

# Nursing Practice (Professional Program: DNP)

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## Administration:

Dean of the College: Eileen Collins  
Director of Graduate Studies: Elizabeth Aquino

The University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is designed for professional nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing with a focus on clinical or administrative practice. The DNP program is consistent with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's call to produce advanced nursing clinicians who are able to address complex care needs. In addition, it is supported by the National Academy of Science which has advocated for the development of professional practice doctorates as a route to advanced clinical work in nursing. The DNP is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

The DNP degree curriculum at UIC consists of three domains of competencies for advanced practice in direct clinical care or systems: a) core practice competencies, b) specialty-specific practice competencies, and c) role competencies. Our mission is to develop advanced practitioners of nursing into evidence-based, intra-disciplinary providers who meet the needs of a rapidly expanding healthcare field.

The DNP requires completion of 60–97 semester hours (dependent on specialty focus), and can be completed on a part-time or full-time basis. Most students will complete the DNP degree within 3–5 years. The Doctor of Nursing Practice has multiple routes of entry. The program can be completed at any of the six regional campuses (Chicago, Peoria, Quad Cities, Rockford, Springfield, Urbana).

The following specialty concentrations are available:

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Advanced Population Health Nursing
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Health Systems Leadership
- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse Midwifery
- Nurse Midwifery/Women's Health Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner—Acute Care
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner—Primary Care

- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

The DNP also has one affiliated supplemental concentration:

- A concentration in Primary Care Mental Health (PCMH) is offered as a part of the DNP for students in the six primary care specialties: family nurse practitioner, adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner, pediatric nurse practitioner—primary care, nurse midwifery, nurse midwifery/women's health nurse practitioner, and women's health nurse practitioner. The concentration includes elective coursework to provide additional academic preparation for the care of patients who present with common mental health problems that are within the existing scope of primary care practice, such as depression, anxiety, ADD/ADHD and substance use disorders. The primary care mental health concentration does not qualify students to obtain certification as a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice at UIC is considered a professional program and is not administered by the Graduate College. Applications for this program are processed through the College of Nursing. Additional information on the DNP program is available on the College of Nursing website.

## Interdepartmental Concentrations

Students earning this degree may complement their courses by enrolling in select concentrations after consulting with their graduate advisor. Interdepartmental concentrations available for this degree include:

- [Survey Research Methodology](#)

## Admission Requirements

- **Baccalaureate degree** with an upper-division major in nursing from a CCNE or NLN accredited program OR a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution in a field other than nursing plus an RN license. Applicants may apply as they are completing their degree but all students enrolling in the DNP program must have a bachelor's degree before matriculating into the program.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 3.00/4.00 for all work beyond the baccalaureate level and at least 3.00/4.00 for the final 60 semester of the first baccalaureate degree.
- **Test Required** None
- **Letters of Recommendation** Three required; the letters should describe the applicant's academic skills and accomplishments.
- **Application Essays** Required. Applicants will be prompted to answer essay questions within the application. Questions can be found on the [College of Nursing website](#).
- **Resume/CV** Required.
- **Interview** All applicants with completed applications will be contacted by the College of Nursing for an application interview. The interview is a required part of the application process. Applicants who do not sign up for an interview will not be considered for admission.
- **Other Requirements** All students must have a valid **license to practice professional nursing** in at least one jurisdiction. Applicants may apply before they have passed the NCLEX and attained nursing licensure.
- **Focus-Area-Specific Admission Requirements**
  - Applicants to the **Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program** must have a minimum of one year of

RN experience in an adult acute care setting by the time of admission. ICU experience is preferred.

- Applicants to the **Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program** must have a minimum of one year, full-time, RN experience in a pediatric acute care setting by the time of admission. Pediatric emergency department or ICU experience is preferred.

