Where will your nursing career take you?

A generation ago, nursing professionals seeking higher education had two roads to choose from: a master of science/PhD track leading to a career in research and academia, and a master of science track in preparation for specialty practice.

Today the PhD program remains the premier path to a career focused on research and university-level education. A new degree, the doctor of nursing practice (DNP), is for nurses wishing to reach the highest level of preparation for clinical practice, and will become the standard for advanced nursing practice.

As a long-time national leader in advanced nursing education, the University of Minnesota School of Nursing takes pride in providing exceptional advanced education opportunities. Our PhD program continues to provide superb preparation for the next generation of nursing scholars. The DNP program builds on that success, providing a top-tier program for preparing professionals to be leaders in the practice environment, specializing in areas such as nurse anesthesia, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse-midwifery, integrative health and healing, public health nursing, informatics, nursing administration, and other emerging specialties.

**“In my clinical practice, I wanted to investigate the underlying reasons for population trends in order to develop and implement effective treatment and education plans.”** (PhD student)

A **PhD degree** is right for you if …
- you envision a career in research and university-level teaching, developing new knowledge and sharing it with students in an academic institutional setting
- you have a baccalaureate or master’s degree
- you want to make a difference in advancing the science and theory underlying nursing practice.

A **DNP degree** is right for you if …
- you envision a career in advanced practice nursing as a nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, informatician, or clinical nurse specialist
- you need knowledge related to health policy, health-care leadership, informatics, or specialized care organization
- you are a licensed registered nurse and have a baccalaureate degree or higher in a nursing major
- you want to make a difference in ensuring the highest level of care for patients in a practice leadership role.

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<th>Admissions requirements</th>
<th>PhD</th>
<th>DNP</th>
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<td>Baccalaureate or master’s degree and strong academic background in nursing or a field such as physical or behavioral science; letters of reference; 2 essays; G.R.E.</td>
<td>Baccalaureate degree in nursing; G.P.A. 3.0 or higher; current nursing license; letters of reference; 2 essays; G.R.E. Practice experience may be required for some specialties.</td>
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<th>Typical length of program</th>
<th>3 – 6 years</th>
<th>3-5 years (BSN to DNP) 1-2 years (Post-Master’s option)</th>
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| Admission process | Electronic/Web application to U of M Graduate School (via Apply Yourself) and the School of Nursing PhD, interview | Electronic/Web application to the School of Nursing, interview |

| Application deadline | December 15 | The first business day in November. After this date, DNP applications may be considered on a space available basis. Nurse anesthesia: August 1. |

| Scholastic benchmarks | Typical G.P.A.: 3.5+ | Typical G.P.A.: 3.5+ |
“Beyond the pathology of disease, nursing research looks at the impact of the individual, significant others, and community on health and recovery from illness.”

(PhD student)

“The Minnesota DNP experience helped me to find and refine my voice as a nursing advocate. I pinpointed a passion. I grew.”

(DNP graduate)

For further information, contact Program Director, DNP: Sandra R. Edwardson, PhD, RN edwar002@umn.edu

Director of Graduate Studies: Linda Lindeke, PhD, RN, CNP linde001@umn.edu

Office of Student and Career Advancement Services 612-625-7980 800-598-8636 (toll-free) sonstudentinfo@umn.edu


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