

School of Nursing

Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree

DEGREE

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Web: www.alcorn.edu/academics/graduate-studies

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Program Description:

The DNP Program will be offered to Certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) as a Post-Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Only a full-time progression option will be available. The program is designed to prepare FNPs for the highest level of nursing clinical practice. Emphasis will be placed on evaluating and applying the evidence that supports nursing practice and creating practice delivery systems to improve client outcomes. Additionally, graduates from the DNP program will be instrumental in translating research into nursing practice to improve health outcomes and decrease health disparities in their communities and beyond.

The DNP program will provide advanced practice education in evidenced-based practice, quality improvement, health care systems, evaluation of practice models, and health policy. A DNP Project and clinical practicum hours are required. The clinical practicum hours will assist in the development and completion of the DNP Project and assure that students have mastered the DNP Essentials for doctoral level advanced nursing practice. The DNP Project indicates mastery of an advanced practice specialty area and is a requirement for the DNP degree. Examples of DNP projects include, but are not limited to, a pilot study; evaluation of an existing practice model; a quality improvement project; an evaluation of a new practice model; or a consulting project.

At the completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

1. Synthesize theoretical, philosophical, ethical, and empirical knowledge to develop therapeutic interventions in complex health systems.
2. Develop leadership skills within complex health systems to improve safe, cost-effective, and quality health care for diverse populations.
3. Utilize clinical scholarship and analytical methods to design, implement, evaluate, and disseminate evidence-based practice.

4. Utilize information systems and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care in diverse populations.
5. Provide leadership in the analysis, development, and implementation of health care policy on local, regional, national, and global levels.
6. Employ professional/interprofessional communication and collaboration to improve healthcare and health care outcomes for diverse populations.
7. Evaluate advanced practice care in complex situations and systems to improve healthcare services to patients, families, and populations.

Application Process ([Click Here](#) to Apply)

Admission Requirements:

The admission committee for the Doctor of Nursing Practice requires the following documents in admitting students Unconditionally.

Unconditional Admission

- **Application** – A completed DNP application is required for admission.
- **Official Transcripts** – includes official transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate courses. Transcripts must verify that the applicant received a MSN with a specialty as a Family Nurse Practitioner, from an ACEN or CCNE accredited nursing program.
- **GPA** - Applicant must have a minimum 3.0 overall grade point average on a 4.0 scale for the MSN degree and a grade of “B” or better in a graduate level research course taken within the last five years. The applicant must also verify the number of clinical practicum hours completed in the MSN Program.
- **Graduate Record Examination** - An acceptable Graduate Record Exam (GRE) total score and a minimum analytical writing score of 3.0. is required. Graduate Record Exam scores are valid for five years. If the applicant has taken the GRE more than one time, the admission committee will use the highest score to determine eligibility for admission.
- **Letters of Recommendation** – Three letters of recommendation are required and must be current (< 1 year) and on official letterhead with original signatures from individuals who have personal knowledge of the applicant’s academic and work experience. (Letters: 1 Professional, 1 Academic and 1 Personal).
- **Resume** – a current resume is required which describes all work experience and education since becoming a registered nurse, detailed in chronological order. The applicant must include in the resume full legal name, address, telephone number, and email address. The resume should be no more than two pages.
- **Experience** – Documentation of a minimum, on current resume, of one year of continuous clinical nursing experience with patient contact as a RN and/or advanced practice nurse within the past three years.
- **Goal Statement** – The required goal statement should be a narrative which expounds on how obtaining a DNP from Alcorn State University will help achieve your career path. The content should also include reasons for seeking admission to the DNP program, state areas of research interest, identify goals while in the program and long-range career goals, explain qualifications and readiness for the program and mentorship expected by program faculty.
- **Nursing License** – Current unrestricted and unencumbered RN and APRN licenses and certification as a family nurse practitioner in the state of residence in which the individual will complete clinical practicums.

- **Interview** – An invitation to an interview is sent to the applicant by the Director of the Graduate Nursing Program after a preliminary review of the application. Candidates chosen for the interview will receive an email with instructions on how to schedule the interview. Interviews will be conducted electronically.
- **Background Check** – All applicants must have a criminal history background check with no disqualifying events, as mandated by the State of Mississippi.

