
**TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP) PROGRAM
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

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The handbook serves as an additional resource for successful completion of the following endeavors:

1. Academic program planning
2. Description of necessary criteria for admission, articulation, and graduate from the DNP program.

This information is intended to clarify and to supplement, not to replace, the information in *The Graduate Catalog* (<https://www.twu.edu/gradschool/graduate-catalog.asp>). Each DNP student should read the *Graduate Catalog* thoroughly and comply fully with all requirements of the College of Nursing and the Graduate School.

Mission

The TWU Doctor of Nursing Practice is designed to prepare Nurse Practitioners and Certified Nurse Midwives to function as expert clinicians who integrate and evaluate evidenced-based practices in acute and primary care settings. The DNP curriculum broadens and expands upon the skills of the master's prepared Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) to include: enhanced clinical expertise; implementation of healthcare informatics technologies; and to increase depth in the application of scientific advances and health care organizational concepts to nursing practice.

Goals

Upon completion of the doctoral nursing program, the graduate will have attained the requisite knowledge and expertise to:

1. Apply evidence from nursing and the biophysical, psychosocial, behavioral, and clinical sciences to complex health issues.
2. Implement health care delivery models and strategies designed for quality improvement in patient care.
3. Analyze existing research and design and conduct evaluations of clinical interventions to implement evidence-based practice.
4. Employ an evidence-based framework when conducting research on clinical interventions.
5. Develop and advocate for health care policy.
6. Collaborate with other health professionals to provide high quality, ethical patient-centered care that meets current standards of best practice.
7. Synthesize concepts of health promotion and protection and disease prevention in managing complex health problems.
8. Apply expert clinical judgment in providing comprehensive assessment, diagnosis, and management of health and illness in diverse populations.
9. Provide visionary nursing leadership through contributions to the management and guidance of health care systems.

General Information about the Doctor of Nursing Program at TWU

The DNP program resides on the Dallas campus. The Dallas campus location affords DNP students many opportunities to access the wealth of clinical facilities in the hospital district. In addition, DNP students can receive instruction from doctorally prepared APN faculty educators at this site. Certain courses may also be offered on the Denton campus. The objectives of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program have been developed to be consistent with *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice* (American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN], 2006), attached in Appendix A.

The DNP program at TWU is offered to master's-degree-prepared Nurse Practitioners or Certified Nurse Midwives who have graduated from accredited educational institutions. All students admitted to the DNP program at TWU are Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) in the Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Certified Nurse Midwifery (CNM) role. The DNP program is designed to prepare these APRNs to function as expert clinicians in primary and acute-care situations and to integrate evidence-based practice at a very sophisticated level of professional performance.

The total proposed DNP program (including foundation courses in nursing, informatics, genetics, business and health systems management, and health care policy) requires a minimum of six semesters of enrollment over a 24-month time period. The curriculum includes two 15-week clinical practicums designed to integrate advanced diagnosis and differential diagnoses, informatics, technology, evidence-based interventions, genetics, and outcomes measurement. DNP graduates will earn 46 semester credit hours beyond the master's level.

Full-Time Course Curriculum for the DNP Program

Semester Sequence	Designated Semester	Courses	Credit Hours	
I	Summer	NURS 6023	Philosophy of Nursing Science	3
		HSM 5003	Management of Health Services	<u>3</u>
		Total Hours:		6
II	Fall	NURS 6033	Ethical Dimensions of Nursing	3
		LS 5363	Health Sciences Information Services	3
		BIOL 5533	Health Care Genetics	<u>3</u>
		Total Hours:		9
III	Spring	NURS 6043	Policy, Power, and Politics	3
		NURS 6313	Epidemiology, Health Promotion, and Research in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
		NURS 6323	Informatics and Research in Nursing Health Care	<u>3</u>
		Total Hours:		9
IV	Summer	NURS 6163,	Health Outcomes: Measurement, Management and Analysis	3
		Elective		<u>3</u>
		Total Hours:		6
V	Fall	NURS 6035	DNP Practicum	5
		Elective		<u>3</u>
		Total Hours:		8
VI	Spring	NURS 6045	DNP Practicum II	5
		NURS 6303	Professional Capstone Project	<u>3</u>
		Total Hours:		8