## Degree Requirements

- **Minimum Semester Hours** Varies by focus area; minimum required hours are listed under each focus area section.
- **Coursework**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>DNP Core Courses (required for all focus areas)</b>		
NURS 511	Epidemiology & Statistics for Evidence-Based Practice	
NURS 515	EBP 1: Theoretical Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice	
NURS 516	EBP 2: Implementing Evidence-Based Practice	
NURS 517	Leadership, Policy, and Interprofessional Collaboration: Effecting Change in Complex Health Systems	
NURS 518	Quality and Safety Through Health Technologies	
NURS 519	Health Equity and Social Determinants	
NURS 541	Nursing Information Systems and Technology: Supporting care and generating evidence	
NURS 542	Health Promotion Theories and Population-focused Interventions	
NURS 553	Strategic and Financial Planning for Clinical Programs	
<b>DNP Practicum/Project Courses (required for all focus areas)</b>		
NURS 555	EBP 3: DNP Proposal Development for Translating Evidence to Practice	
NUPR 556	EBP 4: DNP Project Planning and Implementation	
NUPR 557	EBP 5: DNP Project Evaluation and Dissemination	

## DNP Focus Areas

In addition to DNP Core Courses, students must complete requirements in their focus area. The courses listed below reflect the requirements for a student with a BSN. Individual programs plans are developed based on previous degrees and course work. See the College of Nursing website for descriptions of each of the focus areas.

### Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Students pursuing the focus area of Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner must complete a total of 77 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, APRN Core Courses, Focus Area Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Core Courses</b>		
NURS 531	Pharmacotherapeutics	
NURS 532	Comprehensive Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	
NURS 533	Applied Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice in Nursing	
NURS 534	Advanced Physiological Principles Across the Lifespan	
NURS 535	Advanced pathophysiology across the lifespan	
NURS 540	Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing and Policy Implications	
<b>Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Focus Area Courses</b>		
NUSP 534	Management of Health and Illness I: Adult-Gerontology NP Acute Care and Primary Care	
NUSP 536	Management of Health & Illness II: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care	
NUPR 539	Nurse Practitioner Practicum I: Management of Health and Illness in Adults	
NUPR 540	Nurse Practitioner Practicum II: Management of Health and Illness in Adults	
NUPR 541	Nurse Practitioner Practicum III: Management of Health and Illness in Adults	

### Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Students pursuing the focus area of Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner must complete a total of 77 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, APRN Core Courses, Focus Area Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Core Courses</b>		
NURS 531	Pharmacotherapeutics	
NURS 532	Comprehensive Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	
NURS 533	Applied Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice in Nursing	
NURS 534	Advanced Physiological Principles Across the Lifespan	
NURS 535	Advanced pathophysiology across the lifespan	
NURS 540	Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing and Policy Implications	
<b>Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Focus Area Courses</b>		
NUSP 534	Management of Health and Illness I: Adult-Gerontology NP Acute Care and Primary Care	

NUSP 535	Management of Health and Illness II: Adult-Gerontology Primary Care
NUPR 539	Nurse Practitioner Practicum I: Management of Health and Illness in Adults
NUPR 540	Nurse Practitioner Practicum II: Management of Health and Illness in Adults
NUPR 541	Nurse Practitioner Practicum III: Management of Health and Illness in Adults

## Advanced Population Health Nursing

Students pursuing the focus area of Advanced Population Health Nursing must complete a total of 60 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, Focus Area Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Population Health Nursing Focus Area Courses</b>		
NUSP 592	Issues in Advanced Population Health Nursing	
NUPR 591	Advanced Population Health Evaluation and Policy	
NUPR 594	Advanced Systems Level Nursing Leadership	
NUPR 595	Clinical Option: Advanced Systems Level Nursing Practice	
NUPR 597	Advanced Population Health and Program Planning	

## Family Nurse Practitioner

Students pursuing the focus area of Family Nurse Practitioner must complete a total of 79 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, APRN Core Courses, Focus Area Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Core Courses</b>		
NURS 531	Pharmacotherapeutics	
NURS 532	Comprehensive Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	
NURS 534	Advanced Physiological Principles Across the Lifespan	
NURS 535	Advanced pathophysiology across the lifespan	
NURS 540	Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing and Policy Implications	
<b>Family Nurse Practitioner Focus Area Courses</b>		
NUSP 515	Health Management in Primary Care I	
NUSP 516	Health Management in Primary Care II	
NUSP 517	Health Management in Primary Care III	
NUSP 590	Family-Focused Health Management in Primary Care	
NUPR 521	Clinical Practice in Primary Care I	

NUPR 522	Clinical Practice in Primary Care II
NUPR 523	Clinical Practice in Primary Care III

