



# Doctor of Nursing Practice

Consortium of the Schools of Nursing  
California State University, Fullerton  
California State University, Long Beach  
California State University, Los Angeles

**Note: The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program is pending WASC approval.**

## **Why pursue the Doctor of Nursing Practice at California State University?**

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) is a practice-focused doctoral degree, such as the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Optometry (O.D.), or Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.), in contrast to the research-focused Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). The purposes of the D.N.P. are to develop advanced competencies for increasingly complex practice, teaching, and leadership roles in nursing and to provide an advanced educational credential for those in practice. The changing demands of this nation's complex health care environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) asserts that the necessary level of preparation for advanced nursing practice be moved from the master's degree to the doctoral level by the year 2015. In addition to completing the Essentials of Doctoral Nursing Practice outlined by AACN, students will complete additional coursework in teaching strategies, curriculum development, and may elect to complete a nursing education practicum to prepare for faculty roles.

## **What are the unique components of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree?**

The Consortium Doctor of Nursing Practice program is a post-master's degree program. This curriculum allows the student to continue working full-time if desired. Uniquely different from other programs, the degree program offered by the Consortium of Schools of Nursing features:

1. A curriculum that will prepare one for the faculty role, including courses in curriculum development and teaching methods, as well as an elective opportunity for practice teaching;
2. A broader selection of advanced practice practicum courses, building on the existing strengths of the Consortium campuses;
3. A three-semester Integrative Clinical Scholarship series, embedded in clinical practice, culminating in a scholarly doctoral project; and
4. Faculty with specializations in the following areas: Anesthesia; Clinical Nurse Specialist; Management/Administration/Leadership; Midwifery; Nurse Practitioner Acute Care (Adult); Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (Adult, Adult/Gerontological, Family, Pediatrics, Psychiatric/Mental Health, and Women's Health); and Community/Public Health Nursing.



**Is the D.N.P. program accredited?**

The D.N.P. program has a planned start date of fall, 2012, pending approval from the CSU Chancellor's Office and from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The program will host a planned accreditation visit from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in the fall of 2013.

**How long will it take to complete the degree?**

The Doctor of Nursing Practice curriculum is a post-master's, two-year program of study over five (5) semesters.

**What are the D.N.P. program requirements?**

The D.N.P. program requires 36 units of post-master's study. Each student's study plan may vary depending on one's educational/specialty background. Students will complete a qualifying doctoral assessment prior to commencing the culminating experience – a three- semester Integrative Clinical Scholarship course in which the doctoral project is completed.

We strongly encourage students to gain permission of their employer so that clinical and scholarship activities may be conducted at the student's worksite. Following completion of the doctoral project, students must satisfactorily defend the project before being recommended for graduation.

**Is the Consortium D.N.P. program available online?**

At this time, the D.N.P. program is an on-campus program. Courses will be clustered on a single day to facilitate ease of balancing work and school schedules.

In the student's second year, courses in Development and Evaluation of Nursing Curricula and Instructional Design are available online.

**What is required for admission?**

Students will be admitted to a cohort each fall semester and are expected to complete the degree within five consecutive semesters of admission. There will not be an option for Open University Enrollment. Registration will be centralized for the Consortium at California State University, Fullerton. Candidates seeking admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program must meet the admission requirements of California State University, Fullerton and the requirements of the Consortium of the Schools of Nursing.

Applicants seeking admission to the D.N.P. program must have:

1. A master's degree, from an accredited institution, in nursing or a health related field (i.e., public health or health administration) and national certification as an advanced practice registered nurse (CNM, CNS, CRNA or NP) for preparation as clinicians, leaders or educators,

OR

A master's in nursing from an accredited institution in nursing leadership or administration, nursing education, or community health nursing for preparation as nurse educators or nurse leaders. National certification in a clinical nursing specialty is preferred and must be attained by the end of the first year of D.N.P. study.

