DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Purpose

The distance education program leading to the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Wilkes University is linked to the mission statements of the University and the Passan School of Nursing as well as, AACN’s definition of advanced nursing practice. The doctoral program focuses on two primary elements: applied research and clinical practice. These two elements are embedded in courses throughout the program with opportunities to apply acquired knowledge to clinical practice in the students’ respective fields for improving safety and quality in health care organizations.

DNP Program Outcomes

The DNP Program at Wilkes University prepares students to:

1. Apply scientific inquiry and information technology to become leaders in advancing nursing practice.
2. Demonstrate application of scholarship and research for solving the nation’s complex health problems.
3. Translate evidence based research into clinical practice.
4. Integrate and disseminate knowledge for improving patient and population health outcomes.
5. Engage in health care policy.

DNP Student Learning Outcomes

Students in the DNP Program at Wilkes University will:

1. Synthesize nursing science to manage complex health problems and improve health outcomes in advanced nursing practice.
2. Develop knowledge and skills in healthcare organizational and systems leadership to improve evidence based practice and policy.
3. Critically analyze information technology, research methodology, quality improvement methodology to implement the best evidence based practice.
4. Design patient care technology and information systems to enhance quality of health care delivery.
5. Evaluate health care policies to improve health care policy outcomes at the local, state, and national levels.
6. Employ specialized knowledge and leadership skills when collaborating and leading other interprofessional health care teams in complex health care delivery systems.
7. Analyze health disparities, cultural diversity, environmental and societal needs in the care of individuals, aggregates, and populations.
8. Demonstrate advanced levels of clinical judgment using systems thinking to implement and evaluate evidence based care.

Admission Requirements

Regular Acceptance

- Master of Science in Nursing degree - advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), nurse executive, nursing informatics, clinical nurse leader, or health policy concentrations only
- GPA of 3.5 or higher from master’s-degree-granting institution which is programmatically (ACEN, NLNAC, CCNE) accredited. Students who have graduated from a non-programmatically accredited institution and meet all other admission requirements will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Admission is not guaranteed.
- RV license; and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license and national board certification, as appropriate
- Completed application and CV
- Proof of completion of supervised clinical practice hours during master’s or post-graduate certificate program. Verification of completed hours must be provided by the nursing program where the clinical hours were completed. Transcripts are not considered official verification and will not be accepted as verification. (Please note: The DNP degree requires completion of a total of 1000 clinical hours earned during master’s/post-graduate certificate, and the DNP program)
- Two recommendations from graduate-prepared nurses or faculty who can attest to the candidate’s potential for advanced practice studies and leadership
- Official transcripts from master’s degree and post-graduate certificate granting institutions
- Evidence of completion for advanced health assessment, advanced pharmacology, and advanced pathophysiology by APRN students (Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Anesthetists and Nurse Midwives) who do not hold current national certification

Provisional Acceptance (collateral)*

- Master of Science in Nursing degree - advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), nurse executive, nursing informatics, clinical nurse leader, or health policy concentrations only
- GPA of 3.5 or higher from master’s-degree-granting institution which is programmatically (ACEN, NLNAC, CCNE) accredited. Students who have graduated from a non-programmatically accredited institution and meet all other admission requirements will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Admission is not guaranteed.
- RN license; and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license and national board certification, as appropriate
- Completed application and CV
- Proof of completion of supervised clinical practice hours during master’s or post-graduate certificate program. Verification of completed hours must be provided by the nursing program where the clinical hours were completed. Transcripts are not considered official verification and will not be accepted as verification. (Please note: The DNP degree requires completion of a total of 1000 clinical hours earned during master’s/post-graduate certificate, and the DNP program)
- Two recommendations from graduate-prepared nurses or faculty who can attest to the candidate’s potential for advanced practice studies and leadership
- Unofficial transcripts* from master’s degree and national board certification, as appropriate
- Evidence of completion for advanced health assessment, advanced pharmacology, and advanced pathophysiology by APRN students (Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Anesthetists and Nurse Midwives) who do not hold current national certification

*Official transcript from degree-granting institution due prior to start of second course

