



Online  
**BSN TO DNP PATHWAY**  
**EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TRACK**

57 Credit Hours | 38 Months to Completion

## Admission Requirements:

- Application and processing fee
- A baccalaureate degree in Nursing from an accredited school of nursing (ACEN, CCNE).
- Official transcripts from the accredited college or university that awarded the baccalaureate degree
- Minimum undergraduate nursing cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Two professional letters of recommendation that attest to the your academic abilities, character, and professional abilities.
- A 500-word purpose statement outlining your interest in the Doctor of Nursing Practice and your career professional goals, written in APA format
- Professional CV or resume
- Proof of unencumbered registered nurse licensure in the United States
- Completed undergraduate level statistics course with a grade of “C” or better.

## BSN to DNP Pathway Cost:

### (First 18 Credit Hours)

- Per Credit - \$650
- Per Course - \$1,950
- Resource Fee Per Session: \$200
- Total Tuition - \$12,900

## DNP Cost:

### (Remaining 39 Credit Hours)

- Per Credit - \$871
- Per Course - \$2,613
- Resource Fees - \$200 per course
- Total Tuition - \$36,569

## Total Degree Cost:

### (57 Credit Hours)

- Total Tuition - \$49,469

*The BSN to DNP Pathway is only available with the Executive Leadership track and is not designed to prepare students for advanced practice roles such as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, or certified nurse anesthetists.*

## BSN to DNP Curriculum:

### **NURS 612: Scientific Underpinnings to Practice (3 credit hours)**

This course explores the connections between theoretical foundations of advanced nursing practice and complementary disciplines. Students will examine, critique, and evaluate appropriate theories as the basis for the highest level of nursing practice. Course content will include the interconnected relationships between theory, research and practice in health care.

Pre or Corequisite: Undergraduate nursing research or statistics course.

### **NURS 621: Advanced Pathophysiology (2 credit hours)**

This course provides an advanced understanding of concepts in pathophysiology as a foundation for advanced nursing practice. Students will integrate knowledge of biological sciences, cellular biology, tumor biology, genetics and genomics, immunology and disease pathogenesis across the lifespan. Course content will describe physiologic response to illness and treatment modalities of common clinical conditions to fully analyze, design, implement, and evaluate nursing care.

### **NURS 622: Leadership, Communication and Collaboration within Interprofessional Teams (1 credit hour)**

This course provides students with the knowledge and skill to lead change and positively influence organizational processes and outcomes. Students will evaluate leadership principles, organizational processes and communication skills to lead quality improvement and patient safety initiatives within health care systems. Course content will include leadership in organizational cultures and interprofessional communication.

### **NURS 631: Advanced Health Assessment and Promotion (3 credit hours)**

This course expands the students' knowledge and clinical experiences in physical examination, risk assessment and health promotion of diverse clients across the lifespan. Students will explore

the interactions of cultural, developmental, biopsychosocial, and socio-cultural contexts and their resultant health effects. Course content will include critical diagnostic reasoning and clinical decision-making utilizing advanced health assessment of patients, families and communities with diverse health beliefs, health behaviors and health management strategies.

### **NURS 636: Quality Improvement in Health Care (1 credit hour)**

This course provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to design, implement and evaluate quality improvement initiatives within health care systems. Students will employ quality improvement methodologies as they identify a complex nursing care issue and the needed variables for tests of change in the clinical setting. Course concepts will include quality improvement strategies for creating, sustaining and measuring change, within interprofessional teams to improve patient-centered health care quality, safety and cost effectiveness.

### **NURS 647: Advanced Pharmacology (3 credit hours)**

This course expands the students' knowledge and skills of pharmacologic therapies of common health conditions across the lifespan. Students will utilize concepts of advanced pharmacotherapeutic management and evidence-based treatment guidelines into nursing practice. Course content illustrates the relationship of pharmacotherapeutic agents on pathophysiologic responses and physical examination findings of altered health states.

### **NURS 648: Translating Evidence into Practice (3 credit hours)**

This course provides the student with the knowledge and understanding of the association between research, evidence-based practice and quality improvement in advanced nursing practice. Students will demonstrate problem identification, examination of evidence, and the development of strategies to incorporate research into advanced nursing practice. Course content will include the

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## BSN to DNP Curriculum

### Cont'd:

exploration, critique, utilization and synthesis of research findings to address specific health care questions or concerns.

#### **NURS 655: Advanced Clinical Practice (3 credit hours)**

This course provides the student a clinical immersion experience which will integrate the knowledge gained during the first year of the BSN-DNP track coursework. Students will conduct a comprehensive and systematic assessment, plan, intervention and evaluation of a complex health or illness concern to improve patient or health care outcomes. Course content will include advanced diagnostic reasoning and clinical decision-making while translating the evidence into practice.

Prerequisite: All first year BSN-DNP Coursework.

### DNP Core Curriculum:

#### **NURS 701: The DNP Role**

This course analyzes the roles and responsibilities of DNPs and the competencies required for practitioner, leader, advocate, collaborator, and clinical scholar. Students will apply theoretical/ conceptual frameworks that support implementation of the DNP role in a variety of health care delivery settings and evaluate their effectiveness.

