Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree, Family Nurse Practitioner track, post-baccalaureate (DNP/FNP)

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Program Description

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at RMUoHP is designed to prepare graduates for advanced clinical practice and leadership roles. Two tracks are offered, including a post-master’s entry, and post-bachelor’s entry focusing on Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) competencies. Graduates will process 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 at delivering patient-centered care, work as part of interdisciplinary teams, practice evidence-based care, focus on quality improvements and effectively utilize information technology.

Doctor of Nursing Practice 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 Curriculum**

The 90-credit curriculum of the post-baccalaureate FNP program will use the limited-residency model of the University’s current DNP program and other post-professional programs. Nationally recognized standards and competencies were used to develop the curriculum which will integrate 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 Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice Nursing_ (American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), 2006), the _Domains and Core Competencies_ (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), 2012), and the _Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs, 4th edition_ (National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, 2012) were used to frame the requirements of the FNP track. The course sequencing and prerequisites were designed to promote development of competencies. The program is designed to prepare nurses to deliver primary health care to families in a variety of settings. Students follow patients through the life cycle utilizing obstetric, pediatric, gynecologic, as well as adult and geriatric primary care diagnostic and management skills. The clinical experiences are supported by preceding or concurrent didactic content. Successful graduates of this program would be eligible to obtain licensure as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), nurse practitioner, with a population focus of family.
## Program Calendar
(Semesters in **Blue** include required on-site class sessions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>On-site Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
<td>DNP 630 Advanced Practice Roles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DNP 632 Evidence-Based Practice I</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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<td><strong>Semester Totals:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Semester 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter 2021</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>DNP 662 Leadership</td>
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<td>DNP 667 Teaching in Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2021</td>
<td>DNP 650 Epidemiology &amp; Population Health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DNP 652 Health Care Economics</td>
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<td>DNP 654 Advanced Health Assessment</td>
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<td>DNP 656 Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
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<td><strong>Semester 4</strong></td>
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<td>Fall 2021</td>
<td>DNP 634 Theoretical Foundations &amp; Scholarly Inquiry</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DNP 660 Quality Improvement in Healthcare</td>
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<td>DNP 664 Advanced Pharmacology I**</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DNP 668 Specialty Focus I (Adult I) (120 clinical clock hours)**</td>
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<td>Winter 2022</td>
<td>DNP 702 Advanced Pharmacology II**</td>
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<td>DNP 704 Evidence-Based Practice II**</td>
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<td>DNP 708 Health Promotion &amp; Preventative Care**</td>
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<td>DNP 720 Specialty Focus III (Pediatrics) (120 clinical clock hours)**</td>
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<td>DNP 722 Evidence-Based Practice III**</td>
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<td>DNP 730 Scholarly Project I**</td>
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<td>to Program</td>
<td>Semesters of Doctoral Residency Credit for Scholarly Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completion</td>
<td>CC 811B, CC 811C, etc. as needed (3 credits per course/semester, all online)</td>
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<td>Continue with 3 credits per semester until degree completion. Not included in program tuition.</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Required Credits:</strong></td>
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*Six-year deadline for program completion from start of program is August 31, 2026*

**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
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 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 654  Advanced Health Assessment  (3 credits; Online)
This course will focus on advanced physical assessment, communication and diagnostic reasoning skills for the advanced practice nurse to care for individuals and families across the lifespan. Skills obtained in this course will be used to analyze health and alterations in health for individuals and families and prepare the student for independent practice.

DNP 656  Advanced Pathophysiology  (3 credits; Online)
This course is a system-focused pathophysiology course that includes advanced concepts of functioning as it relates the family nurse practitioner’s ability to manage illness across the lifespan. Special attention will be given to advanced concepts that correlate with clinical decisions related to diagnosis and therapeutic management. Genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors will also be included as they relate to the epidemiology of disease.

