



# Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)



**PennState**  
World Campus

A world of possibilities.  
Online.

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Thanks to the convenience of online learning through Penn State World Campus, no matter where you are in the world, you can access the Penn State Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing's high-quality, renowned programs.

**Reputation**—The Penn State DNP degree is one of the top online programs in the nation. The baccalaureate degree program in nursing, master's degree program in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice program, and post-graduate APRN certificate program at The Pennsylvania State University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791. Further information can be found at [www.ccneaccreditation.org](http://www.ccneaccreditation.org).



**Convenience**—We understand the need for flexible and convenient learning options, using technology not just for convenience, but also to support learning outcomes.

**Student Services**—Even from a distance, you can access a full range of services dedicated to handling the unique challenges faced by returning adult students.

**The Real Penn State**—There will be no distinction on your diploma that your courses were completed at a distance. Our online programs are led by the same dedicated, expert faculty who teach on campus.

# Doctor of Nursing Practice

Take your nursing career to the next level with Penn State's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, offered online through Penn State World Campus. The online DNP program is a professional, practice-focused doctoral program that can prepare you for the highest level of nursing practice.

Built on the DNP Essentials developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the program focuses on the translation of research into practice, transformational leadership, and advanced expert nursing practice. To support these essentials, other course work includes nursing/change theory, foundations of advanced practice, quality and safety, health policy, informatics, and population-based health.

**Penn State's DNP degree program includes the following options:**

- › DNP–Leadership
  - BSN to DNP entry pathway
  - MSN to DNP entry pathway
- › DNP–Nurse Practitioner (Only in Pennsylvania)
  - Family/Individual Across the Lifespan Nurse Practitioner
  - Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
  - Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

[worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp)

“By fulfilling the requirements of the DNP degree, I gained the knowledge and skills required to advance my practice, contribute to positive patient outcomes, and lead efforts to improve the delivery of health care.”

—**Jackie G., DNP, RN,  
CCRN, CCNS  
Graduate, Doctor of  
Nursing Practice**





## DNP–Leadership

Penn State’s doctoral-level nurse leadership program is designed for nurse executives and managers who are interested in roles in which they will hold leadership positions and develop and implement system change and policy initiatives.

By focusing on leadership skills, decision-making abilities, and the aptitude to function as part of a highly collaborative team to improve nursing practice and patient outcomes, the DNP–Leadership option can prepare you to assume

leadership roles in practice settings in the community, governmental agencies, or health care institutions.

The DNP–Leadership program has two entry pathways based on your previous education and nursing experience:

- › directly from the bachelor of science into the nurse administrator course work
- › post–Master of Science in Nursing entry for nurse administrators and advanced practice nurses

**[worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp-leadership](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp-leadership)**





IN THE SEVERAL PURSUITS AND PROFESSIONS OF LIFE — ACT OF CONGRESS — JULY 2, 1867 — SIGNED A. LINCOLN  
AND THE FAITH OF THE STATE IS HEREBY PLEDGED TO CARRY THE SAME INTO EFFECT  
TO PROMOTE LIBERAL AND PRACTICAL EDUCATION  
1811-1812

OLD MAIN

# DNP–Leadership (BSN to DNP Program Entry Pathway)

If you have earned your bachelor’s degree with a major in nursing and you plan to continue in a practice role as a nurse administrator, the BSN to DNP entry pathway within the DNP–Leadership program was designed for you. This program requires that you complete 61 credits and a minimum of 1,000 hours of clinical practicum.

Through this pathway, you will complete core courses from the MSN program along with the nurse administrator course work. Taken in a full-time format, the program could be completed in six semesters (three years).



“The Penn State DNP program provided me with knowledge and skills to offer superior care to my patients and lead change within my organization.”

—Allyson F., DNP, CRNP, FNP-C  
Graduate, Doctor of Nursing Practice





“Thanks to the DNP program, I am prepared to serve as a nurse leader and advocate to improve health care delivery, quality, and outcomes.”

—Alea M., DNP, CRNP  
Graduate, Doctor of Nursing Practice

## DNP–Leadership (MSN to DNP Program Entry Pathway)

If you have already earned your master’s degree with a major in nursing and plan to continue in a practice role, the MSN to DNP entry pathway within the DNP–Leadership program can fit your career goals.

The post–MSN entry is flexible, allowing you to apply up to 550 practicum/clinical hours from your MSN program toward the 1,000 hours of practicum/clinical time that are required.

The curriculum in the MSN to DNP entry pathway consists of 38 to 46 credits, depending on the number of clinical hours you need to meet the 1,000-hour requirement. Taken in a part-time format, the program can be finished in six semesters (three years). Taken in a full-time format, the program could be completed in four semesters (two years).



## DNP–Nurse Practitioner Options

Designed as a BSN to DNP program, Penn State’s nurse practitioner program is intended for bachelor-prepared registered nurses who are licensed to practice in the state of Pennsylvania and plan to become licensed nurse practitioners. MSN-prepared applicants are welcome to apply, as well.

As you progress through the DNP–NP program, your curriculum will integrate objectives and learning outcomes for you to achieve the nurse practitioner core and population-focused competencies that are written for doctoral-level education.

