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COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES
School of Nursing and Health Studies
All University Sections
A Guide to Reading This Catalog

BOT/IBHE Other Catalog Change Page 5, 2013-14 Graduate Catalog

Abbreviations Used in This Catalog
Advanced Degrees
↓
D. N. P.—Doctor of Nursing Practice

IBHE 8/11/15; BOT 12/4/14; Graduate Council 12/2/13; GCCC Section B 11/11/13

The Graduate School

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School of Nursing and Health Studies
↓
Master of Science in Teaching (M.S.T.)
↓
Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

IBHE 8/11/15; BOT 12/4/14; Graduate Council 12/2/13; GCCC Section B 11/11/13

Admission to Graduate Study

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Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)

In order to be admitted to the Graduate School, all applicants, other than those applying to programs in the College of Business, the transitional D.P.T., the M.F.A. or the M.A. with a specialization in studio art in the School of Art, the M.M. degree or Performer’s Certificate programs in the School of Music, the M.F.A. with a specialization in acting or in design and technology in the School of Theatre and Dance, or the M.S. in nursing and the D.N.P. in the School of Nursing and Health Studies, must have provided official scores on all sections of the General Test of the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) to the Graduate School.
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School of Nursing and Health Studies

School of Nursing and Health Studies (NURS, PHHE)

The School of Nursing and Health Studies offers programs of graduate study leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) in nursing, a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.); two post-master’s certificates of graduate study—family nurse practitioner, and nursing education; and two certificates of graduate study—health education and public health. In addition, students seeking initial teacher certification or endorsement in health education may qualify for the M.A.T. or M.S.T. degrees with specialization in health education. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree is also offered.

The M.A.T. and M.S.T. degrees are administered by the university through the Graduate School with specializations in various teaching content areas. … ….

The D.N.P. degree prepares nurses (a) to practice in an advanced nursing role in a particular specialization and (b) to lead innovative, evidence-based practice initiatives that impact quality improvements and outcomes in healthcare systems. Both a post-bachelor’s degree and post-master’s degree D.N.P. program are offered.

IBHE 8/11/15; BOT 12/4/14; Graduate Council 12/2/13; GCCC Section B 11/11/13

Master of Science in Teaching (M.S.T.)

Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) is a doctoral degree that prepares nurses (a) to practice in an advanced nursing role in a specialization and (b) to lead innovative, evidence-based practice initiatives that positively impact quality improvements and outcomes in healthcare systems.

The program of study requires a minimum of 1,000 hours of supervised clinical practice in an advanced nursing role and in the leadership component of the D.N.P. program.

The student learning outcomes for this degree are located at the NIU Assessment website http://
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www.niu.edu/assessment/clearinghouse/outcomes/.

Admission

Admission to the D.N.P. is limited and competitive. To apply to the D.N.P. program, prospective students must submit completed application materials to the Graduate School no later than December 15 for the following fall semester. Prospective students are only admitted one time per year for matriculation in the fall semester. Admission decisions will be made within three months from the application deadline.

Prospective students may apply to either the post-bachelor’s D.N.P. degree or the post-master’s D.N.P. degree program. Study in the post-bachelor’s degree D.N.P. program may be full or part time and will focus on education to practice in an advanced nursing role in a particular specialization (i.e., the advanced role component) as well as to lead innovative practice initiatives. Study in the post-master’s degree D.N.P. program will be part time for 6 semesters and will focus on education to lead innovative practice initiatives in healthcare systems (i.e., the D.N.P. leadership component).

Students are admitted to the nursing program provisionally until they have provided proof of meeting the clinical requirements outlined in the Nursing Student Handbook. Full admission to the nursing program is required to enroll in nursing courses.

Post-Bachelor’s Degree D.N.P.:

Eligibility

Current licensure with no encumbrances as a professional Registered Nurse (RN) in the U.S. Prior to beginning course work, students must hold or have applied for RN licensure.

A baccalaureate degree from a school accredited by an accrediting agency officially recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, such as the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), or from a program seeking initial accreditation which includes an upper-division major in nursing equivalent to the undergraduate nursing major at NIU. If the applicant is a graduate of a non-graded baccalaureate program in nursing, CCNE accreditation is required. The applicant must provide documentation of course work which is essentially equivalent to that required in the baccalaureate nursing major at NIU.

A minimum 3.00 GPA (based on a 4.00 system) for the last 60 hours of the baccalaureate program, or completion of 9 semester hours of graduate course work in nursing at NIU with a GPA of 3.20 or better.

Application Components

A 2-page, double-spaced Goal Statement to address:
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Professional goals, desired field of study (for the advanced nursing role component) and how the NIU D.N.P. program will promote goal achievement. This statement should also include a paragraph regarding clinical practice experience in the past three years and the area(s) of practice specialty.