Conditional Acceptance (academic)**

- Master of Science in Nursing degree - advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), nurse executive, nursing informatics, clinical nurse leader, or health policy concentrations only
- GPA of 3.0-3.49 from master’s-degree-granting institution which is programmatically (ACEN, NLNAC, CCNE) accredited. Students who have graduated from a non-programmatically accredited institution and
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meet all other admission requirements will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Admission is not guaranteed.
• RN license; and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license and national board certification, as appropriate
• Completed application and CV
• Proof of completion of supervised clinical practice hours during master's or post-graduate certificate program. Verification of completed hours must be provided by the nursing program where the clinical hours were completed. Transcripts are not considered official verification and will not be accepted as verification. (Please note: The DNP degree requires completion of a total of 1000 clinical hours earned during master's/post-graduate certificate, and the DNP program)
• Letter of Intent addressing reason for pursuing DNP, reason for GPA less than 3.5 in graduate studies, and steps student will take to ensure successful completion of DNP program
• Three recommendations from graduate-prepared nurses or faculty who can attest to the candidate’s potential for advanced practice studies and leadership
• Official transcripts from master’s degree and post-graduate certificate granting institutions
• Evidence of completion for advanced health assessment, advanced pharmacology, and advanced pathophysiology by APRN students (Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Anesthetists and Nurse Midwives) who do not hold current national certification

**Admitted students must achieve a cumulative 3.0 GPA in first two courses to move forward in program of study.

The Curriculum

DNP Core (30 Credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSG 600</td>
<td>Nursing Informatics</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSG 601</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<td>NSG 602</td>
<td>Ethical Principles for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSG 603</td>
<td>Application of Nursing Research</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<td>NSG 604</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Environmental Health</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<td>NSG 605</td>
<td>Collaboration in Health Care Delivery</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<td>NSG 606</td>
<td>Diversity and Social Issues</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<td>NSG 607</td>
<td>Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSG 608a</td>
<td>Scholarly Project</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSG 608b</td>
<td>Scholarly Project</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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*NSG 608 a and b are completed over the last 2 courses (32 weeks) in the DNP program.

Elective practicum courses are available for students entering the MS-DNP program with less than 400 hours from their master’s degree and post grad certificate programs. These courses provide students with additional time to complete the required 1000 hours for the DNP degree, prior to the start of the scholarly project. Students could take the following elective practicum courses after completing NSG 603:
NSG 609: DNP Program Practicum I; 150 clinical hours; 2 credits

Degree Requirements

MS-DNP students are required to complete the 30 (30) credit DNP core.

Length of DNP Program

DNP program offers courses consecutively over 8 weeks with two, 2 week breaks built into the academic calendar.

Clinical Requirements

Students in the DNP program need to secure a clinical mentor prior to entering NSG 608a: Scholarly Project. The DNP program requires completion of a total of 1000 hours of practice experience beyond the bachelor’s level of nursing education. The hours will be conducted in the scholarly project courses. Students who have completed practicum hours to satisfy past curriculum requirements may be credited with hours from their master’s program and/or post master’s graduate/ APRN certificate in nursing. Validation of those hours is required by a letter from the degree granting academic institution verifying the number of practicum hours which is part of the enrollment process. Further details of clinical requirements are outlined in the graduate student nursing handbook.

Scholarly Project

Students in the graduate program are required to complete a scholarly project that demonstrates mastery of theoretical content through analysis and synthesis. Students should have a topic prior to entering the program and will research the topic throughout their DNP coursework. DNP scholarly project oversight is provided by an assigned Scholarly Project Chairperson. One other committee member is chosen by the student to serve and can include graduate faculty members or community members, who are serving as scholarly project mentors. The scholarly project validates that candidates have achieved competency in The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (AACN, 2006) through the application of research and clinical implementation. The Scholarly Project is 6 credits and completion is over the last 2 courses of the DNP program.
NSG. NURSING

NSG-608 A and B. SCHOLARLY PROJECT
Credits: 6
Completed over the last 2 semesters of the DNP program.

In this capstone course, the student, under the guidance of a selected faculty member, will analyze and synthesize theoretical and empirical research relevant to a clinical practice issue. Students will design a comprehensive and holistic approach to this problem using evidence-based presentation. This course provides opportunity for additional clinical practice needed for the development of advanced nursing practice competencies. Required clinical hours for DNP clinical competency are dependent upon educational / clinical background. This could vary from 500 to 1000 hours.

Pre-Requisites
NSG-600, NSG-601, NSG-602, NSG-603, NSG-604, NSG-605, NSG-606 and NSG-607
Co-Requisites
At the discretion of the Chair, Graduate Nursing Program.

