Program Description

The post-master’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at RMUoHP is designed to prepare graduates for leadership in advanced clinical practice. Graduates will possess the skills necessary to assume a broad range of roles in both direct and indirect health care settings. Consistent with the recommendation in the 2002 Institute of Medicine report on Health Professions Education, graduates will become proficient in leadership skills and abilities in the areas of delivering patient-centered care, working as part of interdisciplinary teams, practicing evidence-based care, implementing quality improvements and effectively using information technology.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Outcomes

The DNP Program is committed to the development of the nursing professional who can:

- Design and implement integrated care delivery models based on clinical evidence and best practice literature.
- Demonstrate analytical methodologies for the evaluation of clinical practice and the application of scientific evidence.
- Initiate evidence-based practice and policy strategies that optimize access to care and clinical outcomes.
- Apply ethical theories and legal standards to decision-making regarding healthcare issues for individuals and or populations.
- Collaborate with interprofessional teams necessary to improve clinical care for individuals and or populations of clients.
- Introduce and manage technologies that improve communication, foster collaboration, and support integrated approaches to care management.
• Integrate leadership expertise with clinical perspective and sound business practices to help transform the evolving healthcare system at local, regional, national, and international levels.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Post-Master’s Curriculum
The 46-credit curriculum of the post-master’s DNP program is taught online. Nationally recognized standards and competencies were used to develop the curriculum which will integrating online learning with carefully selected experiences in areas close to where students reside. A required scholarly project, with a focus on applying best current evidence to transform systems, culminates the student’s application of doctoral level thinking.

The degree requires 1000 post-baccalaureate hours of clinical experience. Supervised clinical hours, completed in a Master of Science program or a Post-Master’s certificate program, may be applied toward the 1000-hour requirement. The curriculum contains opportunities, including experiences in the completion of the Scholarly Project, to accrue the needed clinical hours.

The post-master’s DNP program helps prepare nurses to assume greater leadership roles within a healthcare organization. The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice for DNP programs (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 2009) and the Practice Doctorate NP Competencies (NONPF, 2012) are the underpinnings for the requirements of the post-master’s program. The courses are designed to prepare the graduate to influence health and social policy for diverse populations in a variety of settings. A higher level of clinical skill and knowledge provided by the degree can advance clinical nursing practice and help keep pace with demands for clinical leaders and advanced practice educators.
## Program Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fall 2018</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 4-Dec. 21</td>
<td>DNP 630 Advanced Practice Roles</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DNP 632 Evidence-Based Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DNP 636 Informatics in Healthcare</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DNP 640 Statistics in Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Semester 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Winter 2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 7-Apr. 26</td>
<td>DNP 644 Organizational Behavior &amp; Management</td>
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<td>DNP 646 Health Care Policy/Law/Ethics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DNP 662 Leadership</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DNP 667 Teaching in Nursing</td>
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<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Semester 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Summer 2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6-Aug. 23</td>
<td>DNP 650 Epidemiology &amp; Population Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>DNP 652 Health Care Economics</td>
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<td>DNP 730 Scholarly Project I**</td>
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<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Semester 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fall 2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 3-Dec. 20</td>
<td>DNP 634 Theoretical Foundations &amp; Scholarly Inquiry</td>
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<td>DNP 660 Quality Improvement in Healthcare</td>
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<td>DNP 740 Scholarly Project II**</td>
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<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Semester 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Winter 2020</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 6-Apr. 24</td>
<td>CC 811A Scholarly Project III**</td>
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<td><em>(Optional: Students may elect to come to campus for defense)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Semester 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>to Program Completion</strong></td>
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<td>Semesters of Doctoral Residency Credit for Scholarly Project</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CC 811B, CC 811C, etc. as needed (4 credits per course/semester, all online)</td>
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<td><em>Continue with 3 credits per semester until degree completion. Not included in program tuition.</em></td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Required Credits:</strong></td>
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*Four-year deadline from start of program is September 4, 2022*

**Course includes pre-requisite and/or co-requisite requirement(s). Refer to course description below.*
Course Descriptions

Didactic Courses:

DNP 630  Advanced Practice Roles  (3 credits; Online)
This course will provide emphasis on the exploration of the advanced practice role as it relates to quality and delivery of health care in rapidly changing health care systems. Historical as well as current issues, which affect professional development including regulation of practice and professional responsibilities, will be included.

