

10

research areas of excellence

27

Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing

4

nat'l nursing org presidents

\$20m

in grants from 50+ agencies since '10



## A comparison

### DNP

**Focus**  
Nursing practice

**Goal**  
To perform at the highest level of nursing practice; assume leadership roles in healthcare delivery systems; critically appraise existing literature and evidence to determine and implement best practices; and improve patient outcomes by expanding knowledge of evidence-based practice.

**Focus of courses**  
Expanding practice expertise to the highest level  
Theory related to practice  
Health care delivery systems  
Quality improvement methods  
Health policy  
Advanced nursing practice leadership

**Point of entry**  
BSN pathway (student earns a master's degree)  
MSN with specialty focus

**Length of program**  
3 to 7 years

**Clinical requirements**  
500 clinical hours post-MSN (1,000 post-BSN)

**Scholarship opportunities**  
Some partial scholarships available  
Loan forgiveness programs for those who become full-time nursing faculty after graduation

**Job prospects after graduation**  
APRNs with an enhanced skill set  
Academic and leadership positions emphasizing evidence-based clinical practice and teaching  
Leadership positions in health organizations  
Directors of clinical nursing at health facilities and systems

### PhD

**Focus**  
Nursing research

**Goal**  
To prepare scholars with expertise in selected substantive areas to contribute to nursing theory and practice through systematic inquiry.

**Focus of courses**  
Philosophy of science  
Theory construction & analysis  
Statistics  
Research methods, qualitative and quantitative  
History of health care and historical methods  
Instrumentation and measurement

**Point of entry**  
BSN  
MSN

**Length of program**  
3 to 7 years

**Clinical requirements**  
none

**Scholarship opportunities**  
Two (MSN-entry) or three (BSN-entry) years of support through appointment as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (full scholarship plus stipend)  
Loan forgiveness programs for those who will become nursing faculty after graduation

**Job prospects after graduation**  
Academic faculty positions  
Primary investigator for research grants  
Director of research at health systems  
Leadership positions in health organizations  
Academic and leadership positions emphasizing research and teaching

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