DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Description and Outcomes
The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a practice-focused terminal nursing degree. Driving safe, quality care through interprofessional collaboration, evidence-based practice, and complex technology, the DNP prepared nurse catalyzes progressive change within systems and organizations. Our standard DNP program is based on professional nursing standards and competencies for doctoral education in nursing.

The DNP degree:

- Prepares nurses to be culturally competent leaders in the transformation of global health care with an emphasis on advanced clinical practice, leadership, health care policy, information systems, and health care delivery systems
- Prepares nurses to practice at the highest level of nursing; analyze data and scientific research to improve nursing practice; provide organizational and system leadership to continuously improve quality of health care and foster interprofessional collaboration; and evaluate ethical, legal, and social factors in shaping and developing health policies

Our Program
We accept applicants with a CCNE-, ACEN-, or CNEA-accredited Master of Science in Nursing with an advanced nursing practice specialty as defined by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Direct care advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) specialties are nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist, and nurse midwife. Indirect care advanced practice specialties are roles such as nursing administration, informatics, health policy, and population health. Applicants with other Master of Science in Nursing degrees are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Purdue Global is deeply committed to supporting our students and recognizes that nurses are exceptionally busy with multiple demands. The DNP program at Purdue Global is delivered online and you complete practice experiences and a DNP project at a practice setting of your choice. You will have a DNP Faculty Mentor who provides guidance, mentorship, and support throughout the program and during the DNP practice experience and project.

Refer to the Certification, State Board, and National Board Exams (p. 2) section for important program disclosure information.

Note: the Doctor of Nursing Practice program is not available in all states. Refer to Program Availability Information (https://www.purdueglobal.edu/catalog-program-availability-info.pdf) for details.

Practice Experiences
The practice experience will occur at a practice site in collaboration with a Practice Mentor you select in consultation with your DNP Faculty Mentor. One thousand (1,000) postbaccalaureate practice hours are required for DNP degree completion.

Program Length
The Doctor of Nursing Practice program consists of a minimum of 48 quarter credit hours, depending on your prior degree. Upon successful completion of the program, you will be awarded a doctorate degree.

Program Outcomes
Upon graduation, Purdue Global DNP-prepared nurses will be prepared to:

1. Scientific Underpinnings for Practice: Integrate nursing science with other disciplines and use science-based theories and concepts to develop and evaluate new practice approaches to improve health care delivery.
2. Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Improvement and Systems Thinking: Develop and evaluate health care delivery approaches to meet current and future health needs, ensure accountability and patient safety, and evaluate effective strategies for managing ethical dilemmas.
3. Clinical Scholarship and Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Practice: Utilize analytical methods to critically appraise existing literature, design and implement studies, apply relevant findings to practice, use technology to improve research methods, and disseminate findings from evidence-based practice and research to improve health care outcomes.
4. Information Systems/Technology and Patient Care Technology for the Improvement and Transformation of Health Care: Leverage information technology to evaluate programs and improve outcomes of care.
5. Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care: Model leadership in the critical evaluation of health care policy, development of policy at all levels, and advocacy for justice and ethics in all health care arenas.
6. Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes: Apply the methods of effective team leadership, be prepared to play a central role in establishing interprofessional teams, participate in the work of the team, and assume team leadership when appropriate.
7. Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation’s Health: Engage in leadership to integrate and institutionalize evidence-based clinical prevention and population health services for individuals, aggregates, and populations.
8. Advanced Nursing Practice: Demonstrate refined levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in designing, delivering, and evaluating health care.

Professional Competencies
In addition to the discipline-specific outcomes, professional competencies are integrated throughout your academic program. You can review the professional competencies associated with your academic program in the graduate School of General Education (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/graduate/general-education) section of this Catalog.

Program Availability
For program availability, please refer to the U.S. State and Other Approvals (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/policy-information/university-information/accreditation-approvals-memberships) section and Program Availability Information (https://www.purdueglobal.edu/catalog-program-availability-info.pdf).
Policies

Admissions Requirements
You must meet the below admissions requirements in addition to Purdue Global’s general requirements (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/policy-information/admissions/requirements).

If you are an international applicant, you are not eligible to enroll in this program due to practice experience requirements.

Requirements for Graduates of a Bachelor's Degree Program
If a bachelor’s degree with an upper-level major in nursing is the highest nursing degree you have attained, you will enroll in the Master of Science in Nursing—DNP Path program and earn a master’s degree before continuing on to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Refer to the Admissions Requirements (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/graduate/nursing/nursing-dnp-path-ms) for the Master of Science in Nursing—DNP Path for additional information.

Requirements for Graduates of a Master's Degree Program
If a master’s degree with an upper-level major in nursing is the highest nursing degree you have attained, you will enroll in the Master of Science in Nursing—DNP Path program due to practice experience requirements.

