

# DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)

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The DNP program aims to prepare graduates for advanced nursing practice who are capable of providing holistic health care for diverse individuals, families or populations in a variety of settings.

## Post-Bachelor's Program

**\*\*Please note: We are no longer admitting new students to the Nurse Anesthesia program.\*\***

Students who are registered nurses and have a bachelor's degree may pursue doctoral training in nurse anesthesia. All students in the Post-Bachelor's Nurse Anesthesia program are full time and complete the degree in three years. Clinical experience is graduated throughout the program, beginning with part-time hours and ending with full-time hours plus a call rotation.

1. Nurse Anesthesia (<http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-practice-dnp/nurse-anesthesia/#progressiontext>)

## Post-Master's Program

For students with a master's degree in nursing or a related field, the post-master's doctoral option offers an opportunity to advance career goals in one of three online programs:

1. Doctor of Nursing Practice Care of Populations (<http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-practice-dnp/care-of-populations/>)
2. Doctor of Nursing Practice Nursing Leadership (<http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-leadership/>)
3. Nurse Practitioner (<http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-practice-dnp/nurse-practitioner/>) (for QU MSN NP graduates)

Students in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program are able to choose from two concentrations: Care of Populations and Nursing Leadership. The Care of Populations concentration focuses on public health and healthcare system analysis, which is useful for systematic chronic disease management and healthcare services design. Students in the Nursing Leadership concentration may come with or without past experiences in management. The courses prepare students for leadership responsibilities and roles across the healthcare field. The nurse practitioner program is open only to graduates of the MSN within two years of graduation. This program enhances a novice nurse practitioner's knowledge and leadership skills.

## Student Learning Outcomes

The objectives of the DNP program are designed to prepare graduates for advanced nursing practice who are capable of providing holistic health care for diverse individuals, families or populations in a variety of settings. Specifically, the program seeks to produce graduates who:

1. **Demonstrate** clinical reasoning through an understanding of science and evidence-based practice.

2. **Design, implement and evaluate** quality improvement initiatives across the systems in which health care is delivered.
3. **Analyze and critique** the available evidence for best practices in healthcare.
4. **Apply** technology and information fluency to conduct practice inquiry.
5. **Advocate** for rational health policies to improve patient care and enhance effective use of resources.
6. **Demonstrate** leadership through inter-professional collaboration to improve patient and population health outcomes.
7. **Direct** health promotion and disease prevention efforts to improve patient and population health outcomes.
8. **Provide** competent, culturally sensitive, and ethically based care to individuals and/or populations in a defined specialty of advanced nursing practice.

## Doctor of Nursing Practice programs

### Post-bachelor's study

**\*\*Please note: We are no longer admitting new students to the Nurse Anesthesia program.\*\***

- Nurse Anesthesia (<http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-practice-dnp/nurse-anesthesia/>)

### Post-master's study

- Doctor of Nursing Practice Care of Populations (<http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-practice-dnp/care-of-populations/>)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice Nursing Leadership (<http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-leadership/>)
- Nurse Practitioner (<http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-practice-dnp/nurse-practitioner/>) (for QU MSN NP graduates)

## Admission Requirements

Note: For QU MSN NP graduates, no new admission application is required within a two-year period from MSN graduation. Contact the graduate program chair to continue into the Post-Master's DNP.

Applicants to the Nurse Anesthesia program must be registered nurses with two years of recent (within the past five years) critical care experience. An undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.2 or better is required. Additionally applicants to the post-master's programs must have a master's degree in nursing or a related field. Post-master's applicants are required to provide a letter from their prior master's program detailing the total number of supervised clinical hours they completed as part of that program. Applicants should submit the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

1. A completed admissions application including a resume and a personal statement addressing the following:
  - a. professional goals and motivations;
  - b. a nursing experience that has influenced or shaped your practice;
  - c. a health care problem that interests you for potential doctoral study.
2. Official transcripts from all schools previously attended.
3. Official recent results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or (IELTS) International English Language Testing System for international applicants.

4. Two letters of recommendation from persons with authority to evaluate your professional ability.
5. Proof of current licensure or eligibility for licensure as a registered nurse in the state of Connecticut.
6. Letter from applicant's prior master's program detailing the number of supervised clinical hours completed as part of that program (for post-master's DNP applicants only).

maintain an electronic portfolio where they place their final papers from NUR 610PBL and NUR 612PBL/NUR 614PBL and a crosswalk table. The crosswalk table summarizes key assignments that demonstrate how each student achieved the program outcomes. The electronic portfolio is discussed at advisement meetings and the crosswalk table is graded pass/fail by the student's adviser.

Candidates applying for full-time admission for the fall term must submit a completed application by July 1 for the Post-MSN programs or September 1 for the Post-Bachelor's Nurse Anesthesia program. Candidates may be on a wait list for the fall in the event a space becomes available. However, acceptances are not deferred to the following fall and wait listed candidates need to reapply for the following fall. Exceptions may be made in rare circumstances by the chair of the graduate nursing program.

All accepted students are required to complete a background check and urine drug screen following acceptance and before the start of classes. Acceptances are conditional until satisfactory completion of both.

## Transfer Credits

Graduate course credit completed with a grade of B or better at another regionally accreditation institution may be considered for transfer credit in place of a similar course. Courses must be at the same level (i.e., an undergraduate course may not be transferred in place of a master's level course) and taken within the past five years. Transfer credit is granted upon admission to the program only. The course description and/or syllabus and a copy of the transcript with a request for transfer credit must be sent/emailed to the chair of the graduate nursing programs. The Nurse Anesthetist program may accept transfer credit only for these graduate nursing core courses: NUR 514, NUR 516 and NUR 602.

When all application materials are received, an interview with the graduate nursing program director and/or member of the faculty will be arranged for eligible candidates.

## DNP Project

Upon admission, students are assigned an adviser, who meets with them for academic and scholarly advising over the course of the program. All students in the DNP program engage in scholarly inquiry through a variety of projects in core and specialty courses and in the DNP Project. The DNP Project is conducted in NUR 610/NUR 610PBL, NUR 612/NUR 612PBL and NUR 614PBL, and based on the AACN's "Doctor of Nursing Practice: Current Issues and Clarifying Recommendations," it:

- focuses on a change that impacts health care outcomes either through direct or indirect care
- has a systems or population/aggregate focus
- demonstrates implementation in the appropriate arena or area of practice
- includes a plan for sustainability
- includes an evaluation of processes and/or outcomes
- provides a foundation for future practice scholarship

The DNP project is evaluated by the DNP project team, which consists of the faculty members who are teaching in the two courses as well as the student's liaison at the practice site and a subject matter expert. For example, all nurse anesthesia students have a nurse anesthesia faculty member on their DNP project team. In addition, students