

NURSING PRACTICE, DNP

The School of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program prepares nurses for leadership roles as advanced practice nurses (clinical nurse specialists or nurse practitioners) who provide direct care and lead practice development and evaluation. Students in the DNP program choose from three population foci: adult/gerontology (acute care or primary care), pediatrics, or psychiatric mental health. Those interested in dual preparation as an advanced practice nurse and nurse educator may add a nursing education focus.

The program is available for nurses with a baccalaureate degree in nursing (post-B.S. option) and nurses with a master's degree in nursing practice (post-M.S. option). Students admitted to either option follow the course sequence designated in the program plan and progress as a group.

The program of study features a combination of formal course work, clinical practice, and scholarly inquiry. Most coursework is delivered in a hybrid format, utilizing both required in-person class sessions and distance learning technologies.

ADMISSIONS

Students apply to the Doctor of Nursing Practice through one of the named options:

- Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-adult-gerontology-acute-care-nurse-practitioner-dnp/>)
- Population Health Nursing (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-population-health-nursing-dnp/>)
- Adult/Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-adult-gerontology-clinical-nurse-specialist-dnp/>)
- Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-adult-gerontology-primary-care-nurse-practitioner-dnp/>)
- Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-pediatric-primary-care-nurse-practitioner-dnp/>)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-psychiatric-mental-health-nurse-practitioner-dnp/>)
- Systems Leadership and Innovation (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-systems-leadership-innovation-dnp/>)

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information

(<https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Select a named option page for specific information about funding:

- Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-adult-gerontology-acute-care-nurse-practitioner-dnp/>)
- Population Health Nursing (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-population-health-nursing-dnp/>)
- Adult/Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-adult-gerontology-clinical-nurse-specialist-dnp/>)
- Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-adult-gerontology-primary-care-nurse-practitioner-dnp/>)
- Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-pediatric-primary-care-nurse-practitioner-dnp/>)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-psychiatric-mental-health-nurse-practitioner-dnp/>)
- Systems Leadership and Innovation (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-systems-leadership-innovation-dnp/>)

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	See Named Options for policy information.
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	Half of degree coursework must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle) (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle/).

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required.
Other Grade Requirements	A student may not receive more than one grade below a B (or a U grade) in any 12 month period.
Assessments and Examinations	No examinations are required.
Language Requirements	No language requirements.
Doctoral Minor/Breadth Requirements	DNP students are not required to complete a doctoral minor.

REQUIRED COURSES

Select a Named Option (p. 2) for required courses.

NAMED OPTIONS

A named option is a formally documented sub-major within an academic major program. Named options appear on the transcript with degree conferral. Students pursuing the Doctor of Nursing Practice must select one of the named options:

View as listView as grid

- NURSING PRACTICE: ADULT/GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER, DNP ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-ADULT-GERONTOLOGY-ACUTE-CARE-NURSE-PRACTITIONER-DNP/](http://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-ADULT-GERONTOLOGY-ACUTE-CARE-NURSE-PRACTITIONER-DNP/))
- NURSING PRACTICE: ADULT/GERONTOLOGY CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST, DNP ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-ADULT-GERONTOLOGY-CLINICAL-NURSE-SPECIALIST-DNP/](http://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-ADULT-GERONTOLOGY-CLINICAL-NURSE-SPECIALIST-DNP/))
- NURSING PRACTICE: ADULT/GERONTOLOGY PRIMARY CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER, DNP ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-ADULT-GERONTOLOGY-PRIMARY-CARE-NURSE-PRACTITIONER-DNP/](http://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-ADULT-GERONTOLOGY-PRIMARY-CARE-NURSE-PRACTITIONER-DNP/))
- NURSING PRACTICE: PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-PEDIATRIC-PRIMARY-CARE-NURSE-PRACTITIONER-DNP/](http://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-PEDIATRIC-PRIMARY-CARE-NURSE-PRACTITIONER-DNP/))
- NURSING PRACTICE: POPULATION HEALTH NURSING, DNP ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-POPULATION-HEALTH-NURSING-DNP/](http://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-POPULATION-HEALTH-NURSING-DNP/))
- NURSING PRACTICE: PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER, DNP ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL-HEALTH-NURSE-PRACTITIONER-DNP/](http://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL-HEALTH-NURSE-PRACTITIONER-DNP/))
- NURSING PRACTICE: SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION, DNP ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-SYSTEMS-LEADERSHIP-INNOVATION-DNP/](http://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/GRADUATE/NURSING-SCHOOL-WIDE/NURSING-PRACTICE-DNP/NURSING-PRACTICE-SYSTEMS-LEADERSHIP-INNOVATION-DNP/))

