University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Graduate Nursing Programs
2019-2020
Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
and
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

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This session provides information regarding:

- History of DNP degree and our DNP program
- Differences between DNP & PhD, and the DNP from MSN
- Our post-baccalaureate and post-master’s DNP options, role preparations, DNP seminar & practicum, DNP projects
- Admission requirements and application process
MSN Program

Two population options
  – Adult/Gerontological Health
  – Family Health

Role preparations in:
  – Nursing Education
  – Nursing Administration
MSN Program of Study

Core Courses:
- Theory
- Research
- Leadership & Health Policy
- Role Synthesis

Role preparation:
- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Administrator

Population:
- Adult/Gero
- Family

Cognates/Electives for nurse administrators
Clinical experiences

**curriculum reflects “Essentials of Masters” AACN**
Considerations

- Program of study begins in summer session
- Courses offered on Mondays for first year courses and Tuesdays for second year courses
- Courses mainly classroom/on campus, though some are on-line
- Role prep courses offered alternate year basis
- May be full or part time
- Seven (7) year limit for program completion
- In addition to MSN have post-masters options for Nurse Educator and Nursing Administration
MSN Sample Plan
Year 1 courses are on Monday, Year 2 courses are on Tuesday
Total Credits: 40 – 41
Total clinical hours 525 hours
Part time plan of study is also an option and may be required based on the year of admission, please consult with the graduate program director or your advisor for developing a part time plan.
*taught alternate summers, e.g. 2021, 2023
** taught alternate spring semesters (for educator role prep) e.g. 2020, 2022
*** Nurse educator role preparation courses taught alternate academic years, e.g. 2020-2021, 2022-2023
****Nurse administrator courses are taught on alternate academic years, e.g. , 2019-2020, 2021-2022 in hybrid format
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

- A practice-focused nursing doctorate
- Highest level of academic preparation in clinical nursing
- The entry level of practice for new advanced practice nurses, beginning in 2015
History of DNP

• *Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing*:
  – Endorsed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) membership in October, 2004.
  – Called for a transformational change in the education of advanced practice nurses (APNs).
  – DNP degree to be the entry level of practice for APNs by 2015.
  – Also recommended for other nurses seeking top systems/organizational roles.
Applies to:

• Nurse practitioners
• Clinical nurse specialists
• Certified nurse midwives
• Certified nurse anesthetists

• Nurse administrators
Per AACN recommendations, this does not apply to those prepared as:

- Nurse educators
  - Terminal degree is the PhD

- UWEC continuing MSN program for educators
Need for the DNP

• Rapid expansion of knowledge needed for practice.
• Increased complexity of patient care.
• Concerns about the quality of patient care and patient safety.
• Shortages of doctorally prepared nursing faculty.
• Increasing educational expectations for the preparation of other health professionals.
Practice Doctorates in Other Fields

- Medicine (MD)
- Optometry (OD)
- Dentistry (DDS)
- Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Psychology (PsyD)
- Physical Therapy (DPT)
- Audiology (AudD)
Implications--Benefits

• Relationship between higher levels of nursing education and improved patient outcomes.
• Better prepare APNs for increasingly complex practice, faculty, and leadership roles.
• Alternative to the research-focused PhD.
• Expert practitioners who can also serve as nursing faculty.
• Better match credit load with degree (some MSN credit loads are equivalent to doctoral degrees in other professions).
## Differences

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<th>DNP</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<td>• Focuses on clinical practice and the scientific underpinnings for practice.</td>
<td>• Focuses on research.</td>
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<td>• Focuses on program development and evaluation; and evidence based practice and outcomes based practice.</td>
<td>• Greater emphasis on theory, meta-theory, research methodology, and statistics.</td>
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<td>• Conduct clinical application project(s).</td>
<td>• Conduct extensive original research to generate new knowledge.</td>
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<td>• Dissertation (or research articles).</td>
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UW-Eau Claire DNP Program

- UW System Board of Regents approval to begin implementing the DNP program, starting in the summer of 2010.
- First doctoral program at UW-Eau Claire & First graduates in May 2012!
- Planning and development occurred collaboratively with UW-Oshkosh.
  - Each offers its own degree.
  - First degree granting doctoral programs among the UW-System comprehensive universities!
Two DNP Program Entry Options:

• Post-Master’s DNP Option
• Post-Baccalaureate DNP Option
UW-Eau Claire

- 2010: Post-Master’s Option only
- 2012: MSN, Post-Baccalaureate and Post-Master’s DNP options

Full and part-time sample plans
  - 3 year sample plan
  - 4 year sample plan
  - 5 year sample plan
Post-Master’s DNP Option

• For nurses with master’s degrees in nursing with role preparation in one of the following:
  – Adult Gerontologic or Family Nurse Practitioner
  – Adult Gerontologic Clinical Nurse Specialist
  – Nurse Administration/ Executive

Courses begin in the spring
Post-Master’s DNP Curriculum

• Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP)
  – 31 Credits
  – 450 Hours clinical- 6 credits

• Nurse Administration/Executive
  – 31 credits
  – 525 clinical hours- 7 credits

• Hybrid courses offered via a combination of classroom immersion days and online technologies
Post-Master’s DNP Option
Admission Requirements