## Health Systems Leadership

Students pursuing the focus area of Health Systems Leadership must complete a total of 62 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, APRN Core Courses, Focus Area Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Health Systems Leadership Focus Area Courses</b>		
NUPR 506	Data-driven Health Care Improvement	
NUPR 594	Advanced Systems Level Nursing Leadership	
NUPR 595	Clinical Option: Advanced Systems Level Nursing Practice	
NUSP 542	Financial Management and Budget Planning	
NUSP 543	Human Resources and Org Behavior	
NUSP 544	Leading the Transformation of Health Care and System	
NUSP 571	Healthcare Economics	

## Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Students pursuing the focus area of Neonatal Nurse Practitioner must complete a total of 82 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, APRN Core Courses, Focus Area Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Core Courses</b>		
NURS 531	Pharmacotherapeutics	
NURS 533	Applied Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice in Nursing	
NURS 535	Advanced pathophysiology across the lifespan	
NURS 540	Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing and Policy Implications	
<b>Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Focus Area Courses</b>		
NUSP 549	Biological Basis for Women's Health and Perinatal Nursing II	
NUSP 560	Advanced Neonatal Management I: The High Risk Neonate	
NUSP 561	Advanced Neonatal Management II: The Acutely Ill Infant	
NUSP 562	Advanced Neonatal Management III: The Gravely Ill Infant	
NUSP 563	Essentials of Patient and Family Centered Care	
NUSP 565	Comprehensive Health Assessment for Advanced Neonatal Nursing Practice	
NUPR 574	Advanced Neonatal Nurse Clinical Practicum	

## Nurse Midwifery

Students pursuing the focus area of Nurse Midwifery must complete a total of 88 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, APRN Core Courses, Focus Area Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Core Courses</b>		
NURS 531	Pharmacotherapeutics	
NURS 532	Comprehensive Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	
NURS 535	Advanced pathophysiology across the lifespan	
NURS 540	Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing and Policy Implications	

### Nurse Midwifery Focus Area Courses

NUSP 548	Biological Basis for Women's Health and Perinatal Nursing I	
NUSP 549	Biological Basis for Women's Health and Perinatal Nursing II	
NUSP 550	Issues for Research and Practice in Women's Health	
NUSP 555	Health Care of Women I	
NUSP 556	Health Care of Women II	
NUSP 557	Health Care of Women III	
NUSP 559	Dimensions of Midwifery and Women's Health Practice	
NUPR 564	Assessment and Care of the Newborn	
NUPR 572	Practicum: Health Care of Women	
NUPR 573	Practicum: Birth and the Newborn	

## Nurse Midwifery/Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

Students pursuing the focus area of Nurse Midwifery/Women's Health Nurse Practitioner must complete a total of 95 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, APRN Core Courses, Focus Area Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Core Courses</b>		
NURS 531	Pharmacotherapeutics	
NURS 533	Applied Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice in Nursing	
NURS 535	Advanced pathophysiology across the lifespan	
NURS 540	Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing and Policy Implications	

### Nurse Midwifery/Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Focus Area Courses

NUSP 548	Biological Basis for Women's Health and Perinatal Nursing I	
NUSP 549	Biological Basis for Women's Health and Perinatal Nursing II	
NUSP 550	Issues for Research and Practice in Women's Health	

NUSP 555	Health Care of Women I	
NUSP 556	Health Care of Women II	
NUSP 557	Health Care of Women III	
NUSP 559	Dimensions of Midwifery and Women's Health Practice	
NUPR 564	Assessment and Care of the Newborn	
NUPR 572	Practicum: Health Care of Women	
NUPR 573	Practicum: Birth and the Newborn	

## Pediatric Nurse Practitioner—Acute Care

Students pursuing the focus area of Pediatric Nurse Practitioner—Acute Care must complete a total of 81 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, APRN Core Courses, Focus Area Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Core Courses</b>		
NURS 531	Pharmacotherapeutics	
NURS 532	Comprehensive Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	
NURS 533	Applied Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice in Nursing	
NURS 534	Advanced Physiological Principles Across the Lifespan	
NURS 535	Advanced pathophysiology across the lifespan	
NURS 540	Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing and Policy Implications	

### Pediatric Nurse Practitioner—Acute Care Focus Area Courses

NUSP 553	Primary Care of the Infant, Child, and Adolescent	
NUSP 554	Management of Acute and Chronic Conditions in Infants, Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults	
NUSP 564	Management of infants, children, adolescents, young adults with complex, acute, & critical illness	
NUPR 551	Practicum: Health maintenance & management of common acute illness in the infant, child, adolescent	
NUPR 552	Practicum: Management of Infant, Child, Adolescent/Young Adult with Chronic Illness	
NUPR 553	Practicum in the Care of the Critically Ill Child	