NSG-410. TRANSITION TO BACCALAUREATE NURSING FOR THE GRADUATE NURSING STUDENT
Credits: 7 (6 credits theory, 1 credit clinical)
Terms Offered: On Demand
This course is designed to facilitate the transition of RN students from other educational routes to baccalaureate education and professional nursing practice. The course focuses on the integration of knowledge, skills and attitudes in the development of the professional role to enhance quality outcomes for individuals, families, and populations across all healthcare settings and in complex healthcare environments. Students will begin advancing their knowledge on the transformational concepts related to master’s education in nursing.

NSG-411. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICUM FOR THE GRADUATE STUDENT
Credits: 3 (2 credits theory, 1 credit clinical)
This course prepares the RN to MSN student for professional role development in emerging health care delivery systems. The student synthesizes knowledge from previous nursing and supportive courses to manage care in an area of clinical practice consistent with career goals. Students will continue advancing their knowledge on the transformational concepts related to master’s education in nursing.

Pre-Requisites
NSG-410

NSG-500. ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT
Credits: 3
This course presents an overview of the full and comprehensive health assessment of patients across the life span. Emphasis on multiple aspects of assessment including physical, functional, and mental health assessment along with transcultural variations, will prepare the student for advanced nursing practice. (Nurse Practitioner students are required to complete an onsite residency.)

Pre-Requisites
NSG-550

NSG-501. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING SCIENCE
Credits: 3
This course emphasizes the systematic process of theory development in nursing. The role of traditional science in relation to other ways of knowing is explored. Students will describe, analyze, and evaluate current theories of nursing. The relationship of research and practice to theory is discussed.

NSG-502. ADVANCED NURSING RESEARCH
Credits: 3
This course builds on knowledge and skills developed in undergraduate research and statistics courses. Skills in the analysis and evaluation of nursing research are further developed. Students analyze the contributions of the empirical approach to the development of nursing science. Selected research designs and methodologies which are used to advance nursing knowledge are examined. Students are given the opportunity to critique and synthesize current research for its application to an identified problem in nursing practice.

NSG-504. ADVANCED ROLE DEVELOPMENT IN NURSING
Credits: 3
This course examines the development of roles for advancing nursing practice. The historical development of these roles along with current scope of practice in a variety of clinical settings will be explored. Focus will be placed on the legal, historical, political, social, and ethical aspects of advanced practice nursing.

NSG-505. HEALTH POLICY AND POLITICS FOR ADVANCING NURSING PRACTICE
Credits: 3
Complex and continuous changes in healthcare environments require that nursing professionals contribute to care delivery systems for improving population health outcomes. This course focuses on the role of the nurse advancing nursing practice through developing health policy, politics, and advocacy systems. Approaches to health issues for shaping policy on a local, state and federal level are analyzed in accordance with policy making processes, politics in healthcare and government, healthcare economics, and ethical frameworks.

NSG-506. ADVANCED PRACTICE IN ADULT GERONTOLOGY CLINICAL I
Credits: 3
Advance practice nursing students integrate theories from nursing and other sciences that are evidence-based and sensitive to cultural and ethical issues. Promoting quality outcomes in the adult-gerontology population across the spectrum of young adults, adults, and older adults is the focus of this clinical experience in primary care settings. Advanced health assessment, diagnostic reasoning, and development of therapeutic interventions for self-limiting conditions occurs. Opportunities for interdisciplinary experience and collaborative practice are provided. The seminar component of the course is designed to develop critical-thinking and clinical decision-making skills through case presentations. (Seminar, Residency and 250 clinical practice hours).

Pre-Requisites
NSG-550
NSG-515. ADVANCED PRACTICE IN ADULT GERIATRICS CLINICAL II
 Credits: 3
 Advanced Practice nursing students integrate theories from nursing and other sciences that are evidence-based and sensitive to cultural and ethical issues. Promoting quality outcomes in the adult and gerontology population across the spectrum of young adults, adults, and older adults is the focus of this clinical experience in primary care settings. Advanced health assessment, diagnostic reasoning and development of therapeutic interventions for complex health conditions occurs. Opportunities for interdisciplinary experience and collaborative practice are provided. The seminar component of the course is designed to develop critical-thinking and clinical decision-making skills through case presentations. (Seminar, Residency and 250 clinical practice hours)

Pre-Requisites
NSG-550

NSG-526. CLINICAL MODALITIES IN ADVANCED PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSING PRACTICE
 Credits: 3
 This course provides a foundation in the major systems of therapy for individuals and groups used in advanced psychiatric mental health nursing and other disciplines engaged in mental health practice. Focus will be on therapeutic modalities such as brief psychotherapy, group processes and practices, milieu therapy and crisis intervention as they relate to advanced nursing practice in mental health.

