

# Nursing Practice

## Degree Type

Doctor of Nurse Practice (DNP)

## Admission Requirements

### Procedure for Admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

*Note: Not all Online Program offerings are available to residents of all U.S. states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.*

The criteria used to determine admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program include:

- Completion of an application for admission.
- Completion of a master's degree in nursing (MSN) from an accredited institution.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Submission of official documentation of the actual number of verified clinical hours completed during the post-baccalaureate program of study within 5 weeks after the initial start date. This requirement may come in the form of the credentialing documents used to verify the hours for certification examination or a statement from the graduate degree-granting institution verifying the actual number of hours completed during the master's program.
- Submission of official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended within 5 weeks of the class start date (refer to Conditional Acceptance).
- A valid unencumbered single-state and/or a valid unencumbered Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) multistate license as a registered nurse in all U.S. states or territory in which the student is licensed, including the state in which the student completes all assignments for the program. (Note that military, federal, and foreign educated nurses must meet this state requirement for nursing licensure). An unencumbered license(s) must be maintained throughout the program.
- Submission of a minimum paper-based TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 600 or the electronic-based score of 250 for applicants for whom English is a Second Language (ESL).

Once all required admissions documents and information are submitted, the application will be reviewed and evaluated for an admission decision.

For additional admissions information please see the admissions section [here](#).

## Program Overview and Outcomes

*Offered at Savannah, Tampa, and Online Programs.*

*Note: Not all Online Program offerings are available to residents of all U.S. states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.*

## Program Description

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in the College of Nursing and Public Health is designed as the highest degree for advanced nurses who wish to maintain nursing practice as their area of professional emphasis.

The DNP program provides options for current nurse practitioners and other advanced practice nurses to incorporate progressive and thoughtful clinical practice, inquiry, and leadership competencies into their clinical practice repertoire.

The DNP program is offered as a post-master's program, providing a pathway for master's prepared nurses to achieve doctoral level competencies consistent with a clinical program of study. Coursework in the program emphasizes current topics in nursing, experiences, and scholarship. The program is offered in an online format that supports ongoing education for working nurses. Courses are provided online or in a blended format with the practice component (i.e., advanced nursing field experiences which are guided by agency mentors) provided located in the students' geographical regions.

In 2004 the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) endorsed the DNP degree and proposed that the DNP is the terminal degree for nursing practice. The Essentials for Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (AACN, 2006) outlines the eight competencies that are the foundation for all DNP graduates, regardless of specialty. The South University College of Nursing is uniquely qualified to provide the framework for this practice doctorate degree. As an integrated, national system of higher education, the exposure to outstanding faculty, coupled with state-of-the-art online coursework and industry-standard practice opportunities in the student's geographical area provides a dynamic environment for DNP students to grow into new leadership roles and clinical arenas.

For more information about the Doctor of Nursing Practice within the nursing profession, please visit the American Association of Colleges of Nursing website at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/index.htm>.

## Program Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates should be able to:

1. Provide the highest level of nursing practice through integration of advanced competencies in leadership, ethics and the practice sciences, including biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, organizational, and public health sciences.
2. Demonstrate organizational and care systems leadership for quality improvement through advancing nursing practice.
3. Use contemporary healthcare science to advocate through policy change for resolution of complex healthcare problems and disparities.
4. Evaluate scientific findings for health promotion and disease prevention and impact on transformative care and outcomes.
5. Integrate information technology and informatics to provide scalable solutions for real-world systems problems.

## Doctor of Nursing Practice: 66 credits

Program credits are determined based on evaluation of MSN program of study and clinical/practicum hour attainment.

### Foundation: 28 Credits

| Course Code | Title   | Credits |
|-------------|---|---------|
| NSG7000     | Organization and Systems Leadership for Nursing | 4.0     |
| NSG7005     | Clinical Prevention and Population Health       | 4.0     |
| NSG7010     | Healthcare Policy                               | 4.0     |
| NSG7015     | Financial Management and Resource Utilization   | 4.0     |
| NSG7020     | Evidence, Effectiveness, and Clinical Quality   | 4.0     |
| PHE5015     | Principles of Epidemiology                      | 4.0     |
| PHE5020     | Biostatistical Methods                          | 4.0     |

### Clinical Field Experience: up to 34 Credits\*

| Course Code | Title                                 | Credits |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| NSG7200     | Advanced Nursing Field Experience I   | 6.0     |
| NSG7205     | Advanced Nursing Field Experience II  | 6.0     |
| NSG7210     | Advanced Nursing Field Experience III | 6.0     |

Required for students who have less than 460 post baccalaureate clinical hours:

| Course Code | Title                             | Credits |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| NSG7221     | Practice Immersion Experience I   | 6.0     |
| NSG7222     | Practice Immersion Experience II  | 6.0     |
| NSG7223     | Practice Immersion Experience III | 4.0     |

*\*Practice Immersion Experience courses are eligible for PLA (Prior Learning Assessment) based on post-baccalaureate clinical experiences. Students are required to have a minimum of 1000 documented hours of post baccalaureate clinical experience to earn the DNP degree.*

### Capstone in Applied Practice: 4 Credits

| Course Code          | Title                            | Credits   |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| NSG8100              | Capstone in Applied Practice I   | 1.0       |
| NSG8105              | Capstone in Applied Practice II  | 1.0       |
| NSG8110              | Capstone in Applied Practice III | 1.0       |
| NSG8115              | Capstone in Applied Practice IV  | 1.0       |
| <b>Total Credits</b> |                                  | <b>66</b> |