POLICIES

Students should refer to one of the named options for policy information:

- Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-adult-gerontology-acute-care-nurse-practitioner-dnp/>)
- Population Health Nursing (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/nursing-school-wide/nursing-practice-dnp/nursing-practice-population-health-nursing-dnp/>)
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7. Translate knowledge into practice and policy to protect and improve health and health systems. (Essential 5)
8. Partner with intraprofessional and interprofessional teams to contribute nursing perspective and lead change in health outcomes and complex systems of care. (Essential 6)
9. Critically evaluate how social determinants of health, cultural background and environment impact health outcomes. (Essential 7)
10. Develop, implement, and evaluate programs and advanced practice interventions to improve health, access patterns, and gaps in care of individuals, aggregates, or populations. (Essential 8)

PEOPLE

FACULTY

School of Nursing Faculty Directory (<https://nursing.wisc.edu/directory/faculty/>)

ADMINISTRATION

Linda D. Scott, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN

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Mariah Allen

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ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITMENT

Mandi Moy

Director of Admissions & Recruitment
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Career advising, funding, and professional development opportunities are shared with all students by a member of the School of Nursing Academic Affairs staff. Information on these support services can be found on the Student Site (<https://students.nursing.wisc.edu/career-advising/career/>).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Integrate nursing science and theory with evidence, ethics, professional obligations, and knowledge from other disciplines as the basis for specialty-focused advanced nursing practice. (Essential 1)
2. Demonstrate advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, leadership, and accountability in designing, delivering, and evaluating evidence-based care to improve individual and population health outcomes (Essentials 2 and 8)
3. Evaluate evidence to determine & implement best practice (Essential 3)
4. Develop, implement, and evaluate new practice approaches based on nursing science and theory, as well as knowledge from other disciplines. (Essential 3)
5. Function as a practice specialist in clinical scholarship, quality improvement, and collaborative knowledge-generating research. (Essential 3)
6. Use information systems technology to monitor health, identify needs, and evaluate outcomes of care and system improvements. (Essential 4)

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Kate Beggs

Graduate Admissions & Recruitment Coordinator

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ACCREDITATION**ACCREDITATION**

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE/>)

Accreditation status: Accredited. Next accreditation review: 2026-2027.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

In addition to earning a doctoral degree, post-BS graduates of the nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist options are prepared to sit for the following professional nursing certification examinations upon successful completion of the program.

Adult/Gerontology, Clinical Nurse Specialist: ANCC Adult-Gerontology CNS (<http://nursecREDENTIALING.org/AdultGerontologyCNS/>)

Adult/Gerontology Acute Care, Nurse Practitioner: ANCC Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP (<https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/adult-gerontology-acute-care-nurse-practitioner/>)

Adult/Gerontology Primary Care, Nurse Practitioner: ANCC Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP (<https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/adult-gerontology--primary-care-nurse-practitioner/>)

Pediatric Primary Care, Nurse Practitioner: PNCB Primary Care Pediatric NP (<http://www.pncb.org/ptistore/control/index/>)

Psychiatric Mental Health, Nurse Practitioner: ANCC Psychiatric-Mental Health NP (<https://www.nursingworld.org/our-certifications/psychiatric-mental-health-nurse-practitioner/>)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE DISCLOSURE (NC-SARA)

The United States Department of Education requires institutions that provide distance education to disclose information for programs leading to professional certification or licensure about whether each program meets state educational requirements for initial licensure or certification. Following is this disclosure information for this program:

The requirements of this program meet Certification/Licensure in the following states:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, Wisconsin, District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands

The requirements of this program do not meet Certification/Licensure in the following states:

Not applicable

The requirements of this program have not been determined if they meet Certification/Licensure in the following states:

New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming, American Samoa, Puerto Rico