



DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH

School Of Nursing

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DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

Chair: Dr. Cheryl Taylor PhD, RN

P.O. Box 11784
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School of Nursing Building – Room 107 Phone: (225) 771-2663
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FACULTY

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Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

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D.N.S., Nursing
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Associate Professors

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Ph.D., Educational Leadership Research and Counseling
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Taylor, Cheryl
Ph.D., Nursing
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Assistant Professors:

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DNP, Walden University

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Lewis-Moore, Carolyn

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Program Leader: Dr. Sandra Brown
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Ed.D. University of Phoenix

Graham, Jamie
DNP, Southern University

Introduction

The School of Nursing offers four (4) degrees: the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with a specialty in family nursing, and role options as administrator, educator, or family nurse practitioner, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) with a major in nursing.

The School of Nursing is a professional school within the context of higher education. It has as its major focus the preparation of professional nurses and the ongoing development and maintenance of an educational climate of relevancy inclusive of professional culture, research and standards of practice.

Goal Statements

- **Goal I.** Develop and maintain high quality degree programs that focus on and are compatible with the mission of the university, as well as with the needs of the community and the health care system it serves.
- **Goal II.** Provide for an effective research infrastructure to enhance faculty and student scholarship, research, and other creative pursuits.
- **Goal III.** Recruit, hire, develop, and reward highly competent faculty who bring appropriate expertise and who are committed to providing quality-learning opportunities for students.
- **Goal IV.** Provide a leadership role in public service activities.
- **Goal V.** Establish and maintain effective systems of program review and assessment to assure high quality programs. Program reviews will be systematic, ongoing and outcome-oriented.
- **Goal VI.** Place strong emphasis on providing an organizational structure and resources to enhance attainment of educational, research and public service goals

Accreditation

The MSN and DNP programs are approved by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). CCNE may be contacted at the following address:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
655 K Street, NW Suite 750
Washington, D. C. 20001
202-887-6791
<http://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE>

The doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree is a practice-focused doctorate. The program prepares advanced nurse practitioners who will provide competence and leadership in translating research into practice, evaluate ever-growing bodies of evidence, applying research in decision-making, and implementing viable clinical innovations to change nursing practice

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates of the DNP program should be able to:

- Analyze data for practice by integrating knowledge from arts and sciences within the context of nursing's philosophical framework and scientific foundation.
- Synthesize theory, research knowledge and methods to create, implement, and evaluate practice interventions and health-delivery systems.
- Integrate nursing science with knowledge from the organizational, biophysical, psychological, and analytical sciences as the basis for evidenced-base practice.
- Utilize information systems/technology and patient care technology to improve and transform health care.
- Integrate health policy and ethics to improve health care outcomes through advocacy roles.
- Provide leadership to foster inter-collaboration that uses critical and reflective thinking.
- Apply clinical investigative skills for evaluation of health outcomes at the patient, family, population, clinical unit, systems, and /or community level.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND MATERIALS

For the fall semester admission applications should be completed and submitted by April 1st. Applications for spring semester should be submitted by November 1.

Completed applications should be submitted to the Graduate School, Southern University Baton Rouge.

Completed applications should include:

- Complete Graduate School Application Form
- Three Letters of Recommendation
- Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
- Official GRE Score Report taken within 5 years of the application
- A two to three page Statement of Interest in Doctoral Study
- Curriculum Vitae
- Evidence of original scholarship or research in nursing
- Interview
 - Scholarly Writing Sample

Completed applications are submitted to the Graduate School. Applications that meet the minimum standards are referred to SUSON Graduate Nursing Program and are reviewed by the program's Admissions Committee.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Regular Admission

1. Academic Preparation

Applicants must hold a master's degree in nursing from an accredited program in nursing and certification as a nurse practitioner.

2. GPA

A minimum over-all grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 or above on a 4.0 scale for courses counted toward the student's Master's degree, as indicated by official transcript.

3. GRE

A satisfactory score on the GRE

4. Statement of Interest

Submission of a 500-1000 word statement of interest that addresses the following:

- Applicant's personal goals for doctoral study
- Statement of how DNP education is important to the fulfillment of applicant's career goals

5. Submission of Current Curriculum Vitae/ Resume

Dated employment history and clinical practice experience, honors, awards, professional memberships, and scholarly works (such as grants, publications, and presentations)

6. Sample of Scholarly Writing

Scholarly writing sample in health care or nursing research, including any publications or research

7. Interview

An interview of the applicant

8. Evidence of Credentials and Certification

- Evidence of current unencumbered Louisiana Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) license with no restrictions.
- Three years of full-time clinical practice experience as a certified nurse practitioner (APRN) or certified nurse midwife within the past 5 years.

9. Letters of Recommendation

Three letters of recommendation from:

- A former faculty member in a graduate nursing program
- An employer of advanced level professional in research, education, or leadership/ administration who can attest to applicant's competencies
- An individual of the applicant's choice who can attest to the applicant's character, level of integrity, professional traits, and the ability to successfully complete a doctorate in nursing practice program with academic excellence

DNP CURRICULUM

The program of study for the DNP requires a total of 32 credit hours to complete the program with 6 credit hours of core courses, 9 credit hours of graduate-level research courses, and 17 credit hours of focus study courses. Additionally, students are required to complete 500 required practice hours.

