

**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

Population:

- Adult/Gero
- Family

Role preparation:

- Nurse Educator
- Nurse Administrator

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

- [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

DNP

- Focuses on clinical practice and the scientific underpinnings for practice.
- Focuses on program development and evaluation; and evidence based practice and outcomes based practice.
- Conduct clinical application project(s).

PhD

- Focuses on research.
- Greater emphasis on theory, meta-theory, research methodology, and statistics.
- Conduct extensive original research to generate new knowledge.
- Dissertation (or research articles).

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/>

•Contact Dr. Catherine Kenney at kromricc@uwec.edu

Additional Information

- [College of Nursing and Health Sciences](#)
 - [Department of Nursing](#)
 - [Graduate Studies](#)
 - [Registrar/Registration- BluGold Central](#)

Questions?

