DNP Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Florida State University
College of Nursing

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Q: How long will it take to complete the program?
   A: The DNP is 8 consecutive semesters (including summer semesters) for full-time students or 14 semesters for part-time study.

Q: Do the credit hours completed in my master’s program count toward the total required 90 post baccalaureate hours?
   A: Credit hours completed in your master’s program count toward the total required 90 post baccalaureate hours. Each student’s transcript is evaluated individually to determine the number of transfer hours that will be accepted. A minimum of 48 of the required 90 hours must be completed at FSU.

Q: Is the program totally online?
   A: No, six core courses are currently available online. The remaining courses are offered via Interactive Television in Tallahassee, Panama City, and Sarasota.

Q: Are any trips to main campus required?
   A: A 2-day orientation session at the main campus in Tallahassee is required prior to the first semester. Students in the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) track are also required to attend a Friday to Sunday session for Health Assessment lab and advanced skills procedures.

Q: What computer specifications are required?
   A: Computer systems are constantly changing. For a current list of computer hardware recommended, please see the computer requirements of FSU’s Guide to Computing Resources (http://gtcr.fsu.edu)

Q: What type of computer network access do I need?
   A: You will need a high-speed Internet connection such as cable, or DSL with the minimum line speed of 384 Kbps or higher.

Q: Will I need specific computer skills?
   A: Skills you need include, but are not limited to: word processing, online database searching, and E-learning navigation skills (e.g., Blackboard). The University provides on-campus and off-campus support (by phone 644-4357) where you can ask questions and receive help with technology and its website. (http://helpdesk.fsu.edu)
Q: Is a dissertation required?
    A: No, a dissertation is not required. The student will complete a 5 credit hour DNP project. This will be an evidence-based, scholarly project designed by the student in collaboration with a faculty advisor.

ADMISSION

Q: How do I apply?
    A: There are two applications to complete.
    Graduate School at: https://admissions.fsu.edu/gradapp/
    This application is submitted electronically.
    College of Nursing at: http://nursing.fsu.edu/apply-to-fsu-nursing
    This application can be submitted electronically.

Q: Is there an application fee?
    A: Yes, the FSU Graduate School application fee is $30.00.

Q: Is the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) required for all applicants?
    A: Yes, all applicants must take the GRE or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) and submit official scores by the application deadline date. GRE/MAT scores need to be competitive. The Admissions, Progressions and Graduation Committee at the College of Nursing does consider GRE or MAT scores as one component of the application review process. For information, test dates, and application forms go to: http://www.gre.org or www.milleranalogies.com

Q: Are all qualified applicants admitted to the program?
    A: No, the number of applicants admitted to the DNP Program will be limited to approximately 24 new students each academic year. Meeting the minimum admission criteria does not ensure that the applicant will be admitted to the program.

Q: Can I apply to start any semester?
    A: No, students are only admitted once each year to start course work in the Fall semester. The application deadline for Fall semester is April 15th.

COURSE SEQUENCE AND COURSE WORK

Q: How will I know which courses to take?
    A: A plan of study will be developed for you upon admission. You may modify the plan by discussing this with the DNP academic advisor.

Q: May I go part-time?
    A: Yes, the program is currently designed for full-time or part-time study.
Q: Can I take one course at a time?
   A: The program is currently designed for students to take 2-4 courses each semester (Fall, Spring, Summer). The student’s initial plan of study will be designed in this manner. If it becomes necessary to only take one course or to skip a semester the DNP academic advisor will work with the student to adjust the plan of study. Because some courses are pre-requisite to others and each course is only offered one time each year, the student should expect possible delays in completion if the plan of study is changed. Students must complete the program within 7 years.

Q: What is the time frame for offering courses?
   A: Semesters are 16 weeks for Fall and Spring semesters and 13 weeks for Summer semester.

Q: Are elective courses offered online?
   A: Yes, several elective courses will be available online through the College of Nursing as well as other departments within the university. A list of DNP Online Elective Courses is provided on our Graduate Program BlackBoard site.

Q: How will I know what elective courses I should take and how many elective course hours I will need?
   A: The program of study indicates when an elective should be taken. The coordinator of the DNP Program will assist you in determining what elective courses you should take and how many elective course hours you will need.

Q: Can I take the nursing education certificate courses as part of my DNP program of study?
   A: Yes, you may use the nursing education courses as electives for the DNP.

Q: Do I work at my own pace?
   A: The program is structured on a semester basis with assignments due at specific times. You may work at your own pace during the assignment period.

Q: How do online courses work?
   A: The BlackBoard system is used for online courses. This system is structured for course work including an announcement page, access to syllabi, course calendar, modules, links to web sites such as the library, discussion boards, and quizzes. Asynchronous discussion boards are often used for assignments to allow students to post information and for the instructor and other students to respond. Live online chats, webinars, and conference calls may also be used.

**CLINICAL EXPERIENCES**

Q: How many of the courses require clinical hours?
   A: For the post baccalaureate program there is a total of 1,000 required clinical hours. Students with a masters of science in nursing (MSN) degree are evaluated individually.
to determine the number of clinical hours needed. A minimum of 325 clinical hours are required.

Q: Where do I go for my clinical experience?
   A: Clinical experiences may be completed in your own community with preceptors you select based on requirements for the course.

Q: Will you help me find qualified preceptors?
   A: We will provide guidance in relation to required qualifications for preceptors. Generally students are able to network effectively to find individuals in their area who can serve as preceptors.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION
Q: Can I apply for financial aid?
   A: See the Florida State University web page for Financial Aid at:
      http://financialaid.fsu.edu

Q: Are any scholarships available?
   A: The University offers a limited number of fellowships and assistantships for highly qualified individuals. Please visit: http://www.gradstudies.fsu.edu

Q: What other types of financial support is available for DNP students?
   A. Many nursing organizations provide financial support for nurses in doctoral programs. See the following webpages:
      http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Education/financialaid.htm
      http://www.floridanurse.org/foundationgrants/index.asp

Q. What types of loan repayment programs are available for nurses?
   A. The federal government and some employers offer loan repayment programs. For more information see the HRSA webpage at
      http://www.hrsa.gov/loansscholarships/scholarship/Nursing/

TUITION
Q: What is the tuition and do you have a payment plan?
   A: Please see the FSU’s web page at: http://www.fsu.edu/students/

Q: Are there any other fees?
   A: There is a fee of $100.00 per credit for each online course, which provides access to 24-hour help. http://controller.vpfa.fsu.edu/Student-Financial-Services/SFS-For-Students/Tuition-Rates