DNP 632  Evidence Based Practice I  (3 credits; Online)
This course is the first of a three part series that includes an introduction to the concepts of evidence based practice as a major focus in healthcare. This course underscores the synthesis of the best research evidence with clinical expertise and client values to direct practice decisions for the best health outcomes.

DNP 634  Theoretical Foundations & Scholarly Inquiry  (3 credits; Online)
This course explores the theoretical foundations of practice, the conceptual models to implementation research, and strategies to implement evidence based approaches to practice. Learning focuses on the application of theory-directed design, implementation, and evaluation while applying evidence to transform healthcare systems.

DNP 636  Informatics in Healthcare  (3 credits; Online)
This course is designed as a survey course for the advanced practice nurse to explore major existing and emerging technologies and their potential impact. Systems are addressed that support patient centered, safe, effective, timely, efficient and equitable care. An emphasis is placed on the role that information technology supports these systems and on development and use of technologies in 21st century healthcare. Electronic medical records (EMRs), patient safety systems and web-based patient and professional education are among the topics explored.

DNP 640  Statistics in Health Sciences  (3 credits; Online)
This course will provide an understanding of qualitative and quantitative statistics. The course will emphasize the conceptual application of statistics as it relates to health care however some discussion of the mathematical underpinning necessary for understanding will be included. Relevant topics to provide the student with skills to read and interpret medical literature will be included.

DNP 644  Organizational Behavior and Management  (3 credits; Online)
This course will focus on various organizations within health care. Student will explore theories and concepts of organization, leadership and business to develop and support initiatives to improve health care at the practice and systems level.

DNP 646  Health Care Policy/Law/Ethics  (3 credits; Online)
The course will explore the principal ways US healthcare is structured and how law and policy affects the healthcare environment. With an understanding of law and policy the course highlights the development of effective strategies for managing the ethical

Schedule and content subject to change.
dilemmas inherent in organizing evidence-based healthcare delivery at the individual, organizational and systems level.

DNP 650  Epidemiology and Population Health  (3 credits; Online)
This course will provide an introduction to epidemiology that will prepare the advanced practice nurse with an understanding of epidemiological concepts as they relate to health and healthcare. Concepts that pertain to clinical practice and population health as well as implications for screening, prevention and disease control will be included.

DNP 652  Health Care Economics  (3 credits; Online)
The course will explore the principal ways US healthcare is structured and financed at the national, state, and local levels. Current and emerging issues and principles of business finance related to clinical care delivery will be analyzed using case studies and participative learning experiences. Implications for advanced practice leaders will be explored.

DNP 660  Quality Improvement in Healthcare  (3 credits; Online)
This course will focus on theory, methods and tools necessary for advanced practice leaders to facilitate quality improvement in healthcare. Analysis of economic, social and political issues that affect quality in today’s healthcare setting will be included.

DNP 662  Leadership  (3 credits; Online)
This course examines the emerging literature on evidence-based management, and the use of evidence in decision-making, resource management, and strategic planning. Issues of power, innovation, interprofessional collaboration, change, and leadership/healthcare delivery models are addressed. Self-reflection, self-mastery, professional integrity and credibility, interprofessional collaboration, and other leadership-related concepts are themes that underpin the course.

DNP 667  Teaching in Nursing  (3 credits; Online)
This course will provide and explore teaching across the nursing profession at the doctoral level. This course will cover three populations: as APRNs, how one teaches students (particularly graduate students), how one teaches patients, how one teaches peers (particularly to influence changes in practice).

DNP 730  Scholarly Project I  (3 credits; Online)
This course is the first of a 3 course series designed to assist students in the development of an evidence-based scholarly project. Learning focuses on project planning including emphasis on project management, gathering evidence, developing vision/goals/outcomes for the project, and applying theories/frameworks to structure the overall process.

DNP 740  Scholarly Project II  (3 credits; Online)
This course is the second of a 3 course series designed to integrate all previous course work and experiences into the development of evidence-based practice (EBP) project. In addition, this course will provide key information about the Institutional Review Board
process so that the student will be able to assure a safe and ethical environment for the project participants. Pre-requisite: DNP 730

CC 811A    Scholarly Project III (4 credits; Online)
This course is the third of a 3-course series designed to implement and evaluate of the DNP scholarly project. This culmination of this course is the successful defense of the scholarly project. Pre-requisite: All didactic courses

Faculty

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