the GRE within the past 5 years.
- Bachelors in Nursing and/or Masters in Nursing from a nationally accredited school of nursing (ACEN, NLNAC, CCNE)
- Licensure as a Registered Nurse in Texas or Compact License with Multi-State Privileges International applicants should contact the PhD program director to determine licensure requirements.
- 3.0 GPA based on last 60 hours of college coursework
  - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/phd/admissions>

- The BSN-DNP admission requirements include:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- RN licensure in Texas or compact state
- All BSN-to-DNP applicants will be required to submit three professional references with their NursingCAS application.
- Top candidates for graduate admissions will be selected for an interview and writing sample after the deadline.
  - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/bsn-to-dnp/admissions>

- The DNP admission requirements include:

- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from a CCNE, ACEN or NLNAC accredited program
- Licensure as a Registered Nurse in Texas or compact license with multi-state privileges
- Proof of current national certification as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (for Advanced Practice Leadership track only)
- Three professional references
- Interview

- <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/dnp/dnp-program-overview>

<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 graduate work with the DNP degree?**

- 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 PhD program is:
    - NURE 5090 - Special Topics In Nursing
    - NURE 7090 - Dissertation Proposal Process
    - NURE 7215 - Applications Of Research In Nursing
    - NURE 7315 - Applications of Research In Nursing
    - NURS 5339 - Leadership and Health Policy for Quality and Safety
    - NURS 5356 - Financial and Economic Evidence In Health Care
    - NURS 6071 - Supervised Teaching
    - NURS 6380 - Fundamentals of Epidemiology
    - NURS 6315 - Informatics & Health Care Technologies
    - NURS 7099 - Dissertation
    - NURS 7105 - Role Of The Clinical Nurse Scientist
    - NURS 7226 - Ethics Of Nursing Science
    - NURS 7310 - Theory Development, Analysis And Evaluation In Nursing
    - NURS 7316 - Statistical Analysis For Nursing Science
    - NURS 7322 - Healthcare Policy Analysis and Advocacy
    - NURS 7325 - Philosophy Of Nursing Science
    - NURS 7373 - Nursing: Quantitative Research Methods 2
    - NURS 7374 - Nursing-Content & Practice: Quantitative Research Methodology 1
    - NURS 7375 - Regression Models For Nursing Science
    - NURS 7377 - Mixed Methods For Clinical Nurse Scientists
    - NURS 7380 - Qualitative Inquiry For Clinical Nursing Research
    - NURS 7381 - Nursing: Synthesis And Application Of Clinical Research

- NURS 7382 - Structural Equation Models For Nursing Science
- NURS 7383 - Qualitative Methods 2: Application In Nursing Science
  - <http://catalog.uthscsa.edu/biomedicalsciences/nursing/science/#coursestext>
- The curriculum for the DNP program is:
  - NURS 3110 - Health Assessment: Clinical Application
  - NURS 3204 - Health Assessment: Theoretical Foundations
  - NURS 3205 - Psychiatric and Mental Health: Theoretical Foundations
  - NURS 3206 - Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing: Clinical Application
  - NURS 3207 - Care Of Childbearing Families: Theoretical Foundations
  - NURS 3208 - Care Of Childbearing Families: Clinical Application
  - NURS 3270 - Professional Socialization 2
  - NURS 3272 - Health Assessment and Promotion: Theoretical Foundations
  - NURS 3273 - Health Assessment and Promotion: Clinical Application
  - NURS 3274 - Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing: Theoretical Foundations
  - NURS 3275 - Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing: Clinical Application
  - NURS 3303 - Concepts of Professional Nursing
  - NURS 3304 - Pharmacotherapeutics
  - NURS 3305 - Foundations of Clinical Nursing Practice: Clinical Application
  - NURS 3309 - Pathophysiology
  - NURS 3314 - Pathophysiology (Alternate Entry)
  - NURS 3321 - Transitions In Professional Nursing (Alternate Entry)
  - NURS 3330 - Foundations of Clinical Nursing Practice -Theoretical Foundations
  - NURS 3365 - Pharmacology
  - NURS 3370 - Pathophysiology (BSN-DNP track)

- NURS 3371 - Foundations of Nursing Care: Clinical Applications
- NURS 3372 - Family Nursing Care: Theoretical Foundations
- NURS 3373 - Family Nursing Care: Clinical Applications
- NURS 3374 - Research and Evidence-Based Practice
- NURS 3375 - Research And Evidence Based Practice
- NURS 3376 - Research and Evidence-Based Practice (Alternate Entry)
- NURS 4210 - Child and Family Health: Theoretical Foundations
- NURS 4211 - Child and Family Health: Clinical Application
- NURS 4217 - Population Focused Health: Clinical Application
- NURS 4227 - Population Focused Health: Clinical Applications
- NURS 4230 - Leadership and Management: Clinical Application
- NURS 4311 - Care Of The Adult 1: Theoretical Foundations
- NURS 4314 - Care of The Adult 1: Clinical Application
- NURS 4315 - Care of The Adult 2: Theoretical Foundations
- NURS 4316 - Care of The Adult 2: Clinical Application
- NURS 4317 - Population Focused Health: Theoretical Foundations
- NURS 4319 - Leadership and Management: Theoretical Foundations
- NURS 4320 - Leadership and Management: Clinical Application
- NURS 4327 - Population Focused Health: Theoretical Foundations
- NURS 4329 - Leadership and Management: Theoretical Foundations
- NURS 4333 - Nursing Leadership: Theoretical Foundations
- NURS 4403 - Disease Management 3: Clinical Application
- NURS 4420 - Transition To Professional Nursing Practice: Clinical Immersion
- NURS 4423 - Clinical Immersion
- NURS 4501 - Disease Management 1: Theoretical Foundations

- NURS 4502 - Disease Management 2: Theoretical Foundations
- NURS 4533 - Disease Management III-Clinical Application
- NURS 5219 - Maximizing System and Human Resources to Improve Health
- NURS 5219 - Maximizing System and Human Resources to Improve Health
- And much more!!
  - <http://catalog.uthscsa.edu/schoolofnursing/dnp/dnp.pdf>
  
- **Eleventh Grade**
  - **How are the classes delivered in the DNP programs?**
    - The DNP program is delivered in a traditional classroom setting with clinical rotations.
      - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/dnp/dnp-program-overview>
    - The PhD program is delivered in a traditional classroom setting.
      - <http://catalog.uthscsa.edu/biomedicalsciences/nursingscience/#sampleplanofstudytext>
  
- **Twelfth Grade**
  - **What is the final GPA needed to be accepted into the DNP programs?**
    - The minimum GPA from Last 60 Hours of College Coursework needs to be 3.0 to be considered for the program.
      - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/phd/admissions>
    - The minimum GPA from Last 60 Hours of College Coursework needs to be 3.0 to be considered for the program.
      - <https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing/programs/dnp/admissions>

Want more information? Visit UTSA website:

<https://www.uthscsa.edu/academics/nursing>