#### **NURS 703: Informatics to Improve Patient Outcomes**

Students explore information technology and patient care technologies to improve patient outcomes in a variety of settings. Students focus on designing databases for clinical projects and collecting and analyzing appropriate and accurate data in order to predict and analyze outcomes of care. Further, students use this analysis to identify gaps in evidence for practice and thus, improve patient care delivery.

#### **NURS 705: Applied Statistics and Research in Nursing**

This course explores research designs, improvement science, and statistical analysis to analyze evidence based practice literature and protocols to improve healthcare delivery. As part of

the course of study, students develop the need for a DNP scholarship project through a comprehensive literature review of an identified health care problem.

#### **NURS 712: Epidemiology & Population Health**

This course integrates concepts from Epidemiology and Population Health in order to improve aggregate and selected population health. The role of the DNP in improving population health through collaboration with groups, organizations, and networks and the use of epidemiological applications and technology are emphasized.

#### **NURS 721: Healthcare Policy and Clinical Practice**

This course reviews healthcare policies that frame health care financing, practice regulation, access, safety, quality, and efficacy, in order to address issues of social justice and equity in health care. DNP students learn to be “influencers” of policy by integrating their knowledge of practice into the analysis of policy development process and engage in politically competent action.

#### **NURS 731: Organizational and System Leadership**

This course presents principles of practice management, including fiscal and organizational implications, to balances productivity with quality care. Assessment of the impact of practice policies and procedures in meeting the needs of patients in primary care will be considered. Improvement science, quality improvement and risk appraisal strategies, based on ethical principles and professional standards that are used to create and sustain changes at the organizational and policies level will be explored. In addition, the role of inter-professional collaboration in maintaining safety, quality and efficiency will be considered.

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## DNP Executive Leadership

### Track Curriculum:

#### **LEAD 711: Theories and Practices of Effective Leadership**

Examines classical and contemporary theories and styles of leadership and their application to a variety of professional settings. Incorporates the student's experiences and observations regarding leadership

from their personal and professional experiences and current work setting. Students will examine principal foundations of leadership, such as one's values, philosophy of life, and beliefs about the nature of humankind.

#### **NURS 716: Healthcare Finance and Clinical Practice**

This course explores the impact of health care finance and related policies on the development, implementation, and evaluation of advanced practice. Students apply principles of business, finance and economics to insure quality, cost-effective care.

#### **NURS 727: Population Health & Chronic Disease Management**

This course provides an in-depth analysis of selected chronic care conditions treated in primary care, including assessment, diagnosis, treatment, evaluation and patient education. Legal, ethical, psychosocial, and cultural implications and the role of a DNP will be considered.

### **Elective Course Options:**

**(Choose two courses for a total of six hours)**

#### **NURS 733: Healthcare Reform: Current Issues Affecting Nursing Practice**

The impact of the Patient Safety and Affordable Care Act and the evolution of the US health care delivery system toward Pay for Performance (P4P) in the US will be explored and the strategies to address the resulting ethical and legal dilemmas will be analyzed.

#### **LEAD 724: Leadership in Diverse Contexts**

Introduces students to relevant literature and practices of leading diverse groups. Includes examination of the leader's own social location and attitudes regarding diversity as well as the capacity to develop trust and shared motivations

among diverse group members. Students will learn tools and concepts to resolve tensions, maximize strengths of diverse team members, support collaboration, and create welcoming and inclusive environments.

#### **LEAD 741: Human Resources Development**

Introduces the student to a framework for helping employees develop their personal and organizational skills, knowledge, and abilities. Topics will include employee training, employee career development, performance management and development, coaching, mentoring, succession planning, key employee identification, and organization development.

#### **EDUC 677: Adult Development and Learning Through Technology**

The purpose of this course is to advance the understanding of the basic principles behind motivating adults to learn through exploration of self-directed and transformative learning, experience and learning, body and spirit in learning and learning in the digital age. Procedures for implementing these principles to bring about change in adult behavior will be explored.

#### **EDUC 678: Instructional Design and Technology**

This course will focus on the theory and structure of the instructional design process to support teaching and learning. More specifically, the learner will develop competencies for planning, implementing and evaluating appropriate instructional media, methods, and materials to support constructivist learning. Students will utilize a systems approach to design and develop a piece of instruction. The four phases of instructional design, analysis, design, development, and evaluation, in the context of appropriate models will be examined.

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## Additional Major Requirements:

### **NURS 752: DNP Project I**

Students in this course integrate principles of evidence-based research, improvement science, and information technology into the development of a DNP project. Theoretical frameworks which provide direction for projects are also considered. Students develop a plan to address the problem of interest identified in a literature review

developed in Advanced Research and Statistics. Students craft a mission, goals and objectives, as well as an action plan for the project. The action plan includes selection of a relevant population and evidence-based interventions. Students will serve as peer reviewers for colleagues' projects.

### **NURS 754: DNP Project II**

Throughout the course, students implement their project and evaluate the results. Students submit a comprehensive, scholarly report of the implementation and evaluation of the project and describe their plan for disseminating the results.

### **NURS 756: DNP Project III**

This course is the second phase of the final course in the program. Students complete the final edits to their project papers and prepare for editorial review and publication in the university's Digital Commons database.

Students also work on a manuscript for publication of their project findings that provides a brief overview of their project results and plans for contributions to nursing and medical sciences.

