

MSN TO DNP (D.N.P.)

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program at FGCU is designed to prepare graduates with the advanced nursing knowledge and leadership skills to improve health care outcomes and to provide evidence-based nursing across diverse health care settings and systems. The curriculum focuses on providing nurses with the solid science foundation needed to enhance critical reasoning judgment in the management of complex health care situations. Core and specialty courses for the D.N.P. provide knowledge, skills and attributes essential for fully accountable practice in today's health care environment. Emphasis is on innovative and evidence-based nursing practice to meet the demands associated with the increasing complexity of the health care system, improving the safety and quality of patient care delivery, and influencing health care policy.

The M.S.N. to D.N.P. entry path into the D.N.P. is for students who hold a Master's degree in Nursing with an advanced practice certification. The 36 credit M.S.N. to D.N.P. curriculum includes both full-time and part-time plans of study to meet the needs of working students.

Program Accreditation

The D.N.P. program at FGCU is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccneaccreditation.org> (<http://www.ccneaccreditation.org/>)).

Program Admission Requirements

The MSN to DNP is for students who hold a Master's degree in Nursing (MSN) with an advanced practice focus (clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, and nurse practitioner) from a MSN program accredited by CCNE, ACEN, or COA, and a regionally accredited institution, or the equivalent bachelor's degree in a nursing program from a foreign institution. The MSN to DNP builds upon a candidate's specialty practice area through a core that focuses on utilization of research in the practice setting, quality of care delivery, examination of health care outcomes, leadership in practice, and fundamentals of nurse education. Students may transfer a maximum of 9 credit hours of graduate level nursing course work taken within the last 5 years upon determination of equivalency with required DNP program courses.

The application deadline for priority admission to the DNP Program is March 1. After March 1, applications may be accepted on a space available basis.

Students are admitted to the program for the Fall semester only.

MSN to DNP Major Application Requirements

- Submit an FGCU Graduate Admissions Application (<https://www.fgcu.edu/admissionsandaid/graduateadmissions/>) and satisfy all applicable university admissions requirements.
- Submit all applications and supporting documentation through NursingCas (<https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.org/apply/>), a centralized application system for nursing programs, to be considered for admission to the DNP Program
- Submit only official transcript(s) for all colleges and universities attended, including a bachelor's degree in nursing transcript from a nationally accredited (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education [CCNE] or Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing [ACEN]) nursing program, and an institution that maintains accreditation by a U.S. Department of Education sanctioned accrediting body (<https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/higher-education-laws-and-policy/>)

college-accreditation (<https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/higher-education-laws-and-policy/college-accreditation/>)) or equivalent foreign institution.

- Show evidence of a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Provide copy of an unrestricted Florida RN or ARNP license, or eligibility for the appropriate licensure in Florida.
- Provide a current resume or curriculum vitae.
- Provide personal statement of professional goals in 300 to 350 words.
- Show completion of the following graduate level nursing courses: Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, Physical Assessment, and Research.
- Course work in the applicant's MSN program must demonstrate equivalency to the didactic and clinical practice hours of the pre-certification phase of the FGCU BSN to DNP Program. If not, those courses must be completed prior to starting the core course work in the MSN to DNP Program.
- If applicable, applicants who have attended but not completed another DNP or doctoral nursing program must provide an official transcript from that program and a letter of standing from the dean of the school of nursing (or designee) that also addresses potential for success in a DNP program.
- A personal interview may be required with designated faculty
- International students must demonstrate English language proficiency in accordance with University regulation.
- Provide three professional references that indicate your potential for doctoral study, clinical proficiency, and academic competence. References should include:
 - one from a faculty
 - one from a supervisor
 - one from a registered nurse, APRN, or physician familiar with the applicant's professional expertise
 - If not currently employed a supervisor reference may be from a service-related activity.
 - Please request references through NursingCAS in the Applicant Evaluation Section.

Program Progression and Additional Graduation Requirements

Students admitted to the D.N.P. via the M.S.N. to D.N.P. entry path must meet specific progression, clinical and graduation requirements. See the D.N.P. Program Guidebook, General Academic Policies and FGCU Graduation Requirements.

- Students must follow a Program of Study approved by the Program Director or designee.
- Earn a minimum of 36 credits of doctoral level coursework.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 for coursework in the program.
- Completion of all courses with a grade of "B" or higher, or "S" (Satisfactory) where applicable.
- Completion of D.N.P. Clinical Practice requirements.
- Completion of D.N.P. Project requirements.
- Submit an application for graduation by the semester deadline listed in the FGCU Academic Calendar.
- Students must register for a minimum of one credit during the semester in which they apply for graduation.
- Earn more than 50% of the credits toward the degree through FGCU.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses in the Major		(21 credits)
NGR 6638	Advanced Health Promotion	3
NGR 6712	Foundations of Nursing Educ.	3
NGR 6872	Nursing Information Management	3
NGR 7769	Advanced Practice Management	3
NGR 7846	Biostatistics & Epidemiology	3
NGR 7856	Evidence-Based Trans. Research	3
NGR 7895	Health Policy	3
NGR 7899	Organization Syst. & Leadship	3
NGR 7949L	DNP Clinical Practice ¹	7
NGR 7974	DNP Project ¹	5

¹ Credits are spread over varying semesters

Total Credits Required: 36