Identification of an issue (i.e., topic or problem) that requires a system-wide change in healthcare services or policies and a general plan for remediating this issue. The topic will serve as the basis for the applicant’s D.N.P. Scholarly Project. The statement must include a description of potential sponsors and location for Scholarly Project implementation.

Three professional letters of reference to provide evidence of the applicant’s professional qualifications. At least one reference should be from a professor or nursing colleague who can address the applicant’s potential for academic success. At least one reference must be from a current, professional nurse colleague (e.g., a supervisor or mentor) who can address the applicant’s professional qualifications as a licensed professional registered nurse. One professional recommendation of the applicant’s choosing (e.g., the sponsor from a potential clinical site for the D.N.P. Scholarly Project). References should be provided on the Graduate School reference form. Ratings and comments must be included. Family members and personal friends are not considered professional references.

For qualified applicants, a pre-admission interview will be completed.

The approval of the nursing program Graduate Admissions Committee upon review of the aforementioned materials and completion of the interview.

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required for admission to NIU graduate nursing programs.

Post-Master’s Degree D.N.P.:

Eligibility

Master’s degree in nursing from a program accredited by an accrediting agency officially recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, such as the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher in a Master’s degree program in nursing.

Current licensure with no encumbrances as a professional Registered Nurse (RN) in the U.S. Prior to beginning course work, students must hold or have applied for RN licensure.

Preferred current national certification as an advanced practice nurse in one of 4 roles: Clinical
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Nurse Specialist, Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Nurse Midwife.

Preferred current licensure without encumbrances as an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) in one of the four roles by the start of course work for the D.N.P.; APN licensure in Illinois preferred.

Preferred one year experience as an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN).

Application Components

Submission of the applicant’s curriculum vitae (CV) or resume

Three professional letters of reference to provide evidence of the applicant’s professional qualifications. At least one reference should be from a graduate faculty member in the applicant’s Master’s degree program who is able to address the applicant’s academic potential in the D.N.P. program. At least one reference must be from a current, professional nurse colleague who can address the applicant’s qualifications as a licensed professional RN and APN (if applicable) in a healthcare setting. One professional recommendation of the applicant’s choosing (e.g., the sponsor from a potential clinical site for the DNP Scholarly Project). References should be provided on the Graduate School reference form. Ratings and comments must be included. Family members and personal friends are not considered professional references.

A two-page, double-spaced Goal Statement to address:

Professional goals and how the NIU post-master’s degree D.N.P. program will promote goal achievement

Identification of an issue (i.e., topic or problem) that requires a system-wide change in healthcare services or policies and a general plan for remediating this issue. The topic will provide the basis for the applicant’s D.N.P. Scholarly Project. The statement must include a description of potential sponsors and location for the Scholarly Project implementation.

For qualified applicants, a pre-admission interview will be completed.

A graduate-level statistics course must be completed prior to taking statistics in the D.N.P. program.

The approval of the nursing program Graduate Admissions Committee upon review of the aforementioned materials and completion of the interview.

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for admission to NIU graduate nursing programs.
Course Requirements

All students are required to complete the D.N.P. degree leadership component, which is a minimum of 35 semester hours of graduate course work at NIU, beyond the graduate credits earned toward a master’s degree. The D.N.P. leadership component courses will be offered on a part-time basis for 6-six semesters over three years.

Post-bachelor’s degree D.N.P. students must complete the curriculum for an advanced role as an Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, or Family Nurse Practitioner before beginning the 35 credits of D.N.P. courses.

Advanced Role Component Courses (48 credits)
See Requirements for Master of Science Degree in Nursing Non-thesis Option (13 credits) AND Specialization in Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (35 credits), OR Specialization in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner; OR Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner (35 credits)

D.N.P. Leadership Component Courses (35 credits)

Core Courses for D.N.P. Leadership Component (20 credits):
- UHHS 740: Data Analysis in the Health Sciences (3)
- NURS 701: Advanced Nursing Leadership (3)
- NURS 702: DNP Research: Evidence-Based Practice Methods (3)
- NURS 704: Clinical Prevention in Advanced Nursing (3)
- NURS 705: Advanced Nursing Ethics (2)
- NURS 706: Informatics for Evidence-Based Practice (3)

Cognate/Elective (3)

Scholarly Project Courses for DNP (15 credits):
- NURS 710: Scholarly Project I: Seminar (3)
- NURS 713: Scholarly Project I: Clinical (2)
- NURS 720: Scholarly Project II: Seminar (3)
- NURS 723: Scholarly Project II: Clinical (2)
- NURS 730: Scholarly Project III: Seminar (3)
- NURS 733: Scholarly Project III: Clinical (2)