Pre-Requisites
NSG-550, NSG-552

NSG-527. PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, THEORIES, AND ADVANCED CLINICAL MODALITIES
 Credits: 3
 This course focuses on the most frequently observed pathologies in psychiatry and mental health, the various conceptual models and theories related to the practice of psychiatric mental health nursing, and the most advanced clinical modalities congruent with the analysis of the best evidence.

Pre-Requisites
NSG-550, NSG-552

NSG-530. ADVANCED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY
 Credits: 3
 This course provides an overview of the normal physiologic and pathologic mechanisms of disease and serves as one primary component of the foundation for clinical assessment, decision-making, and management. The course will prepare the advanced practice nurse for interpreting changes in normal function that results in symptoms indicative of illness in patients across the lifespan.

NSG-533. ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY
 Credits: 3
 This course provides the basic principles of pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacotherapeutics for broad categories of drugs. Purpose of action, common interactions and contraindications of major drug categories are highlighted. Case studies are integrated to provide students the opportunity to demonstrate application of pharmacological theory in advancing nursing practice.

NSG-535. ADVANCED PRACTICE IN PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSING I
 Credits: 3
 This foundational clinical course introduces students to advanced practice psychiatric nursing in a variety of mental health settings. Students acquire skills in completing comprehensive mental health assessments. Students identify and apply concepts, theories, and principles to the practice of individual, family, and group psychotherapy, with emphasis on process dynamics. Considerations and challenges in providing psychotherapy to culturally diverse individuals, families, and groups are explored and discussed. Skills are gained in assessing psychopathological symptoms across the lifespan and in implementing planned interventions. Students integrate theory and practice of the advanced practice psychiatric nurse in a supervised clinical practicum (Total: Residency and 250 practice hours).

Pre-Requisites
NSG-550, NSG-552

NSG-536. ADVANCED PRACTICE IN PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSING II
 Credits: 3
 This clinical course focuses on refining assessment, diagnosis, and pharmacological and psychosocial management of individuals of all ages with mental illness. Individual, family, and group psychotherapies are refined. Students gain skills in identifying individual/populations at risk for mental illness and primary prevention in mental health. Mental health needs of culturally diverse, rural, and underserved populations are explored. Leadership and advocacy roles of the advanced practice psychiatric nurse as an agent of healthcare policy change are emphasized. Students integrate theory and practice of the advanced practice psychiatric nurse in a supervised clinical practicum (Total: Residency and 250 practice hours).

Pre-Requisites
NSG-550, NSG-552

NSG-540. THE NURSING CURRICULUM: DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION
 Credits: 3
 This course provides a foundation to understand the core of knowledge of educational processes which undergird nursing education. Competencies needed by nurse educators are explored; principles, philosophies and theories of learning, curriculum development, professional socialization, and accreditation as well as legal requirements for nursing programs are discussed. The relationship between curricular design and accreditation standards is described.

NSG-541. TEACHING METHODOLOGIES AND STRATEGIES IN NURSING
 Credits: 3
 Building on knowledge of curriculum and learning, approaches to classroom and clinical teaching are explored. Learning outcomes as they relate to instructional teaching/learning interventions are developed. The use of instructional technology is included.

NSG-542. EVALUATION IN NURSING EDUCATION
 Credits: 3
 Evaluation methodologies from selection of applicants through the meeting of graduation requirements will be explored. Testing strategies and test reliability will be discussed. Classroom and clinical achievement will be included. Faculty evaluation as well as student measurement will be discussed.
NSG-544. CLASSROOM PRACTICUM IN NURSING EDUCATION
Credits: 3
This practicum provides the student an opportunity to actively participate in a faculty or staff development role within an educational setting. The student is required to obtain a mentor who will provide classroom learning experiences. (100 practicum hours required).

Pre-Requisites
NSG-540, NSG-541, NSG-542

NSG-545. CLINICAL PRACTICUM IN NURSING EDUCATION
Credits: 3
This practicum provides the student an opportunity to actively participate in a faculty or staff development role within an educational setting. The student is required to obtain a mentor who will provide teaching learning experiences within a clinical environment. (100 practicum hours required).