You will choose one of three options in the DNP–NP degree program:

- › Family/Individual Across the Lifespan Nurse Practitioner

- › Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- › Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

These Nurse Practitioner options, ranging from 65–68 credits, are designed to help prepare you to function in an expanded nursing role providing direct care to specific groups of clients in a variety of health care settings. Because that practice is inherently interdisciplinary in nature, advanced knowledge and research from nursing is combined with knowledge from science, medicine, and related disciplines.

A total of 1,125 hours of post–BSN practicum are required in the DNP–Nurse Practitioner program.

[worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp-np](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp-np)



# Intensive Sessions

As a student in the DNP program, no matter which option you choose, you will be required to attend intensive sessions at the Penn State University Park campus or the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center a handful of times during your program. Each of these sessions will be three to five days in length.

Created to give you an enhanced learning experience, intensive sessions allow in-person interactions among the program's faculty, students, and colleagues to encourage networking

with other nursing professionals so you can learn from others' experiences and expertise. In addition to your class time, these sessions will give you the opportunity to get to know each other better as you progress through the program together.

Intensive sessions are also opportunities for you to meet face-to-face with your academic adviser, who will work closely with you throughout the entire program.

[worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp-benchmarks](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp-benchmarks)



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why should I consider a DNP?

As the medical field has evolved, so has Penn State Nursing. A DNP is the industry standard for nurse practitioners and those who want to assume clinical leadership and specialty roles. A DNP is the highest level degree of nursing practice for clinicians and clinical leaders. Successful graduates from our program will be prepared to deliver expert clinical care and improve health care outcomes.

## Can I work full-time while in school?

Most students do work at least part-time. However, some employer flexibility will be required, especially when students are in practicum courses, as those hours depend on the preceptor's schedule and are usually on weekdays. Some students choose to switch to weekend shifts, work per diem, or take vacation during these periods of time. In addition, please plan to spend approximately 3 hours studying outside of class for every hour in class; some courses may require more.

## Do I need to find my own clinical/practicum sites?

Yes. We encourage students to take advantage of their knowledge of appropriate agencies and their network to identify practicum sites that would help them meet their individual goals. Faculty can give suggestions when necessary. Penn State must have a site affiliation agreement with

any participating agency, if it's required by that agency.

## How much does it cost to attend Penn State?

Tuition is based on cost-per-credit, which may vary based on your program of study. Tuition rates are assessed every semester of enrollment. Visit the "Costs" page on the website for your program to see tuition rates for the current academic year.

## Is financial aid available?

Students studying online through Penn State World Campus are eligible for student loans. You must meet enrollment and other criteria to qualify. While there are currently no scholarships specifically earmarked for students in these programs, many students receive scholarships or other financial assistance from their employers, professional organizations, or other community agencies. For more information, please visit: [worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid](https://worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid)

# Begin Your Application Today

The decision to pursue the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a serious one. It is highly recommended that you contact the program office to discuss your potential program of study with the program team prior to submitting your application. The online DNP program will be rigorous and competitive, and you should thoroughly understand the level of time and commitment that will be expected of you through the course of your studies.

Admissions decisions for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program are based on the quality of your credentials after a thorough review of your completed application portfolio.

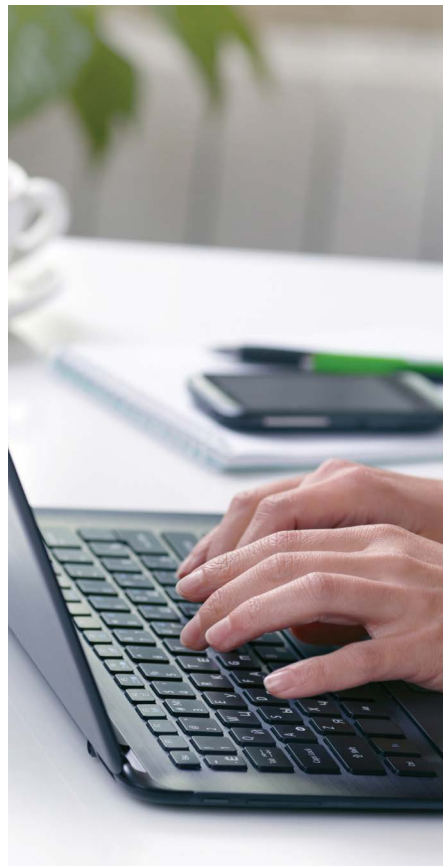
## **Your application portfolio must include:**

- › online application form and fee
- › official transcripts
- › references
- › statement of purpose/goal statement
- › TOEFL or IELTS scores (if applicable)
- › scholarly writing sample
- › curriculum vitae
- › interview (either in person or via video conferencing)

Please visit the appropriate website for more specific admission requirements for each of the programs:

- › [worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp-leadership-apply](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp-leadership-apply)
- › [worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp-np-apply](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp-np-apply)

The DNP-NP program is currently only accepting applications from nurses licensed to practice professional nursing in the state of Pennsylvania.



# Contact Us

## Admissions Questions

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814-863-5386

worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions



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