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the general requirements for admission to the Graduate School at Texas Woman's University. In addition to these general requirements, the College of Nursing requires the following for admission to the DNP Program:

1. A graduate-level course in statistics
2. A graduate-level course in nursing research
3. A master's degree with a major in nursing from a program accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body (preferred)
4. Scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Miller Analogies Test (MAT)
5. Two letters of recommendation
6. Letter discussing professional goals
7. A curriculum vitae or resume
8. Current, unencumbered, license to practice professional nursing in the United States (See Appendix B for further details)
9. Certification as an APN (NP or CNM) by a nationally recognized certification organization interview(s) at the behest of faculty
10. Submission of the complete [ApplyTexas Application](#) (Texas Common Application Form)

Applicants must submit the above information and application fee to:

Student Records Processing;
Texas Woman's University;
PO Box 425649;
Denton, TX 76204-5649

Admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program may be awarded on an **unconditional** or **provisional** basis. In order to be considered for **unconditional** admission, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Miller Analogies Test (MAT) scores must be submitted to the university. Criteria for unconditional admission at Texas Woman's University are specified below:

- (1) A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 on prior graduate level course work
Or
- (2) A preferred score of 460 on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Verbal and 500 on the GRE Quantitative
Or
- (3) A preferred score of 50 on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT)

If the DNP applicant has achieved either the graduate GPA of 3.5 or above or the designated scores on the GRE or the MAT plus a graduate GPA of 3.0 to 3.49, that candidate will be eligible for **unconditional** admission.

Applicants who do not meet the unconditional criteria, but who have a **GPA of 3.0 to 3.49** on prior graduate level course work, may be considered for **provisional** admission on an individual basis. Factors that will be considered during the admission process include the following:

- (1) GPA on graduate level work
- (2) GRE Verbal and Quantitative scores or MAT score
- (3) Scholarly activities
- (4) Professional leadership
- (5) Work history.

IF A STUDENT HAS BEEN PROVISIONALLY ADMITTED, THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR FULL ADMISSION WILL BE SPECIFIED IN THE ADMISSION LETTER FROM THE GRADUATE SCHOOL.

ONCE THE CONDITIONS FOR FULL ADMISSION HAVE BEEN MET, THE STUDENT SHOULD PETITION THE GRADUATE SCHOOL THROUGH THE COLLEGE OF NURSING FOR ADVANCEMENT FROM PROVISIONAL ADMISSION TO UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION.

THIS REQUEST IS MADE THROUGH THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM COORDINATOR. FAILURE TO MEET CONDITIONS OF PROVISIONAL ADMISSION RESULTS IN THE STUDENT'S REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM.

TRANSFER OF CREDITS

There is no automatic transfer of graduate credit, but students may seek approval for transfer credit from the DNP Program Coordinator. A maximum of 6 hours graduate credit from another university may be considered. Only graduate level courses from an accredited institution in which a grade of B or better was earned may be considered. A student may apply for consideration for transfer credit only after satisfactorily completing a minimum of nine hours of nursing doctorate credit at TWU.

Part-Time Enrollment

The DNP Program is currently accepting applications for part-time enrollment. Requirements for unconditional and provisional acceptance are the same for both full-time and part-time enrollment. Students need to consult closely with their advisor and the DNP Coordinator to ensure all required courses are completed in the recommended sequence. While a full-time student may complete the required course work in two years, the part-time student may require three years and three months or more (See Sample Program outlined below), depending upon their availability to take required course work.