2. A grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in overall graduate coursework.

3. Pre-requisite courses for admission include master's level coursework in Advanced Physical/Health Assessment, Advanced Pathophysiology and Advanced Pharmacology. Also required is a course in inferential statistics or its equivalent.<sup>1</sup> Students with a degree other than nursing will be required to make up deficiencies in preparation, such as nursing theory, research, and transcultural nursing.
4. Current, unrestricted California RN licensure or eligibility and advanced practice national certification and national furnishing/prescriptive authority, if applicable, current CPR card (BCLS; ACLS for Acute Care Nurse Practitioners; and for Nurse Anesthesia, ACLS and PALS), medical clearance <sup>2</sup> (physical exam, PPD or chest x-ray, MMR, Tdap, Hepatitis B, Varicella, and Influenza immunizations), proper automobile licensure and insurance are also required.
5. Eligible for credentialing within clinical site(s) as appropriate.
6. Three letters of reference and a personal written statement of purpose.
7. Official documentation of nursing practicum hours attained during the master's degree program or the post-master's certificate program.
8. Completion of the School of Nursing Application and proof of university application.
9. Completion of interviews and on-site writing sample, as requested

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<sup>1</sup> Graduate Record Examination results may be submitted but are not required

<sup>2</sup> Students must maintain current documents (e.g., medical clearance, immunizations, insurance, licensure, certification and clear background check) while enrolled; requirements may change.

*Note.* All applicants, regardless of citizenship, whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English, must demonstrate competence in English by taking the TOFEL test. A minimum score of 550 (paper) or 213 (computer) on the TOEFL Test is required. A score of 7 or above on the IELTS exam is also acceptable. Questions should be directed to Admissions and Records.

## What is a typical study plan?

Courses required for the D.N.P. Program are shown in the following study plan:

### **Year 1**

#### *Fall (9 units)*

Nursing 600 Biostatistics for APN (3)

Nursing 605 Advanced Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing (3)

Nursing 610 Leadership, Management and Economics in Advanced Nursing Practice (3)

#### *Spring (9 units)*

Nursing 620 Informatics in Healthcare (3)

Nursing 615 Epidemiology and Clinical Prevention (3)

Nursing 697A Integrative Clinical Scholarship I: Evidence-based Practice (3)

*Summer (6 units)*

Nursing 640 D.N.P. Clinical Practicum: Professional Role Development (3)

Nursing 630 Healthcare Policy, Ethics and Advocacy (3)

*Qualifying Doctoral Assessment (late summer or early fall)*

## **Year 2**

*Fall (6 units)*

Nursing 697B Integrative Clinical Scholarship II: Evidence-based Practice (3)

Nursing 510 Development and Evaluation of Nursing Curricula (3)

*Spring (6-9 units)*

Nursing 697C Integrative Clinical Scholarship III: Evidence-based Practice (3)

Nursing 512 Instructional Design in Nursing Education (3)

Nursing 516 Nurse Educator Practicum (3)\*

*Doctoral Project Defense*

**Total Units: 36-39**

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\*Elective

### **What types of financial aid are available?**

Nursing students are eligible for all scholarships, grants or loans available to the general student body. For information, visit the CSUF Financial Aid website at <http://www.fullerton.edu/financialaid/> or call the office of Financial Aid at 657- 278- 3125. For nursing scholarship opportunities please visit the School of Nursing website: <http://nursing.fullerton.edu/StudentResources.aspx> to find an array of offerings.

### **Who advises me?**

Once you have submitted an application packet, you will be contacted regarding the next steps. Upon completion of the application packet, you may be contacted for an interview. With admission, the student will be assigned a faculty advisor, who will meet with you to formulate a study plan and advise on selection of a chairperson for the doctoral project.

### **How can I learn more?**

To learn more about this program of study and download an application packet visit <http://nursing.fullerton.edu/ProspectiveStudents/DNP.aspx> Information about the D.N.P. program can also be found at [http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/chhs/departments/nursing/doctor\\_of\\_nursing](http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/chhs/departments/nursing/doctor_of_nursing) OR [http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/hhs/nursing/PDF/DNP\\_info\\_req.pdf](http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/hhs/nursing/PDF/DNP_info_req.pdf)

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