Pre-Requisites
NSG-544

NSG-548. FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER ROLE WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Credits: 2
This course is designed to prepare Family Nurse Practitioner nursing students to provide primary health care to the pediatric client and their family. The course integrates nursing theories that are evidence-based with health assessment and diagnostic reasoning of acute primary care health problems. Health promotion, protection and disease prevention interventions are provided with consideration of culturally diverse populations.

Pre-Requisites
NSG-500, NSG-530, NSG-533, NSG-550
NSG-549. FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER CLINICAL WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
Credits: 1  
Family Nurse Practitioner nursing students integrate theories from nursing and other sciences that are evidence-based and sensitive to cultural and ethical issues. Promoting quality outcomes in the pediatric population across the lifespan is the focus of this clinical experience in primary care settings. Advanced health assessment, diagnostic reasoning and development of therapeutic interventions for complex health conditions occurs. Opportunities for interdisciplinary experience and collaborative practice are provided. The seminar component of the course is designed to develop critical-thinking and clinical decision-making skills through case presentations. (Seminar, Residency and 84 clinical practice hours)  

Pre-Requisites  
NSG-500, NSG-530, NSG-533, NSG-550

NSG-550. DIAGNOSTIC REASONING FOR NURSE PRACTITIONERS  
Credits: 2  
The nurse practitioner will develop processes for formulating differential diagnoses of acute and chronic physical and mental illnesses in the primary care setting across the lifespan. A case-study approach is integrated to prepare students for management of health status of patients through the implementation of strategies specific to the synthesis of data from multiple sources that promote quality of care outcomes for patients.

Pre-Requisites  
NSG-500, NSG-530, NSG-533.

NSG-551. MENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVES OF CULTURALLY DIVERSE, RURAL, AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS  
Credits: 2  
This course is designed to examine the mental health perspectives of culturally diverse, rural, and underserved populations. Topics include, but are not limited to: cultural competence, cultural bound syndromes, cultural assessment, challenges faced by PMH-NPs in the mental health care of minorities, immigrants, refugees, and other underserved populations, and factors influencing mental health care and services in rural settings. In addition, this course will examine how health care reform will affect diverse individuals with mental illnesses. Knowledge gained from this course can be integrated into clinical practice.

NSG-552. PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY  
Credits: 2  
This course is designed to assist the P-MH nurse practitioner to develop competence in prescribing and monitoring psychopharmacological agents used in the treatment of common psychiatric-mental health disorders across the lifespan. This course will examine the major classes of psychopharmacological agents on neurobiological function with a particular emphasis on the clinical management of target psychiatric symptoms. Drugs of abuse, side effects, issues of polypharmacy, and management of advanced practice prescriptive privileges are also explored.

Pre-Requisites  
NSG-533

NSG-553. ADULT HEALTH PERSPECTIVES OF CULTURALLY DIVERSE, RURAL, AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS  
Credits: 2  
The course is designed to introduce the advanced practice nursing student to the issues of culturally diverse, rural and underserved populations. The theory can be integrated into clinical practice for adult-gerontology patients and families to promote understanding of differences and issues that impact comprehensive planning of health care services.

NSG-554. NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN PRIMARY CARE I  
Credits: 3  
This course is designed to prepare primary care nurse practitioner students to provide primary health care to the adult and older adult population during wellness and acute/episodic illness. The course integrates nursing theories that are evidence-based with health assessment and diagnostic reasoning of acute/episodic primary care health problems. Health promotion, protection and disease prevention interventions are provided with consideration of culturally diverse populations.

Pre-Requisites  
NSG-550

NSG-555. NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN PRIMARY CARE II  
Credits: 3  
This course is designed to prepare primary care nurse practitioner students to provide chronic primary health care to the adult and older adult population. The course integrates nursing theories that are evidence-based with health assessment and diagnostic reasoning of chronic, primary health care problems. Health promotion, protection and disease prevention interventions are provided with consideration of culturally diverse populations.

Pre-Requisites  
NSG-550

NSG-556. HEALTH PERSPECTIVES OF CULTURALLY DIVERSE, RURAL, AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS  
Credits: 2  
This course is designed to introduce the advanced practice nursing student to the issues of culturally diverse, rural and underserved populations. The theory can be integrated into clinical practice for patients and families in primary care settings to promote understanding of differences and issues that impact comprehensive planning of health care services.