Part-Time Course Curriculum for the DNP Program (Sample)

Semester Sequence	Semesters Offered	Courses	Credit Hours
I	Summer or Fall	HSM 5003 Management of Health Services Total Hours:	<u>3</u> 3
II	Fall	NURS 6033 Ethical Dimensions of Nursing LS 5363 Health Sciences Information Services Total Hours:	3 <u>3</u> 6
III	Spring	NURS 6043 Policy, Power, and Politics NURS 6323 Informatics and Research in Nursing Heath Care Total Hours:	3 <u>3</u> 6
IV	Spring or Summer	NURS 6023 Philosophy of Nursing Total Hours:	<u>3</u> 3
V	Fall	NURS 6903 Health Care Genetics Elective Total Hours:	3 <u>3</u> 6
VI	Spring	NURS 6313 Epidemiology, Health Promotion, and Research in Advanced Nursing Practice Elective Total Hours:	3 <u>3</u> 6
VII	Summer	NURS 6163 Health Outcomes: Measurement, Management, & Analysis Total Hours:	<u>3</u> 3
VIII	Fall	NURS 6035 DNP Practicum I Total Hours:	<u>5</u> 5
IX	Spring	NURS 6045 DNP Practicum II Total Hours:	<u>5</u> 5
X	Summer	NURS 6303 Professional Capstone Project Total Hours:	<u>3</u> 3

***Note: The 40 hours of required course curriculum are listed above with the additional 6 hours of required electives necessary to fulfill the DNP course requirements.**

Readmission

DNP Program students who interrupt their progression in the DNP Program, for more than two years, must make a formal request to the College of Nursing for readmission to the program. If the request is granted, the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Coordinator will stipulate any course work to be repeated. However, the 10-year time limitation for completion of the program shall remain in effect from the time the first doctoral credit is awarded. During the student's absence, if the curriculum or admission standards have changed, the student will be expected to meet any new admission standards and fulfill all requirements of the current curriculum.

Students not in good standing at the time they cease course work shall not be readmitted to the program. Students who have been dismissed from the program shall not be eligible for readmission.

Students wishing to transfer from a Ph.D. Nursing Program from Texas Woman's University or another accredited Ph.D. nursing program must be in good academic standing including successful completion of required preliminary or comprehensive required examinations in order to be eligible for admission to the DNP Program.

Academic Advisement

Prior to admission to the doctoral program, the DNP Program Coordinator acts as an advisor for the student. At the time of admission to the DNP Program, each student is assigned a major advisor from the nursing faculty and an advisory committee as specified in the Graduate Handbook. Prior to enrolling in any course work, students must contact the DNP Program Coordinator.

The Doctor of Nursing Degree Plan

All Doctor of Nursing Practice Program students must file a Degree Plan with the Graduate School, in accordance with the policies of the Graduate Student Catalog (<https://www.twu.edu/gradschool/graduate-catalog.asp>). See Appendix C for a sample degree plan. It is the student's responsibility to work with her/his advisor to develop the Degree Plan prior to completion of 18 semester hours. All Degree Plans should be submitted to the Graduate School one year prior to the graduation date.

The Degree Plan (See Appendix C) must cite exact course numbers and titles. Any transfer credit approved by the committee must have an official transcript filed with the Graduate Office. When the Degree Plan form has been completed, it must be signed by all members of the Degree Plan Committee.

Once the Degree Plan has been filed and approved by the Dean of The Graduate School, any changes in courses must be approved by the DNP Program Coordinator and a Change in Degree Program (See Appendix D) must be filed with the Graduate Office.

If the Dean of the Graduate School finds the Degree Plan unacceptable, the College of Nursing will be notified. The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Coordinator will assist the student in making the appropriate revisions or advise the student regarding any additional documentation required.

Length of Program

Full Time

A full-time student considering the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program should plan on 2 years of full-time study to complete required course work. Full-time study is considered 9 hours of course work per semester.