Additional Requirements for International Applicants

- **Credential Evaluation** – Evaluation of transcripts by an authorized credentialing service to document degree is equivalent to a U.S. Bachelor's Degree.
- **Statement of Finances** – Two documents are required to validate student has sufficient funds to support study in the United States (Tuition and Fees and Living Expenses). Affidavit of Support and Bank statement no older than three weeks at time of submission.
- **TOEFL for International Applicants** - The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required for all applicants who are not citizens of the United States, including permanent resident applicants who hold a green card and international applicants currently in the United States on any type of VISA.
- **Tuberculosis Screening** – Chest X-Ray and Blood Test are required which cannot be older than six-weeks at time of submission. Applicant must take qualifying tests after arrival in the United States.

Progression Requirements

A grade point average of 3.0 is required for continued study in the DNP program. Grades below B are not acceptable in the DNP program. Students that receive a grade below B in any course are subject to dismissal from the program.

Degree Completion

To qualify for conferring of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, a student must complete the 36 credits outlined in the DNP Plan of Study with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Included in the 36 credits is the DNP Project, which must be implemented, evaluated, and presented orally to the student's Advisory Committee, School of Nursing administration, and a representative for Graduate Studies. A customized checklist of requirements is provided for each degree plan in go.alcorn.edu to inform students of specific requirements related to their academic curriculum.

Curriculum

The curriculum for the Post-Master's DNP Program will require 36 semester credit hours to be completed in five (5) semesters of continuous enrollment. These hours will be broken down into specialty-focused content and doctoral education essentials which include the following areas: scientific underpinnings; organizational and systems leadership; clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice; technology; health policy; inter-professional collaboration and population health outcomes; clinical prevention and population health; and advanced nursing practice.

The program will be offered primarily in an online format with no more than two face-to-face requirements per semester. The DNP Program will require 540 practicum hours. An individual gap analysis will be completed for each student to develop a plan of study to include the required practicum hours. Clinical practicums will be included in semesters 2, 3, 4, and 5. The Plan of Study for the DNP Program is outlined in the Table below:

DNP Plan of Study

Course #	Course Name	Credit Hour	Theory Contact Hours	Clinical Contact Hours
Semester 1 (Fall)				
NU 700	Advanced Health Informatics	3	45	
NU 701	Clinical Epidemiology	3	45	
NU 702	Healthcare Quality Improvement	3	45	
Semester 2 (Spring)				
NU 703	Advanced Health Systems, Theoretical Foundations, and Ethical Issues	3	45	
NU 704	Population Health	3	45	
NU 710-I	DNP Project	1		60
Semester 3 (Summer)				
NU 705	Evidence-Based Practice, Theory, Design, & Method	3	45	
NU 710-II	DNP Project	3		180
Semester 4 (Fall)				
NU 706	Leadership in Health Systems	3	45	
NU 707	Advanced Healthcare Policy & Politics	3	45	
NU 710-III	DNP Project	2		120
Semester 5 (Spring)				
NU 708	Business Management in Clinical Practice	3	45	
NU 710-IV	DNP Project	3		180
	Total	36	405	540

Course Descriptions:

NU 700 – ADVANCED HEALTH INFORMATICS

(3 Credit Hours)

This course focuses on the collection, organization, analysis, and dissemination of information in nursing and health care. Students are introduced to the specialty of nursing informatics, the information system life-cycle, telemedicine, and the use of technology to enhance nursing care delivery and patient safety. Also, students learn how to design, use, and manipulate patient databases for the analysis of patient outcomes.

NU 701 – CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

(3 Credit Hours)

This course provides an overview of the basic epidemiological methods as well as study designs that may be used by advanced practice nurses to study the health of populations. This course will combine a focus on traditional and social epidemiology to examine how society and social organizations influence health and well-being of individuals and populations, with special attention to rural populations. In particular, this course will address frequency, distribution, surveillance methods, and new applications of epidemiological methods.

NU 702 – HEALTHCARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

(3 Credit Hours)

This course provides knowledge and skills necessary to critically evaluate existing patient safety policies and practices. The principles of design, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based strategies used to improve practice policies for diverse patient populations in clinic, home, institutional, and community settings are explored. Emphasis is placed on identification of critical variables that serve as catalysts for positive clinical outcomes. Special attention will be given to safety in prescribing and medication management in nurse practitioner practice at the doctoral level.