Core Courses (6 Hours)

N700 History and Philosophy of Nursing Science..3 credits

N704 Health Policy, Politics and Economics in Nursing..... 3 credits

Graduate Level Research Courses (9 Hours)

Graduate Statistics.....3 credits

NURS 714 Population Health & Research Methodologies.....3 credits

NURS 716 Measurement and Informatics In Nursing Research and Practice 3 credits

Focus Study Courses (17 Hours)

NURS 730 Theories and Concepts of Health Behavior & Health Promotion..... 3 credits

NURS 740 Leadership in Advanced Practice Primary Care Practicum 5 credits

(300 Practicum Hours)

NURS 742 Advanced Practice Practicum (200 Practicum Hours)5 credits

NURS 746 Capstone Project: Evidence-Based Practice and Research Translation..... 1–4 credits

NURS 797 DNP Comprehensive Exam..... 0 credits

Full-Time Plan of Study

Fall Semester Year 1

NURS 700 History and Philosophy of Nursing Science 3 credits

NURS 704 Health Policy, Politics, and Economics in Nursing 3 credits

NURS 730 Theories and Concepts of Health Behavior & Health Promotion..... 3 credits

Graduate Statistics* 3 credits

*A graduate statistics course at the 500 Or 600 level is required for academic progression

Spring Semester Year I

NURS 714 Population Health & Research Methodologies.....3 credits

NURS 716 Measurement and Informatics in Nursing Research and Practice..... 3 credits

NURS 740 Leadership in Advanced Practice Primary Care Practicum.....5 credits
(300 practicum hours)

Summer Semester Year 1

NURS 742 Advanced Practice Practicum (200 credit hours) 5 credits

NURS 746 Capstone Project: Evidence-Based Practice and Research Translation.....1-4 credits

NURS 797 DNP Comprehensive Exam 0 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

700. HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF NURSING SCIENCE (CREDIT, 3 hours). Overview and critical analysis of the historical and contemporary views of knowledge development and science. The development of nursing as a discipline is examined from a historical perspective. (Consent of the Dean and the Program)

N704 HEALTH POLICY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN NURSING (CREDIT, 3 hours). Interrelated areas concerning the nurse's role in health care policy. Topics include examination of health care policy, policy analysis, and the political process. Issues that currently shape health care policy development and future policy, and their implications for nursing and health care are explored. The nurse's involvement in influencing health policy formulation, legislation, and regulations are discussed. (Prerequisite: N700, N710, N712, N730)

714. POPULATION HEALTH & RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES (CREDIT, 3 hours). Application and critical analysis of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies in the study of health issues in vulnerable persons. Emphasis is on appropriateness of methodology to various research questions and/or problems formulation. Sampling frameworks, types of samples, sampling errors and biases for designs will be addressed. (Prerequisite: N712)

716. MEASUREMENT & INFORMATICS IN NURSING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE (credit, 3 HOURS). Critical analysis of principles and theories of measurement. Instrumentation, analysis of existing data, reliability and validity are emphasized. Various approaches to measurement and scaling, techniques of instrument construction, and procedures for the critical evaluation of instruments are stressed. (Prerequisite: N712 and N714)

730. THEORIES AND CONCEPTS OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR AND HEALTH PROMOTION (CREDIT, 3 hours). Examination of health, health seeking behaviors and barriers to health care of vulnerable populations (i.e. women and children). Included are theoretical and empirical approaches to understanding the impact of culture, economics, and the environment of health. Research on health promotional behaviors of vulnerable individuals, families, and communities is incorporated in the development of interventions that promote, maintain or restore health. Emphasis is placed on the nurse's role in helping individuals to monitor and improve their health and quality of life.

740. LEADERSHIP IN ADVANCED PRACTICE PRIMARY CARE PRACTICUM, (5 credits, 300 practicum hours). In this clinical practicum with seminar, students will integrate DNP role behaviors into clinical practice. A focus on transformational leadership in the practice setting to deliver advanced practice nursing services to individuals, families, communities or systems is emphasized. This course addresses the leadership role of the advanced practice nurse within healthcare organizations to affect change and ensure quality improvement, with a focus on inter- and intra-professional collaboration. In conjunction with their designated faculty advisor, students will design a clinical practicum experience that permits achievement of the student's individual goals and the program objectives with primary emphasis on the integration of DNP

competencies directly into advanced nursing practice.
(PREREQUISITES: N700, N704, N714, N730)

742. ADVANCED PRACTICE PRACTICUM, (5 CREDIT HOURS, 200 PRACTICUM HOURS). In this clinical practicum with seminar, the philosophic basis of ethics and implications for advanced clinical practice will be explored. Using ethical principles, students will examine a variety of clinical, research and practice management dilemmas that arise in the provision of advanced practice nursing services to individuals, populations and communities. Issues related to social justice, health care disparities and vulnerable populations will be explored. In conjunction with their designated faculty advisor, students will design a clinical practicum experience that permits achievement of the student's individual goals and the program objectives with primary emphasis on the integration of DNP competencies directly into advanced nursing practice. PREREQUISITES: (N700, N704, N714, N716, N730, N740)

746. CAPSTONE PROJECT: EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AND RESEARCH TRANSLATION (Credit, 1-4 hours). The Capstone Project Course is a synthesis of advanced practice nursing knowledge for the purpose of creating a scholarly project based on advanced clinical practice. Scholarly projects that embrace partnerships with other healthcare or community agencies are emphasized. Faculty mentorship is provided to ensure adherence to research standards, ethical considerations and human assurances, relevance to advanced practice nursing, addresses client needs, and improvement of population, groups or community outcomes. Utilization of databases and dissemination of findings required. (PREREQUISITES N700, N704, N714, N716, N730, N740) (CO-REQUISITE N742)

797. DNP COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION (Credit, 0 hours).