Part Time

A part-time student will need a minimum of three to five years to complete course work provided 6 hours are taken each semester.

Maximum

All requirements for the DNP Program Degree must be completed within a period of ten (10) consecutive calendar years from the date of initial DNP Program earned credit.

State Mandated Tuition

Doctoral course work in excess of 99 credit hours requires out-of-state tuition by state mandate. This includes all courses for which a student enrolls while classified as a doctoral student, including courses with grades of PR or WP.

Degree Requirements

DNP Component	Description	Credits
Core Requirements	Required courses (hybrid, clinical or online format)	37
	Capstone Project	3
Electives	Nursing Education or Health Systems Management or Health Studies or other courses approved by the DNP Coordinator.	6
		46

Progression Requirements

Courses will be taken in the sequence approved by the Academic Advisory Committee. Working students should consult closely with their advisor and the Doctoral Program Coordinator to plan their course schedule to accommodate required courses in the semesters in which the courses are offered.

A minimum grade of B in each nursing course and 3.0 grade-point average is required to continue in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. The student may repeat only one nursing course in which a grade of less than B is earned. If a course must be repeated, the student cannot progress in the program until that course has been successfully completed.

Scholastic Probation

If the student's GPA falls below 3.0 in one semester, the student is placed on scholastic probation. Failure to attain a 3.0 GPA in the next regular semester will result in dismissal from the program.

Program Dismissal

A student who has earned a grade of less than B (C, D, F, or WF) in two nursing courses at the graduate level or who has earned a grade of less than B (C, D, F, or WF) twice in the same graduate level nursing course will be removed from the DNP Program. A student who has earned a grade of C in a non-nursing course may repeat that course once to obtain a B or an A.

A student who has provisional admission will be dismissed from the DNP Program the first time the GPA falls below a 3.0.

Withdrawal

A grade of WP or WF is assigned when a student withdraws from a course prior to the penalty date. After the penalty date, a WP will be assigned if the student's average grade in the course at the time of withdrawal is 80% or higher. A grade of WF will be assigned if the student's average grade is below 80%.

Student Rights

DNP students have all rights specified in the TWU Graduate Student Catalog (<https://www.twu.edu/gradschool/graduate-catalog.asp>).

Grade Appeal Process

The College of Nursing appeal procedure is available from the DNP Program Coordinator or the Associate Dean. The Graduate School appeal procedure can be found in the TWU *Student Handbook* or on-line at: <http://www.twu.edu/o-sl/StudentLifeOffice/StudentHandbook.pdf>

Course Descriptions in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

Course Format*Hybrid*

An innovative combination of clustered monthly classes; web-based presentations; state-of-the-art library and database access; online, on-demand (24/7/365) recorded video classroom lectures and DVDs; and online Webinars allowing remote contact in real time through a secure web site.

Online

A web-based curriculum that uses BlackBoard as the computer-based education platform.

Clinical

Integrative community-based practical application of curriculum objectives, scheduled by the student in collaboration with a preceptor and with approval of the DNP Coordinator.

Capstone

Independent study and face-to-face seminars dedicated to: (a) analysis of evidence-based practice literature in a clinical area of interest; (b) formulation and implementation of an evidence-base intervention project; (c) evaluation of project outcomes, including implications for future research; and (d) publishable manuscript.

AACN Course Essentials definition (see Appendix A)**Clinical Course Requirements**

Prior to clinical experiences, DNP students must follow College of Nursing procedures regarding immunization, drug screens, criminal background checks, and liability insurances. (See Graduate Handbook (<http://www.twu.edu/o-sl/StudentLifeOffice/StudentHandbook.pdf>).

DNP students must maintain good standing of all appropriate licensures (including Nurse Practitioner or Certified Nurse Midwifery status) from the State Board of Nursing. The student must notify the College of Nursing immediately of any change in nursing licensure, including pending investigations. In addition, students enrolling in clinical coursework must meet all requirements of the clinical facility.

