

NURSING (DNP)

Visit program website. (<https://nursing.ucsf.edu/admissions/welcome-ucsf-nursing/our-programs-application-information/>)

Degree Offered: DNP

Program Leadership:

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Post-Master's Entry to DNP. Shanna Abeloff, Program Administrator

Program Description

The UCSF School of Nursing offers two pathways for nurses to achieve the profession's highest clinical degree: the Doctor of Nursing Practice.

- The BSN Entry to DNP — Advanced Nursing Focus (<https://nursing.ucsf.edu/bsn-entry-dnp-advanced-nursing-focus/>) pathway enables individuals with a bachelor's degree in nursing to become experts and leaders in health equity. Applicants will master the skills in one of 10 advanced specialties and complete their studies toward the DNP degree. The school expects to welcome its first cohort in the new pathway in June 2024, pending approval from the California Board of Registered Nursing.
- The Post-Master's Entry to DNP — Leadership Focus (<https://nursing.ucsf.edu/admissions/welcome-ucsf-nursing/doctoral-programs/post-masters-entry-dnp-leadership-focus/>) pathway prepares registered nurses who hold a master's degree with the skills to innovate improvements and lead teams in developing approaches to care that address population needs.

A core component of the degree program is the DNP quality improvement project, in which students identify a health care practice issue and formulate a solution that improves clinical outcomes. 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.

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.

The UCSF School of Nursing has a dedicated faculty of more than 150 experts who share a passion for educating the next generation of health care leaders and leading innovative research that advances health equity for all. Faculty members at the school are distinguished leaders in their areas of expertise and have led – and continue to lead – innovations and policy improvements locally, nationally and around the globe.

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

- 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.
- Minimum GPA 3.0
- 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, clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist, and nurse-midwife) may substitute for 500 incoming APRN practice hours. Current national certification as a certified nurse executive (i.e. NEA-BC or CENP) may substitute for 500 incoming practice hours. Up to 500 total incoming practice hours eligible; remaining hours to achieve final 1,000 post-baccalaureate nursing practice hours required for degree conferral will occur during the program of study.
- Registered Nurse with active license in CA or state where the DNP project will occur.
- College level statistics course completed within five years of the start of the program.
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Three confidential letters of recommendation
- Goal statement and personal history statement

DNP Core Learning Outcomes

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

Additional Information

Program Core Faculty

- *Find a program faculty list* (<https://nursing.ucsf.edu/admissions/welcome-ucsf-nursing/doctoral-programs/dnp/meet-our-dnp-program-faculty/>) on the program website.

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

Course	Title	Units
Quarter 1		
NURSING 263	DNP Prologue	2
NURSING 263.11	Concepts and Contemporary Issues for the DNP	3
NURSING 263.12	Critical Appraisal of Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURSING 463.1	DNP Practicum *	1
Units		9
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 463.1	DNP Practicum *	1-5
Units		4-8
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 263B	DNP Project II: Project Planning and Implementation	2
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 *	2-5
NURSING 263.19	Informatics for the nurse leader	2
Units		6-9
Quarter 7		
NURSING 263.2	DNP Epilogue	1
NURSING 463.1	DNP Practicum *	3-5
Units		4-6
Total Units		42-61

* 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

Code	Title	Units
NURSING 363	Foundations of Academic and Clinical Teaching in Nursing	2
NURSING 363.1	Teaching in the Online Environment	2

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.