NU 703 – ADVANCED HEALTH SYSTEMS, THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS, AND ETHICAL ISSUES

(3 Credit Hours)

This course provides the student with the opportunity to analyze ethical theories, and evaluate the applicability of theories to nursing, health care systems, and health care policies. Emphasis is on reasoned considerations of contemporary theoretical perspectives in bioethics. The focus is on theories related to rational systems of bioethical problem solving in a culturally pluralistic society. Students are expected to also explore their professional beliefs and value system. Practical application of nursing, developmental, ethical, family, health and other theories will be examined.

NU 704 – POPULATION HEALTH

(3 Credit Hours)

This online course for the Doctor of Nursing practice program prepares the student to implement population-based disease prevention and health promotion activities to achieve national and international goals of improving worldwide health status. The course focuses on a spectrum of issues affecting health, which include emerging infectious disease, emergency preparedness, disparities in health and healthcare services, and the impact of behavior and lifestyle choices on health.

NU 705 – EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE, THEORY, DESIGN, & METHOD

(3 Credit Hours)

In this course, the students will examine the evidence-based standards for the advanced practice nurse. Students will explore strengths and weaknesses of different research methodologies and types of data analyses. Each student will evaluate the status of current research and evidence-based literature pertinent to clinical practice.

NU 706 – LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH SYSTEMS

(3 Credit Hours)

This course focuses on knowledge and skills that are necessary for nursing leaders to effectively manage change, empower others, and influence organizational processes in health care environments. Models and strategies related to leadership, effective organizational processes, organizational change, conflict management, strategic planning and interprofessional and intraprofessional teamwork will be evaluated. Emphasis is on the development of skills in health system assessment and intervention design.

NU 707 – ADVANCED HEALTHCARE POLICY & POLITICS

(3 Credit Hours)

This course provides knowledge and understanding needed to participate in health policy development, analysis and implementation. The impact of policies on the delivery of health care and nursing services will be explored. The relationship of health policies to the financing of health care will be presented. Students will be introduced to health economics with a focus on the elements of financial management

including the language and basic concepts of cost, the budgeting process and systems of reimbursement. Global, national, state, and local systems of financing health care will be compared.

NU 708 – BUSINESS MANAGEMENT IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

(3 Credit Hours)

This course provides the student with an overview of the principal financial mechanisms in the U.S. health care industry and offers specific insights into the critical issues the industry currently faces. A feature of this course is the development of practical financial analysis skills that will provide students with a foundation for immediate application within the health care industry. The student will also be provided best practices for business management of a clinical practice.

NU 710-I – DNP PROJECT

(1 Credit Hour)

This course will assist Doctor of Nursing Practice students in gaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop an evidence-based project proposal and plan, which addresses a practice issue affecting a chosen microsystem. The purpose of the DNP Project courses is to provide structured didactic content and application of the Student's DNP Project. This is the first of four DNP Project courses that will occur sequentially and will include 60 DNP clinical practicum hours.

NU 710-II – DNP PROJECT

(3 Credit Hours)

This course will assist Doctor of Nursing Practice students in developing a full proposal that reflects synthesis of the student's knowledge from prior coursework and work in an area of interest or expertise under the direction of a faculty mentor. The purpose of the DNP Project course series is to provide structured didactic content and application of the student's DNP Project. This is the second of four DNP Project courses will include 180 DNP clinical practicum hours.

NU 710-III – DNP PROJECT

(2 Credit Hours)

This course will assist Doctor of Nursing Practice students in continued development of knowledge, skills, and abilities to implement the chosen DNP proposal. Students will assume a role of leadership in inter-professional collaboration, consultation, and partnership. Students will receive direction from a faculty mentor and peer feedback as they become engaged in the microsystem where they are implementing their DNP Project. The purpose of the DNP Project courses is to provide structured didactic content and application of the student's DNP Project. This is the third of four DNP Project courses includes 120 DNP clinical practicum hours.

NU 710-IV – DNP PROJECT

(3 Credit Hours)

This course is designed to assist Doctor of Nursing Practice students in the completion of an evidence-based project. Students will complete the implementation phase, evaluate the project, and write the final DNP project. Students will receive individual direction from a faculty mentor and peer feedback as they write the final paper. Students will also be mentored in making professional presentations and writing for publication. This course is the last of four DNP Project courses and includes 180 hours of clinical practicum hours.