Required Courses (40 Credit Hours)

NURS 6023. Philosophy of Nursing Science. **(Hybrid)** Three lecture hours/week
Content: Overview of concepts related to philosophy, philosophy of science, and philosophy of nursing. Includes exploration and analysis of major philosophers, comparison of Eastern and Western philosophy, and the contribution of these philosophies to the origin and the development of nursing philosophy and science. This course will address the philosophy of evidence-based practice as a scientific foundation for DNP practice. Credit: 3 hours.
AACN Essential: Essential 1 - Scientific Underpinnings for Practice (incorporates culture of science, philosophy of cultural diversity, philosophy of evidence-based practice)

NURS 6033. Ethical Dimensions of Nursing. **(Hybrid)** Three lecture hours/week
Content: Examines ethical issues in contemporary nursing practice from the perspective of nursing and genetics as a moral enterprise. Focuses on nurses making informed and responsible choices that shape the future of society as well as the nursing profession. Traditional and contemporary ethical positions will be explored as they apply to common ethical and moral problems found in nursing. Credit: 3 hours
AACN Essentials: Essential I, II, IV, and V, (Includes ethical analysis and conflicts regarding cultural care and healthcare disparities)

NURS 6035. DNP Integrative Practicum I. **(Clinical)** (250 clinical hours)
Content: Advanced practice clinical practicum with focus on expansion of management skills in health promotion, chronic illness management, poly-drug therapy, and evidenced-based care. Students will demonstrate evidence-based, culturally relevant practice that utilizes inquiry to advance practice and integrates the DNP role of clinical leader. The implications of service to rural and urban population locations are addressed. The APN will function as an interdisciplinary team member, providing care to a select underserved patient population. This course includes assessment and evaluation of informatics, genetics, patient education, and technology in selected clinical sites. Prerequisites: NURS 6023, 6033, 6043, 6163. Credit: 5 hours.
AACN Essential: Essential II, III, V, VI, and VIII

NURS 6043. Policy, Power, and Politics. **(Hybrid)** Three lecture hours/week
Content: Examines concepts of social policy, power, and political behaviors and generates strategies for exercising professional leadership in effecting change in health disciplines. Exploration and analysis of theories supporting policy making as a decision-making body or power base for action or inaction. Role of health politics in the workplace, organization, government and community will be examined with special emphasis on the politics of women's health care. Credit: 3 hours.
AACN Essential: Essential V: Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care

NURS 6045. DNP Integrative Practicum II. **(Clinical)** (250 clinical hours)
Content: Course designed to refine and build skills developed in NURS 6035. The APN will select and implement evidence-based strategies, utilize genetics, demonstrate leadership within the context of the health care team, and measure outcomes using informatics for quality improvement. This includes development and examination of personal leadership style within specific clinical environments. The student will integrate interventions appropriate to rural or urban populations. The role of the DNP educator will be addressed (education of staff, nursing

students, and interprofessional education) including use and evaluation of educational technology. Prerequisite: NURS 6035. Credit: 5 hours.
AACN Essential: Essential II, VI, VIII

NURS 6163. Health Outcomes: Measurement, Management, and Analysis. **(Hybrid)** Three lecture hours/week

Content: Explores changes in health care system and emerging health care priority agenda with focus on outcomes. Emphasizes importance of outcome indicators and need for new or revised measures in selected health conditions and related settings. Analyzes relationship among processes, outcomes, and economic indicators. Focuses on development of research programs addressing clinical, institutional, or systems outcomes. Credit: 3 hours.

AACN Essential: Essential III Clinical Scholarship and Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Practice

NURS 6303. Professional Capstone Project. **(Capstone)** Three seminar hours a week.