NSG-560. HEALTHCARE OPERATIONS FOR THE NURSE EXECUTIVE  
Credits: 3  
This course prepares the nursing executive by examining the multiple administrative areas necessary for success at an executive level. The differences between US health care policy and the health care policies of various other countries will be explored. An analysis of select health care administration topics through the use of both individual and collaborative learning will prepare students to succeed in an ever-expanding, constantly changing health care environment.
NSG-561. ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR THE NURSE EXECUTIVE
Credits: 3
This course examines the executive level leadership skills necessary to excel within the rapidly changing health care environment of the future. Emphasis is placed on understanding how the individualized leadership styles of today's health care executives shape the culture and vision of the organizations of tomorrow. This course also provides an in-depth analysis of how building an autonomous, ethical, and diverse leadership team and workforce assists the executive in developing solutions to complex organizational problems.

Pre-Requisites
NSG-560
Co-Requisites
Taken concurrently with NSG 563 for the first eight weeks.

NSG-562. ADVANCED LEADERSHIP TOPICS FOR THE NURSE EXECUTIVE
Credits: 3
This course synthesizes previously established theory and skill sets to explore select advanced topics in health care leadership. The issues explored will assist the executive nurse in leading a health care organization during times of crisis or conflict as well as prosperity. Emphasis is placed on understanding health care as an intricate, dynamic organism which is in continual need of attention.

Pre-Requisites
NSG-561
Co-Requisites
Taken concurrently with NSG 564 for the first eight weeks.

NSG-563. NURSE EXECUTIVE PRACTICUM I
Credits: 3
This practicum course synthesizes previously established theory and skill sets to further develop the student's administrative abilities. By applying theories from other sciences and utilizing interdisciplinary experiences and collaborative opportunities, the student will further enhance the skills necessary to excel as a health care executive in an evidence-based, culturally sensitive environment. The seminar component of this course is designed to supplement previous theoretical applications and stimulate critical-thinking and decision-making. (250 clinical hours)

Pre-Requisites
NSG-560
Co-Requisites
This 16-week course is taken concurrently with NSG 561 for the first eight weeks.

NSG-564. NURSE EXECUTIVE PRACTICUM II
Credits: 3
This practicum course synthesizes previously established theory and skill sets to further develop the student's leadership abilities. By applying theories from other sciences and utilizing interdisciplinary experiences and collaborative opportunities, the student will further enhance the skills necessary to excel as a health care executive in an evidence-based, culturally sensitive environment. The completion of an organizational needs assessment within this course is designed to supplement previous theoretical applications and stimulate critical-thinking and decision-making. (250 clinical hours)

Pre-Requisites
NSG-561
Co-Requisites
This 16-week course is taken concurrently with NSG 562 for the first eight weeks.

NSG-565. FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING INFORMATICS
Credits: 3
Students are introduced to the role, scope, and standards which form the foundation for nursing informatics practice. The theoretical basis of the course incorporates both knowledge of nursing practice and health informatics. Students will explore the framework of data, information, knowledge, and wisdom to data application in healthcare for improving patient care.

NSG-566. DATA MANAGEMENT IN HEALTHCARE
Credits: 3
Database application in nursing and healthcare systems will be examined in this course. Students will learn database design, implementation, and management to support clinical decision making in nursing and healthcare project design and management.

NSG-567. NURSING INFORMATICS LEADERSHIP IN HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS AND PROJECT DESIGNS
Credits: 3
In this course students will explore the role of the informatics nurse specialist as nurse leader who combines knowledge of nursing practice and technology on healthcare teams. Theory and skills on performing system analysis and implementation of the systems design life cycle in project management.

NSG-568. NURSING INFORMATICS PRACTICUM I
Credits: 3
This course requires students to perform in the role of an informatics nurse specialist in a healthcare organization. In collaboration with a preceptor students will apply nursing informatics theory and models in developing a project which improves the quality of nursing care delivered in a healthcare setting. (Clinical Practicum Hours: 100)

Pre-Requisites
NSG-565, NSG-566, NSG-567
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NSG-569. NURSING INFORMATICS PRACTICUM II
Credits: 3
This course requires students to perform in the role of an informatics nurse specialist in a healthcare organization. In collaboration with a preceptor students will apply nursing informatics theory and models to implement the project planned in NSG 568, which improves the quality of nursing care delivered in a healthcare setting. (Clinical Practicum Hours: 100)

Pre-Requisites
NSG-568

NSG-590. SCHOLARLY REVIEW
Credits: 3 (or 1 credit of national board certification preparation)
In this course the student will synthesize and review issues relevant to their specialty clinical practice. This course is designed as a review of the required masters level core nursing courses and specialty focused curriculum for advanced nursing practice. This course will provide an overview of both the required core nursing courses as well as each specific specialty course.

