NURSING (DNP)


Degree Offered: DNP
Program Leadership:
KT Waxman, RN, DNP, FAAN, Program Director
Annette Carley, RN, DNP; NP, Associate Director
Admissions Inquiries:
Maria Elena de Guzman, Administrative Officer

Program Description
The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program – the first of its kind in the UC system – trains students to apply theoretical and scientific principles to advanced nursing practice. Program participants will conceptualize and rigorously develop a scholarly project based on an area of practice inquiry. In direct consultation with faculty mentors, students will conceive, evaluate and defend their scholarly work. They will also develop strategies to disseminate their scholarly work and to implement practices based on their conclusions.

For nursing professionals committed to developing practice and leadership excellence, the UCSF DNP program offers an innovative seven-quarter, hybrid program design that combines online learning with select immersive, in-person learning. The DNP program joins other established programs in the UCSF School of Nursing including Master’s Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN), Master’s in Science (MS), Healthcare Administration and Interprofessional Leadership MS (MS-HAIL), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing and PhD in Sociology.

The UCSF School of Nursing takes pride in its graduate programs, which represent a century of pioneering leadership that has produced many top influencers in the field in the U.S. and abroad. Among schools of nursing nationwide, the UCSF School of Nursing is one of the top recipients of research funding from the National Institutes of Health.

There are over 100 faculty members in the four School of Nursing departments. DNP program faculty members have established clinical and teaching expertise, and represent advanced practice and leadership roles locally, regionally and nationally.

For more information about the DNP program, please visit the program website ([https://nursing.ucsf.edu/admissions/welcome-ucsf-nursing/doctoral-programs/doctor-nursing-practice-dnp-program/](https://nursing.ucsf.edu/admissions/welcome-ucsf-nursing/doctoral-programs/doctor-nursing-practice-dnp-program/)).

The Nursing DNP program is offered by the UCSF Graduate Division, administered by the UCSF School of Nursing, and delivered by faculty members in the UCSF School of Nursing.

Admission Requirements
1. Graduate of an accredited college or university with a master’s degree in nursing. Applicants who hold a master’s degree in another health-related field will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
2. Minimum GPA 3.4
3. Completion of minimum 240 practice hours during prior master’s or post-master’s coursework. National certification in one of the four recognized Advanced Practice Registered Nursing (APRN) roles (i.e. nurse practitioner, certified nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist, and nurse-midwife) may substitute for 500 APRN practice hours.
4. Registered Nurse with active license in CA or state where the DNP project will occur.
5. College level statistics course completed within three years of the start of the program.
6. Resume or curriculum vitae
7. Three confidential letters of recommendation
8. Goal statement

Learning Outcomes
1. Integrate nursing science, science-based theory and systems knowledge into the development and evaluation of new practice approaches to care.
2. Apply analytic methods to the critical appraisal of literature and other evidence to develop and support best practice.
3. Convene and lead interprofessional, collaborative stakeholder teams to create change and advance positive health outcomes.
4. Generate, evaluate and articulate innovative solutions to complex care issues.
5. Analyze the impact of local, national and global health policy on determinants of care decisions.
6. Support cost and resource efficiency, quality and accessibility of healthcare for diverse client groups.
7. Advocate for nursing and socially and ethically relevant policy in healthcare design and delivery.
8. Support and effectively lead quality improvement initiatives that enhance safe, quality and evidence-driven care.
9. Demonstrate leadership skill in developing approaches to care that address population needs based on science and evidence.

Additional Information
Program Core Faculty

Degree Requirements
Students must complete a minimum of 1,000 post-Baccalaureate practice hours for DNP degree conferral, based on accreditation requirements set by Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). These are pro-rated depending on the number of incoming eligible practice hours based on a portfolio and transcript review. Students must provide evidence of a minimum of 240 incoming practice hours to be eligible for admission to the program.

Students develop a scholarly DNP Project, representing a terminal synthesis of data related to an identified health care practice issue. The DNP Project is developed over multiple quarters, and systematically conceived, planned, implemented, evaluated, and formally presented in collaboration with a project team.

Core Courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURSING 263</td>
<td>DNP Prologue</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURSING 263.11</td>
<td>Concepts and Contemporary Issues for the DNP</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURSING 263.12</td>
<td>Critical Appraisal of Evidence-Based Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURSING 463.1</td>
<td>DNP Practicum</td>
<td>1</td>
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Units
Quarter 2
NURSING 263.14 Improving Health Outcomes Through QI and Patient Safety 3
NURSING 263.15 Advanced Health Policy and Advocacy 3
NURSING 463.1 DNP Practicum * 1-5
   Units 7-11
Quarter 3
NURSING 263.13 Methods and Measurement for Translational Practice Inquiry 3
NURSING 263.16 Organizational Systems and Healthcare Economics 3
NURSING 263.19 Informatics for the nurse leader 2
NURSING 463.1 DNP Practicum * 1-5
   Units 9-13
Quarter 4
NURSING 263A DNP Project I: Project Conceptualization and Planning 2
NURSING 263.18 Advanced Concepts in Clinical Prevention & Population Health 3
NURSING 463.1 DNP Practicum * 1-5
   Units 6-10
Quarter 5
NURSING 263.1 DNP Intersession 1
NURSING 463.1 DNP Practicum * 3-5
   Units 6-8
Quarter 6
NURSING 263C DNP Project III: Project Implementation and Evaluation 2
NURSING 463.1 DNP Practicum * 4-5
   Units 6-7
Quarter 7
NURSING 263.2 DNP Epilogue 1
NURSING 263D DNP Project IV; Project Completion and Dissemination 2
NURSING 463.1 DNP Practicum * 3-5
   Units 6-8
Total Units 49-66

* Students will enroll in the 463.1 practicum course for each quarter of their program of study. Individual quarter practicum units are determined by the total number of practice hours (i.e. one practicum unit = 30 practice hours) remaining to be completed in the program of study. Full-time study is a minimum of six total units per quarter

Approved Electives

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>NURSING 363</td>
<td>Foundations of Academic and Clinical Teaching in Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURSING 363.1</td>
<td>Teaching in the Online Environment</td>
<td>2</td>
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Successful progression through the DNP Residency and DNP Project series courses is mandatory prior to moving forward to the next course in sequence. Please consult the SON Graduate Student Handbook for more information.

Non-course Core Requirements

Students develop a scholarly DNP Project, representing a terminal synthesis of data related to an identified health care practice issue. The DNP Project is systematically conceived, planned, implemented, evaluated, and formally presented in collaboration with a project team. The scholarly project is required for degree conferral and is shepherded by a course series (N263A-D) over multiple quarters of study.