Content: Clinical project based upon selection and implementation of evidence-based interventions supported through informatics and technological advances and measurement of outcomes in selected clinical site. Includes written and public presentation of findings, and submission of article for publication in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. Prerequisite: NURS 6035. Pre/co requisite: NURS 6045. Credit: 3 hours.

AACN Essential: Essential I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII

NURS 6313. Epidemiology, Health Promotion, and Research in Advanced Nursing Practice. **(Hybrid)** Three lecture hours/week

Content: Analysis of epidemiological, biostatistical, environmental, genetic, behavioral, and socioeconomic data to evaluate interventions and health-care delivery models. Incorporates evidence-appraisal from national data bases and identification of evidence-based guidelines for health promotion and disease prevention. Prerequisite: LS 5363. Credit: 3 hours.

AACN Essentials: Essential VII Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation's Health

NURS 6323. Informatics and Research in Nursing and Health Care. **(Hybrid)** Three lecture hours/week

Content: Promotion of evidence-based research and practice through health care informatics. Includes informatics theories, research methodologies, networks, skills, technology, system implementation, and management of data bases. Overview of electronic health records, telehealth, web-based education, bioinformatics, robotics, genomics, and individually-customized health care. Prerequisite: LS 5363. Credit: 3 hours.

AACN Essentials: Essential IV Information Systems/Technology and Patient Care Technology for the Improvement and Transformation of Health Care

BIOL 6903. Health Care Genetics. **(Hybrid)** Three lecture hours/week

Content: Human genetics and gene abnormalities; incorporation of sequence-based health care within evidence-based practice. Course is targeted to health care professionals. (DNA, inheritance, cancer, genome identification, population migration, epigenetics, counseling)

AACN Essential: Essential I Scientific Underpinnings for Practice

HSM 5003. Management of Health Services Organizations. **(Hybrid)** Three lecture hours/week

Content: Introduction to theories, concepts, techniques, functions, and methods of management as they relate to health services organizations generally, with specific emphasis on hospitals. Credit: 3 hours.

AACN Essential: Essential II Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Improvement and Systems Thinking, Essential V Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care

LS 5363. Health Sciences Information Services. **(Online)** Three lecture hours/week
Content: History and development of the health sciences information environment; structure, functions, and service patterns; administrative and technical problems; health sciences literature; information needs, resources, and reference services; networks; trends. Credit: 3 hours.
AACN Essential: Essential IV: Information Systems/Technology and Patient Care Technology

Possible Elective Courses (6 Credit Hours)

A student may select graduate-level courses for electives with the approval of the DNP Program Coordinator.

Nursing Education

NURS 5203. Theoretical Bases for Nursing Education. **(Online)** Overview of education and theories of teaching and learning related to nursing education and practice. Focus is on general categories of cognitive and behavioral theories. Selection of appropriate teaching/learning theories to address the learning needs of culturally diverse groups and individuals. Prerequisites: Admission to program or permission of instructor. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: 3 hours.

NURS 5253. Curriculum Design and Management in Nursing. **(Online)** Focus on nursing curriculum design from mission statement and philosophy. Includes examination of a variety of conceptual frameworks and their appropriateness for various settings, students, and knowledge component (curriculum elements). Emphasis on curriculum development at institutional level, course level, and individual class level in academic and clinical settings. Pre/co-requisite: NURS 5203. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: 3 hours.

NURS 5263. Educational Communication and Technologies of Instruction. **(Online)** Selection, use and evaluation of communication techniques and technology in various nursing educational settings. Includes traditional classroom teaching techniques of lecture, discussion, small group projects, forums, seminars, and use of audio-visuals, plus utilization of computer-based instruction and distance education techniques. Prerequisites: Admission to program or permission of instructor. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: 3 hours.

NURS 5273. Measurement and Assessment in Nursing. **(Online)** Selection and preparation of a variety of methodologies to assess learning. Application of educational statistics to evaluate various forms of testing and to measure learning. Includes item analysis of standardized and teacher-made exams. Work with on-campus faculty for mastery of content. Prerequisite: NURS 5203. Pre/co requisite: NURS 5253. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: 3 hours.