• Acceptance as a graduate student in good standing.
• BSN from accredited program, with GPA of 3.00 or higher.
• Master’s from accredited program (role preparation as Adult and/or Gerontologic or Family NP, Adult and/or Gerontologic CNS, or Nurse administrator), with GPA of 3.00 or higher.
• 550 hours of master’s level clinical (or national certification).
• Basic epidemiology and statistics content.
• Graduate level pharm (except for administrators), nursing research, and nursing theory.
• RN license (WI license at least two weeks prior to start of program).
• DNP application packet.
• Health record, background check, CPR certification (at least two weeks prior to start of program).
• Special circumstances considered.
MSN-DNP Sample Plan

- MSN-DNP sample plan
Post-Baccalaureate DNP Option

- All students select a population: Adult-Gerontologic or Family population focus
- For nurses with baccalaureate degrees in nursing with interest in advanced clinical practice or nursing administration select a role preparation:
  - Adult-Gerontologic Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
  - Family Nurse Practitioner
  - Adult-Gerontologic Clinical Nurse Specialist
    - Admission to the A-GCNS option is temporarily on hold
  - Nurse Administrator/Nurse Executive
- Plan of study begins in the fall
Post-Baccalaureate DNP Option

- Three year sample program plan (for full-time students)
- Four year part-time sample program plan
- Five year part-time sample program plan

Populations: Adult/Gero or Family Health

- 68-73 credits, depending on choice of role preparation:
  - NP (A/GNP or FNP)—73 credits
  - Nurse administrator/Executive—68 credits
BSN-to-DNP option

• Year 1: 700-level courses taught predominantly at Eau Claire and may be online enhanced on Mondays.
• Year 2: 800-level courses taught at Eau Claire and may be online enhanced on Tuesdays.
• Year 3: 800-level courses, which are hybrid on-campus immersion days and online.
NP roles (BSN-to-DNP)

• 73 credits total
• Core graduate nursing courses, and core DNP courses and capstone project
• 14.5 credits clinical (1 cr = 5hrs clinical /wk) about 1,087 hours)
  – Population focus
  – Role preparation
• Required cognates (electives/3P’s):
  – Advanced Health Assessment
  – Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology
  – Pharmacotherapeutics
Administration/Executive role (BSN-to-DNP)

- 68 credits total
- Core courses
- 14 credits clinical (1 cr = 5 hrs of clinical/wk, about 1,050 hours)
  - Population focus
  - Role preparation
- 6 credits of cognates (electives)
Degree Program/Curriculum

• Core Courses for all graduate students (ie: 701, 715)
• Population courses for all graduate students
  – Adult/Gero or Family Health Nursing (ie 719/20/ or 722/25)
• Role Preparation:
  – MSN: Educator or Administration and cognates
  – DNP: NP and 3P’s, or Adm and cognates
• DNP only Core Courses (800, 802, 803, 805, 809, 820/824)
• DNP Project (892, 93,94)
DNP Capstone Project

• Develop a project in a phenomena of interest that focuses on advancing the nursing profession.

• Demonstrate advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in the design, delivery, and evaluation of evidence-based practice to improve health care outcomes for the phenomena of interest.
Post-Baccalaureate DNP Option
Admission Requirements

- Acceptance as a graduate student in good standing.
- BSN from accredited (CCNE or NLNAC) program, with GPA of 3.00 or higher.
- RN license (WI license needed by July 1 following admission).
- DNP application packet.
- Health record, background check, CPR certification (needed by July 1).
- Must have completed a basic undergraduate statistics course.
DNP Applications

• All application materials, transcripts, and fees are due January 4th to assure meeting priority date. Application though accepted until programs are filled.

• Application materials available from the Graduate Nursing Programs Director and link College webpage after mid-September.
DNP Application

- **University Application:**
  - Online Application for Graduate Admission with application fee
  - Official transcripts from **BSN and MSN** academic institutions

- **College of Nursing Application:**
  - Application materials/hard copy and fee to College ($35)
  - RN License in WI
  - References from 3 individuals (forms)
  - Demographic Form (also verification of stats and assessment)
  - Resume or vita
  - Admission essay
Admission Essay

- Describe nursing topic of interest
  - Problem/area amenable to interventions or actions by an advanced practice nurse
  - Narrow enough to enable one to assume a leadership role while developing a project to produce change and/or quality outcomes and contribute to the developing body of advanced nursing practice knowledge.
Costs for all DNP Students

• Course fee
  – All courses at the 800 level include a course fee of approximately $250 per credit in addition to graduate tuition and fees.
Financial Support Opportunities

- **UW-Eau Claire Financial Aid Office**

- Graduate Assistant Positions & Graduate Fellowships (Scholarships)
  - See Graduate Studies Office

- Loans (private sources)

- **UW-Eau Claire Foundation Scholarships**
Helpful things to consider

• Preparing for graduate studies
• Is there a “perfect time” to return to school?
• How can continuing your education facilitate your career and professional goals
• How do you want to practice nursing?
For More Information about the Graduate Nursing Programs or Application Materials

Graduate Program pages at [https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/graduate-programs/](https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/graduate-programs/)

• Contact Dr. Catherine Kenney at [kromricc@uwec.edu](mailto:kromricc@uwec.edu)
Additional Information

- College of Nursing and Health Sciences
  - Department of Nursing
  - Graduate Studies
  - Registrar/Registration- BluGold Central
Questions?