Students in the post graduate/APRN certificate programs can take this course for 1 credit of national board certification preparation.

Pre-Requisites
Completion of Graduate Nursing Core and Concentration courses.

NSG-600. NURSING INFORMATICS
Credits: 3
Students use information systems to analyze patient data, perform research, and evaluate project outcomes. The course will include applications in computer-based patient records, data-base management systems, e-health, distance education, and research. Legal and ethical issues associated with computer use are examined.

NSG-601. BIOSTATISTICS
Credits: 3
Statistics is the science whereby inferences are made about specific random phenomena on the basis of relatively limited sample material. It is widely used in biological, health, and social sciences, etc. Biostatistics is the branch of applied statistics that applies statistical methods to medical and biological problems.

NSG-602. ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE
Credits: 3
This course will analyze a broad range of ethical principles that impact the health professions, from euthanasia and abortion to informed consent and behavior control. Examination of the ethical, moral, and legal obligations within selected decision-making frameworks will be completed. Strategies to assist in the resolution of ethical dilemmas will be developed through the application of selected theories and concepts. Interaction between ethical, legal, and political events that affect advanced practice nursing will be explored.

NSG-603. APPLICATION OF NURSING RESEARCH
Credits: 3
This course analyzes research methods to appraise research literature for application to practice and evaluate practice outcomes in varied settings. Application of relevant research findings are used to generate practice guidelines, design evidence based interventions and examine patterns and predict outcomes. The collaborative role of the DNP in research is discussed.

Pre-Requisites
NSG-601

NSG-604. EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Credits: 3
The purpose of this course is to examine the concepts and methods of epidemiological and environmental health analysis and their application to advanced nursing practice. The student will be able to integrate this knowledge into nursing practice in a variety of health care settings through research, program development, health policy and advocacy.

NSG-605. COLLABORATION IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY
Credits: 3
This course focused on the knowledge and skills needed to promote collaboration with all members of the interdisciplinary health care team. Content will include exploration of the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies for effective health care delivery.

NSG-606. DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES
Credits: 3
This course focuses on cultural and social issues affecting members of a global society. A critical appraisal of health care disparities is emphasized and strategies for quality improvement are analyzed.

NSG-607. LEADERSHIP IN ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE
Credits: 3
This course provides an opportunity for students to analyze theories of leadership and management as they relate to the multifaceted role in advanced nursing practice. The health care environment, with its ongoing changes in organization and financing, is impacted upon by changes in health policy, regulatory processes, and quality measures. The understanding of this content will prepare the student to provide quality cost-effective care, to participate in the design and implementation of care in a variety of health care systems, and to assume a leadership role in the managing of human, fiscal, and physical care resources.

NSG-609. DNP PROGRAM PRACTICUM I
Credits: 2
This course provides students pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree the opportunity for achieving additional clinical hours as required for meeting program outcomes. The focus will be on preparing students as experts in a specific area for advancing nursing practice, for the final scholarly project. The student will develop a PICO statement for the scholarly project which will guide this intense practice immersion experience. The student will collaborate with an identified clinical mentor. (Elective; Clinical hours total: 150 hours/ 8 weeks/2 credits)

Pre-Requisites
NSG-600, NSG-601, NSG-602, NSG-603
**NSG-610. DNP PROGRAM PRACTICUM II**  
**Credits:** 2  
This course provides students pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree the opportunity for achieving additional clinical hours as required for meeting program outcomes. The focus is on preparing students as experts in a specific area for advancing nursing practice, for the final scholarly project. The student will begin to bridge knowledge gained from the intense practice immersion experience through application to a scholarly project implementation plan. The student will collaborate with an identified clinical mentor. (Elective; Clinical hours total: 150 hours/ 8 weeks/2 credits)  

**Pre-Requisites**  
NSG-609

**NSG-615. INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR**  
**Credits:** 1  
This seminar is a weekend residency that focuses on the dissertation process and student orientation to the university and PhD program.

**NSG-616. PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**  
**Credits:** 3  
The focus of this course is to prepare doctoral student to examine the development and organization of nursing knowledge. Philosophies of science, epistemologies and their influence on knowledge development in the discipline of nursing, and strategies for theory development and analysis are explored.

**Pre-Requisites**  
NSG-615

**NSG-617. THEORY IN NURSING EDUCATION**  
**Credits:** 3  
This course acquaints students with philosophical issues and nursing theories relevant to nursing education. An overview of central metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical system, considering specific issues in the philosophies of science and ethics that are of particular focus in nursing education.