NURS 5293. Teaching Practicum in Nursing. **(Online)** Application of the nurse's role as teacher in educational setting of choice: academia, staff development, or patient education. Focus is on integration of theory and practice of education role with socialization into the role of nurse educator. Prerequisite: NURS 5203. Pre/co requisite: NURS 5253. Nine practicum hours a week. Credit: 3 hours.

Health Systems Management

BUS 5263. Organizational Behavior in Business Administration. Organizational problems which involve the human factor; perspective for understanding and predicting behavior in formal organizations; interrelationships of structural and behavioral changes. Survey of research on organization in private and public organizations. Prerequisite: Degree in business or permission of instructor. Three lecture hours per week. Credit: 3 hours.

BUS 5523. Management and Organization. Study of management and administrative roles in business organizations, including hospitals, schools, and government. Principles of management and specific concepts about organizations including behavior, motivation, status, group dynamics, leadership, information-decision systems, organizational structure, managerial planning and control. No prerequisite. Three lecture hours per week. Credit: 3 hours.

BUS 5533. Advanced Management Information Systems. Study of systems concept, attributes of management information systems including data collection and transmission, data organization and storage, data processing, and information retrieval and display. Development of integrated or total systems. No prerequisite. Three lecture hours per week. Credit: 3 hours.

HSM 5043. Legal Foundations of Health Care Administration. Introduction to law as it affects the health delivery system with emphasis on both the theoretical and practical determinants of legal decision making. An examination of the American legal system, its principles and processes, as well as how the law regulates issues related to control of costs through regulation and antitrust laws, and respect for "personhood" in the context of the professional-patient and organization-professional relationship are also addressed. The dynamics between law and ethics are explored. Prerequisite: HCA 5003 or permission of instructor. Three lecture hours per week. Credit: 3 hours.

HSM 5183. Health Resources and Policy Analysis. Determinants of U.S. health policy and resource allocation. Assessment of the impact of health policy on the medical marketplace. Ideological, social, and professional bases affecting health personnel, regulation, and forecasting health service needs. Three lecture hours per week. Credit: 3 hours.

Health Studies

HS 6423. Global Health. Health status, health delivery systems, and health policy issues affecting human populations around the world; roles of selected international organizations in advancing the health status of certain populations. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: 3 hours.

HS 6453. Strategies in Health Education Delivery. Identification of the various entities within the health education system which influence decisions about accepting health information and changing unhealthful lifestyles. Development of strategies for effective utilization of health information. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: 3 hours.

HS 6563. Health Advocacy and Leadership. Exploration of advocacy, including building coalitions, creating media messages, meeting with decision-makers, and impacting health policy. Three lecture hours a week. Credit: 3 hours.

Capstone Project

Purpose

The DNP candidate will perform a required Capstone Project that demonstrates the higher order thinking skills gained through the required and elective course work. The project will demonstrate the candidate's mastery of the AACN Essentials I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII.

Process

Each required course throughout the DNP program will offer the DNP candidate opportunities to identify, describe, and analyze areas of individual clinical interest. Toward the end of each candidate's Degree Plan, NURS 6303 will provide the student dedicated time to: (a) complete an analysis of evidence-based practice literature in a clinical area of interest; (b) formulate and implement an evidence-base intervention project; and (c) evaluate project outcomes, including implications for future research.

Scholarly Paper and Presentation

A scholarly paper submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal and a public presentation on the process of clinical practice inquiry will complete the Capstone Project.

Financial Assistance: Full Time DNP Students*Traineeships*

Federally funded traineeships are sometimes available from the College of Nursing to full-time (9 credit hours per semester) students who are in good academic standing and hold unconditional admission status. Traineeships are awarded for the 9 month academic year (Fall and Spring semesters). The purpose of the traineeship is to provide assistance to those students who choose to pursue full-time doctoral study. Students who receive traineeships are eligible for in-state tuition.