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 664  Advanced Pharmacology I  (3 credits; Online)
This course is designed to provide the comprehensive pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic understanding required by advanced practice nurses to safely and appropriately utilize pharmacotherapeutics. Students acquire the knowledge needed for
the promotion of health and treatment of illnesses encountered in various settings, diverse populations, and across the lifespan. *Pre-requisite: DNP 656; Co-requisite: DNP 668*

**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 701 Specialty Focus II Didactic (Women’s Health & Geriatrics)** (3 credits; Online)
This course is the didactic companion to DNP 700 (clinical). Students will continue to apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and non-pharmacotherapeutics in acute and chronic primary care conditions most often seen in women’s and men’s health and in the older adult (65 plus years of age) population. Topics will include genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences, and laboratory findings, diagnostic studies and primary care procedures. The physical and social aspects of providing primary care to women and aging adults, as well as palliative and end-of-life care, will be explored. *Pre-requisite: DNP 720*

**DNP 702 Advanced Pharmacology II** (2 credits; Online)
This course builds on the synthesis of knowledge gained from Advanced Pharmacology I. Students focus on prescribing and monitoring pharmaceutical and alternative therapeutic agents in select conditions commonly encountered by the advanced practice nurse. This course integrates evidence-based prescribing, as well as ethical and legal aspects of pharmacotherapeutics. *Pre-requisite: DNP 664; Co-requisite: DNP 720*

**DNP 704 Evidence Based Practice II** (3 credits; Online)
This course is the second course in a series of evidenced based practice where the student will evaluate and apply 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. *Pre-requisites: DNP 632*

**DNP 708 Health Promotion and Preventive Care** (3 credits; Online)
This course will direct the student in the examination of published guidelines designed to integrate and institute evidence based clinical prevention and health services for individuals, aggregates, and populations across the life span. *Pre-requisite: DNP 650*

**DNP 722 Evidence Based Practice III** (3 credits; Online)
This course is third in a series of evidenced based concepts where with student will integrate 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. *Pre-requisite: DNP 704*

Schedule and content subject to change.
Clinical Courses:

DNP 668  Specialty Focus I (Adult I)  (5 credits; 4 days on-site)
Students will apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and non-pharmacotherapeutics in recognition and management of acute and chronic primary care conditions most often seen in the adult (18 to 65 years of age) population. Genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences will be considered as differential diagnosis and treatment plans are proposed. Laboratory findings, diagnostic studies and primary care procedures associated with the common conditions will be explored. *Pre-requisites: DNP 654, 656; Co-requisite: DNP 664*

DNP 700  Specialty Focus II (Adult II)  (5.5 credits; 3 days on-site)
Students will continue to apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and non-pharmacotherapeutics in recognition and management of acute and chronic primary care conditions most often seen in women’s and men’s health and in the older adult (65 plus years of age) population. Genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences will be considered as differential diagnosis and treatment plans are proposed. Laboratory findings, diagnostic studies and primary care procedures will be integrated. The physical and social aspects of aging, as well as palliative and end-of-life care, will be explored. *Pre-requisite: DNP 720*

DNP 720  Specialty Focus III (Pediatrics)  (5 credits; 5 days on-site)
Students will continue to apply knowledge of advanced health assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and non-pharmacotherapeutics in recognition and management of acute and chronic primary care conditions most often seen in the pediatric (0 to 18 years of age) population. Genetic, age, gender, and cultural influences will be considered as differential diagnosis and treatment plans are proposed. Laboratory findings, diagnostic studies and primary care procedures associated with the common conditions will be explored. Developmental milestones, variations in laboratory findings and prescriptive approaches will be explored. Strategies and interventions in education, family support, and facilitated family communication will be included. *Pre-requisite: DNP 668; Co-requisite: DNP 702*

DNP 732  Clinical Internship I  (4 credits; 3 days on-site)
This course is the first of a two series clinical practicum that prepares students for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. *Pre-requisite: DNP 700*

DNP 742  Clinical Internship II  (4.5 credits; 2 days on-site)
This course is the second of a two series clinical practicum that prepares students for advanced nursing practice as family nurse practitioners. Students will further their skill development in the primary care of individuals and families across the lifespan with acute and chronic conditions. Students are guided through the application processes for recognition and certification as a family nurse practitioner. *Pre-requisite: DNP 732*
**Scholarly Project Courses:**

**DNP 730   Scholarly Project I**   (3 credits; Online)
This course is the first of a 2-course series designed to assist students in the development of an evidence-based capstone project. The scholarly project is the culminating learning experience in the DNP program. 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. **Pre-requisite: All didactic courses**

**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; 1 day on-site)
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: DNP 740**

Schedule and content subject to change.
Faculty

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