**Pre-Requisites**  
NSG-615

**NSG-618. HEALTH CARE ISSUES AND POLICY**  
**Credits:** 3  
The nurse researcher contributes towards the development of healthcare policy and politics in local, state, national, and global healthcare markets. Application and analysis of evidence based research on policy and politics will impact population health outcomes and the future of nursing education, research and practice.

**Pre-Requisites**  
NSG-615

**NSG-619. THE RESEARCH PROCESS**  
**Credits:** 3  
This course introduces students to the process of in intellectual inquiry, focusing on the development of researchable problems, literature review, hypothesis generation, and sampling techniques within the context of descriptive and correlation research design and methods. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software will be presented and practiced.

**Pre-Requisites**  
NSG-615

**NSG-621. STATISTICS**  
**Credits:** 3  
This course applies knowledge of statistical methods used in nursing research. Topics include parametric and non-parametric methods of data analysis and model building. Alternate approaches to analysis of data are considered.

**Pre-Requisites**  
NSG-619

**NSG-622. WRITING FOR GRANTS AND PUBLICATION**  
**Credits:** 3  
This course applies knowledge of statistical methods used in nursing research. Topics include parametric and non-parametric methods of data analysis and model building. Alternate approaches to analysis of data are considered.

**Pre-Requisites**  
NSG-615

**NSG-623. QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS I**  
**Credits:** 3  
This course focuses on research methodologies that guide the design of studies which collect and analyze quantitative data. The focus will be on writing quantitative research questions and selecting appropriate research methodologies. Focus is placed on descriptive, correlational, experimental and quasi-experimental designs as applied to nursing problems.

**Pre-Requisites**  
NSG-619, NSG-621

**NSG-624. QUALITATIVE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS**  
**Credits:** 3  
The focus of this course is on qualitative inquiry as an approach to the discovery of knowledge in the science of nursing. This course will focus on the scientific underpinnings, methodologies, and data analysis techniques in qualitative research for advancing nursing knowledge.

**Pre-Requisites**  
NSG-619, NSG-621
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

**NSG-625. QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS II**
**Credits:** 3
This course builds on the understanding of quantitative designs in nursing and health related topics. The course provides the opportunity for applied practice in quantitative methods using common statistical tests and SPSS.

**Pre-Requisites**
NSG-623

**NSG-626. MEASUREMENT AND DATA COLLECTION**
**Credits:** 3
This course provides an overview of principles of measurement, instrument design, and data collection methods. Methods to critically evaluate and select theoretically congruent instruments are explored.

**Pre-Requisites**
NSG-621

**NSG-627. SEMINAR II**
**Credits:** 3
The student, in consultation with his/her chairperson, writes a Literature Review and identifies a Mode of Inquiry.

**Pre-Requisites**

**NSG-628. PHD COMPETENCY**
**Credits:** 1
The comprehensive written examination is a series of questions that focus on the synthesis and integration of knowledge learned during doctoral coursework. Students demonstrate their ability and preparedness to move forward in the doctoral research program.

**Pre-Requisites**
NSG-627; Authorization from student’s Chair to register for comprehensive examination

**NSG-629. DISSERTATION SEMINAR**
**Credits:** 3
This course focuses on completion of the first three chapters of the dissertation and submission of the proposal to the IRB committee(s) for approval. Students will then undertake proposal defense before continuing into dissertation implementation.

**Pre-Requisites**
NSG-628

**NSG-630. DISSERTATION IMPLEMENTATION I**
**Credits:** 3
This course focuses on implementation of the student’s doctoral research study. After completion of the first three chapters, successful proposal defense, and IRB approval, the student, under guidance from their chair, begins the data collection process. This course focuses on research methodologies that guide the design of studies which collect and analyze quantitative data. The focus will be on writing quantitative research questions and selecting appropriate research methodologies. Focus is placed on descriptive, correlational, experimental and quasi-experimental designs as applied to nursing problems.

**Pre-Requisites**
NSG-629

**NSG-631. DISSERTATION IMPLEMENTATION II**
**Credits:** 3
This course continues with the implementation of the dissertation. Students complete data collection and analysis thus, finalizing chapters 4 and 5 and satisfying final defense.

**Pre-Requisites**
NSG-630

**Co-Requisites**
All co-requisites for graduate nursing courses are at the discretion of the Chair, Graduate Nursing.