Eligible trainees must be:

- unconditionally admitted to the College of Nursing's doctoral program,
- a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or foreign national who possesses a visa permitting permanent residence in the United States,
- currently licensed as a Registered Nurse in a state
- enrolled full-time in graduate courses

Length of support is limited to a maximum period of 36 months. Traineeship support may not be transferred from the institution which provided the support. An eligible student who has had a traineeship at one institution might subsequently be appointed at another institution and receive traineeship support, but only if the cumulative total of traineeship support received by the student has not exceeded 36 months.

Each appointment or reappointment may not be for less than 9 months, except to assist a trainee completing the required program of study. No appointment may exceed 12 months. Appointed trainees are expected to: (a) complete the application for traineeship and (b) respond to communications from the Division of Nursing in regard to professional activity following training. Students who receive traineeships are obligated to keep the College of Nursing informed of their current name and address for a period of 3 years following graduation.

A traineeship appointment shall be terminated if a trainee is unable to carry out the study for which the traineeship was awarded or if the trainee withdraws from the institution prior to the scheduled termination date. Failure to meet the academic standards of the College of Nursing and the Graduate School is cause for withdrawal of traineeship support.

Applications for traineeships (Appendix H) may be obtained from the DNP Program Coordinator or the College of Nursing DNP Secretary. Traineeships are usually awarded at the beginning of the Fall term. Eligible students need to complete the applications several months in advance.

Financial Assistance: Full and Part-Time Students

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Students desiring a university scholarship or financial aid should contact the University Financial Aid Office for information. Students should apply for scholarships or university financial aid and scholarships several months in advance of enrollment.

Graduate Assistantships

A limited number of nursing teaching graduate assistantships and nursing scholarships are available. Students desiring an assistantship should contact the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Coordinator on the Dallas Campus for information and applications (Appendix G). Graduate Assistant applications must be filed with the Associate Dean of the College of Nursing on the Dallas campus for review and recommendation.

Students receiving full-time assistantships (20 hours per week) are eligible for in-state tuition and health insurance. In order to take advantage of the health insurance benefits, the student must: (a) work at least 20 hours per week, (b) have an appointment for a minimum of 4 1/2 months, and (c) enroll for the health insurance with the Human Resources Office within 31 days of their employment/eligibility data. Students interested in this benefit should contact the Human Resources Office for specific details.

If an assistantship is approved, it is necessary to complete required Human Resource forms prior to the payroll deadline in order to receive payment paid. Graduate Assistants will need to present proof of citizenship and employment eligibility (i.e., state driver's license and Social Security card) to the Office of Human Resources in Denton.

Graduate Assistants are paid monthly on the first working day of the month following the month worked. Before a paycheck can be disseminated, all of the required Human Resources Office forms must have been completed.

DNP students may not hold assistantships for more than 4 years. Students holding assistantship must be enrolled in 9 credit hours and not more than 12 credit hours. Under special circumstances, the Dean of the College of Nursing and the Dean of the Graduate School may grant special permission for a student enrolled in 6 credit hours to receive an assistantship.

Research Assistants

Opportunities also exist for students to serve as research assistants for faculty with funded research projects. Candidates for these positions will be selected by the funded faculty member. Research assistants are generally compensated at the same level as teaching assistants.

Additional Information

Each candidate for the doctoral degree in the College of Nursing is personally responsible for meeting requirements and deadlines. If there are any questions concerning requirements or deadlines, students should contact the DNP Program Coordinator.

Students should keep the Graduate School and the College of Nursing informed of their personal addresses and phone numbers.

Students should keep a personal copy of all forms and papers filed with the Graduate School (e.g., Doctoral Degree Program, Application for Graduation, etc.).

Revised 10.10.30 ch, pjm, lv, tw