1. Complete an informational interview with an Admissions Advisor.
2. Successfully complete an interview with School of Nursing faculty.
3. Submit transcripts indicating the total number of student clinical or practicum hours completed or a letter from the prior institution verifying the total number of hours completed. A maximum of 500 supervised clinical or practicum hours may be accepted from your prior postbaccalaureate education. If you graduated from an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) program, earned certification in an advanced practice role, and are currently practicing as an APRN, you must submit proof of certification and/or advanced practice licensure prior to your interview with faculty.
4. Submit the following documents at least 4 weeks prior to the desired start date:
   a. An unofficial transcript indicating completion of a master’s degree with an upper-level major in nursing and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher from a program accredited by CCNE, ACEN, or CNEA. If accepted to the program, you must provide the University with an official copy of the transcript prior to the end of the first term. Refer to the First-Term Responsibilities (https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/policy-information/admissions/first-term-responsibilities) section for additional information.
   b. An unofficial transcript indicating completion of a graduate-level statistics course and a nursing research course with a grade of "B" or better. If you have not completed these courses as part of your master’s degree in nursing, if admitted to the program, you may take MN 504: Scientific and Analytic Approaches to Advanced Evidence-Based Practice in the first term.
   c. A current, professional resume or curriculum vitae (CV) that verifies you have worked a minimum of 1,000 clinical hours as a registered nurse.
   d. Two letters of reference from professional and/or academic contacts indicating academic ability, personal character, and professional competency.
   e. A personal statement of no more than 500 words
5. Certification, State Board, and National Board Exams
Certain state certification and licensure boards have specific educational requirements for programs to lead to a license or nongovernmental
certification that is a precondition for employment in a recognized occupation.

Unless otherwise specified, Purdue Global’s programs are not designed to meet any specific state’s licensure or certification requirements. If certain licensed occupations, vocations, or professions are not explicitly listed, Purdue Global has not reviewed the licensure or certification requirements of those occupations, vocations, or professions, nor intended the program to meet such requirements. Licensure-track programs may limit enrollment to students in certain states; please see Purdue Global’s Program Availability Information [https://www.purdueglobal.edu/catalog-program-availability-info.pdf](https://www.purdueglobal.edu/catalog-program-availability-info.pdf) to determine enrollment eligibility.

You are responsible for understanding the requirements of optional certification exams. Such requirements may change during the course of your program. You are not automatically certified in any way upon program completion. Although certain programs are designed to prepare you to take various optional certification exams, Purdue Global cannot guarantee you will be eligible to take these exams or become certified. Your eligibility may depend on your work experience, completion of education and/or degree requirements, not having a criminal record, meeting other certification requirements, or the program or the University itself having appropriate accreditation or licensure.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice was not designed for initial certification and licensure for advanced practice registered nurse roles. If you intend to pursue certification as an advanced practice registered nurse, you must verify the requirements for certification and licensing with your state board of nursing.

Upon completion of the program and meeting the requirements of the certifying organization, you may be eligible to sit for the Nurse Executive or the Nurse Executive, Advanced, certification examination through the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the Certified in Executive Nursing Practice certification exam through the American Organization for Nursing Leadership.

**Degree Plan**

![icon](image)

The ![icon](image) icon appears in the title of traditional courses that are also available as a set of module courses. Module course availability may be limited to certain academic calendars. See Course Types [https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/policy-information/university-information/approach-to-learning](https://catalog.purdueglobal.edu/policy-information/university-information/approach-to-learning) for information about module courses.

**Program Requirements**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Requirements</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DN703</td>
<td>Scientific Foundations for Practice</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>DN713</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Social Determinants of Population Health</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>DN723</td>
<td>DNP Project - Analytic Methods and Project Proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>DN733</td>
<td>Ethics, Policy, and Advocacy for Population Health</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>DN743</td>
<td>Clinical Decision Making for Practice</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN753</td>
<td>Transforming the Health Care Organization</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>DN803</td>
<td>DNP Project Development - Data-Driven Decision Making</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>DN813</td>
<td>DNP Project Implementation and Evaluation</td>
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<td>DN823</td>
<td>DNP Project Dissemination</td>
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<td>Independent Study Courses (if required)</td>
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<td>Total Core Requirements</td>
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* The actual number of credits required for graduation may range from 48 to 60 credits depending on the number of supervised practice hours you bring into the program at the time of enrollment. Independent study options are available for those students who need additional coursework to achieve a minimum of 1,000 hours of postbaccalaureate practice as part of a supervised academic program prior to graduation. Please reference the graduation requirements for the Doctor of Nursing Practice.