## Pediatric Nurse Practitioner—Primary Care

Students pursuing the focus area of Pediatric Nurse Practitioner—Primary Care must complete a total of 75 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, APRN Core Courses, Concentration Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Core Courses</b>		

NURS 531	Pharmacotherapeutics
NURS 532	Comprehensive Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice
NURS 533	Applied Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice in Nursing
NURS 534	Advanced Physiological Principles Across the Lifespan
NURS 535	Advanced pathophysiology across the lifespan
NURS 540	Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing and Policy Implications

#### **Pediatric Nurse Practitioner—Primary Care Focus Area Courses**

NUSP 553	Primary Care of the Infant, Child, and Adolescent
NUSP 554	Management of Acute and Chronic Conditions in Infants, Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults
NUPR 551	Practicum: Health maintenance & management of common acute illness in the infant, child, adolescent
NUPR 552	Practicum: Management of Infant, Child, Adolescent/Young Adult with Chronic Illness

### **Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner**

Students pursuing the focus area of Psychiatric—Mental Health Nurse Practitioner must complete a total of 85 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, APRN Core Courses, Focus Area Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Core Courses</b>		

NURS 531	Pharmacotherapeutics	
NURS 532	Comprehensive Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	
NURS 533	Applied Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice in Nursing	
NURS 534	Advanced Physiological Principles Across the Lifespan	
NURS 535	Advanced pathophysiology across the lifespan	
NURS 540	Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing and Policy Implications	

#### **Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner—Primary Care Focus Area Courses**

NUSP 525	Group Dynamics, Behavior and Intervention	
NUSP 526	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Assessment and Intervention	
NUSP 527	Mental Health Assessment of Acute and Chronic Illness	
NUSP 528	Mental Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	
NUSP 529	Family Behavioral Health	

NUPR 531	Mental Health Assessment of Acute and Chronic Illness Practicum I
NUPR 532	Mental Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
NUPR 533	Professional Role and Policy Development

### **Women's Health Nurse Practitioner**

Students pursuing the focus area of Women's Health Nurse Practitioner must complete a total of 87 semester hours, including DNP Core Courses, APRN Core Courses, Focus Area Courses, and DNP Practicum/Project courses.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Core Courses</b>		

NURS 531	Pharmacotherapeutics	
NURS 532	Comprehensive Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	
NURS 535	Advanced pathophysiology across the lifespan	
NURS 540	Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing and Policy Implications	

#### **Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Focus Area Courses**

NUSP 548	Biological Basis for Women's Health and Perinatal Nursing I	
NUSP 549	Biological Basis for Women's Health and Perinatal Nursing II	
NUSP 550	Issues for Research and Practice in Women's Health	
NUSP 555	Health Care of Women I	
NUSP 556	Health Care of Women II	
NUSP 557	Health Care of Women III	
NUSP 559	Dimensions of Midwifery and Women's Health Practice	
NUPR 572	Practicum: Health Care of Women	

## **Additional Concentrations**

### **Primary Care Mental Health**

#### **Admission Requirements**

In order to be part of the PCMH concentration, students must first apply for and meet the requirements for admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. In addition, they must apply separately to the PCMH concentration. Candidates for the PCMH concentration would need to meet the following requirements:

- Admission to one of the following eligible DNP programs: Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner—Primary Care, Nurse Midwifery, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse-Midwifery/Women's Health Nurse Practitioner; or current certification as a primary care APRN and admission to the DNP program as a post-master's no new specialty student.
- Interview and favorable recommendations from the PCMH concentration faculty.
- Intention to complete all five courses in the PCMH concentration.

## Concentration Coursework

The five required courses in the PCMH concentration are regularly offered at all College of Nursing campuses. All courses are delivered via distance learning technology. The majority of the courses in the program require weekly synchronous online course meetings. The PCMH concentration allows for flexibility in degree planning. However, most students will complete the PCMH concentration course work across a five-semester sequence in the latter two years of their respective programs.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Courses</b>		
NUSP 525	Group Dynamics, Behavior and Intervention	
NUSP 526	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Assessment and Intervention	
NUSP 527	Mental Health Assessment of Acute and Chronic Illness	
NUSP 528	Mental Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	
NURS 533	Applied Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice in Nursing	