BSN–to-DNP

Adult-Gerontology Acute Care

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The BSN-to-Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at the University of Virginia educates and prepares nurses for specialty practice at the most advanced level of nursing practice. The School of Nursing offers two entry points to the DNP program: (1) for MSN-prepared nurses with specialty training and advanced nursing certification; or (2) BSN-prepared nurses seeking to pursue Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (ARPN) preparation for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Clinical Nurse Specialist (AG-ACCNS) or Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP) role. Graduates from the program practice across a broad spectrum of health care settings, teach in nursing education programs, or assume upper-level nursing administrative positions. Applicants interested in the MSN-DNP program should view the separate MSN-DNP program flyer.

The AG-ACCNS is a clinician, educator, and researcher, as well as clinical consultant and leader. The individual student determines the focus of his/her clinical specialization (ie: cardiology, peri-operative, nephrology, neurology or neurosurgery, general surgery, digestive health, ER/trauma, wound/ostomy/continence, pulmonary, transplant, etc. The Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AG-ACNP) provides direct patient care in medical/nursing subspecialty areas in collaboration with other members of the health care team. Both ACNPs and ACCNSs deliver care along the continuum of critical, acute, and chronic care across the full lifespan of adults (young adult through frail elders). Emphasis is placed on providing the student with the advanced theoretical knowledge and practice skills needed to manage acutely and chronically ill patients through all phases of their hospitalization and clinical follow-up. Diagnostic and clinical decision-making, preparation for prescriptive authority, collaboration with physicians, and outcomes management are emphasized. Students pursue the program on a full-time basis only. The DNP program at the University of Virginia is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington DC 20036, (202) 887-6791.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
Objectives for the DNP program are derived from the AACN document, The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice. At the completion of this program, students are expected to demonstrate the competencies required for the highest level of nursing practice. DNP graduates will be able to

- practice at the highest level of nursing by integrating nursing science with ethics and the biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, and organizational sciences;
- demonstrate organizational and systems leadership for quality improvement in healthcare systems;
- utilize clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice;
- apply information systems and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care;
- demonstrate leadership in health care policy to improve the health care system;
- utilize inter-professional collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes;
- develop and apply strategies for clinical prevention and population health for improving the nation’s health.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
Students meet all admissions requirements including the completion of an intermediate level course in statistics (with software applications) within the past 5 years. Submission of GRE scores is optional. Applicants must have a BSN degree from an accredited institution, and should have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and have two years of full-time acute care RN experience before enrollment. Students must have a current RN license in the state where they work and be eligible for a RN license in Virginia. An interview with members of the DNP Admissions Committee may be required.

Students enroll in the fall term only. Full-time enrollment is required.

International students must demonstrate ability in English, and must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores.

Please have all materials (including recommendations, testing, transcripts and application) submitted by the following deadline:

Fall Semester November 1
PROGRAM FORMAT
The BSN-DNP curriculum requires
- A minimum of 71 credits
- Approximately 33 months of fulltime study to complete.
- Students complete a rigorous scholarly project depicting evidence-based practice knowledge and advanced nursing skills.
- This is a residential program with classes or practica in Charlottesville 2-3 days a week for most of the program.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Fall Semester Year 1 (12 credits)
- Advanced Pathophysiology (4)
- Epidemiology & World Health (3)
- APN Role I: Acquisition (2)
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Seminar I (3)

Spring Semester Year 1 (13 credits)
- Theory & Evidence-Based Practice (4)
- Advanced Health Assessment (3)
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Seminar II (3)
- Concepts & Methods in Health Systems Research (3)

Summer Session Year 1 (10 credits)
- Advanced Pharmacology (4)
- Practicum I: Acute Care CNS or Acute Care NP (5)
- DNP Practicum I (1)

Fall Semester Year 2 (11 credits)
- Evidence Based Practice (3)
- Managing Information Technology (3)
- Practicum II: Acute Care CNS or Acute Care NP (5)

January Term Year 2 (3 credits)
- Immunocompetence & Vulnerable Populations (3)

Spring Semester Year 2 (11 credits)
- DNP Practicum I (4)
- Nursing Ethics for Advanced Practice (3)
- APN Role II: Transition (1)
- Health Policy: Local to Global (3)

Summer Session Year 2 (5 credits)
- DNP Practicum II (4)
- Capstone Proposal Seminar (1)

Fall & Spring Semesters Year 3 (6 credits per term)
- DNP Capstone (6)

Updated 4-12-13