Nursing – Graduate Program Overview

UH Manoa Nursing offers master’s and doctoral degrees to prepare nurses with advanced knowledge and skills for the dynamic nursing profession. UHM nurses with graduate preparation provide direct and indirect patient care at an advanced level focusing on adults, families, geriatrics, and population health; conduct research; teach; lead health systems; create public policy; and implement evidence-based solutions in healthcare. Nurses with a master’s or doctoral degree have opportunities to impact the systems level design and implementation of care.

Graduate nursing courses are offered in online, face-to-face, and hybrid (blended) formats.

Degrees

- **Master of Science**: Prepares the nurse for an advanced role in population health.
- **Doctor of Nursing Practice**: Prepares the nurse for specialized advanced nursing practice and organizational leadership.
- **PhD in Nursing**: Prepares the nurse scientist for a career in research.

Specialties

- Advanced Population Health Nursing (Master of Science)
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (DNP)
- Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP)
- Post-Master’s in Organizational Leadership (DNP)
Degree Entry Pathways

- Non-Nurses with a Non-Nursing Bachelor’s Degree
  - Graduate Entry Program in Nursing pathway to the MS, DNP, PhD
- RNs with a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing
  - MS, DNP, PhD
- RNs with an Associate Degree in Nursing and a Non-Nursing Bachelor’s Degree
  - MS, DNP, PhD
- RNs with a Master’s Degree
  - DNP, PhD

Graduate Program Offerings

Master’s Degree Program: Advanced Population Health Nursing (APHN)

30 – 39 credits. Full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 year) study options.

- Bachelor’s to MS*
- RN to MS
  - Graduate Entry (GEPN) to MS**

* Post-Baccalaureate students must obtain the RN license by the start of the program.

** GEPN students must complete the pre-licensure year and obtain the RN license by the end of the first semester of the specialty track coursework.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree Program: Adult-Gerontology Primary Care
Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) or Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

77 credits. Full-time (3 year), cohort model.

- Bachelor’s to DNP*
- RN to DNP
- Graduate Entry (GEPN) to DNP**

* Post-Baccalaureate students must obtain the RN license by the start of the program.

** GEPN students must complete the pre-licensure year and obtain the RN license by the end of the first semester of the specialty track coursework.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree Program: Post-Master’s in Organizational Leadership

36 – 53 credits. Part-time (2 years), cohort model.

- Master’s to DNP

PhD Degree Program: Nursing

57 didactic credits plus 1 additional credit per semester for dissertation work until completed. Full-time (3 year), cohort model.

- Bachelor’s to PhD*
- RN to PhD
- Graduate Entry (GEPN) to PhD**
- Master’s to PhD

* Post-Baccalaureate students must obtain the RN license by the start of the program.

** GEPN students must complete the pre-licensure year and
obtain the RN license by the end of the first semester of the specialty track coursework.

## Which Terminal Nursing Degree is Right for You?

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<th><strong>DNP</strong></th>
<th><strong>PhD</strong></th>
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<td>A professional practice doctorate integrating evidence based practice, quality improvement, and systems leadership to prepare experts in specialized advanced nursing practice</td>
<td>A doctorate preparing nursing scholars with a focus on culturally appropriate clinical research aimed at improving the health of people in diverse societies.</td>
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<td><strong>Program Outcome:</strong> Leaders in clinical and executive positions translating emerging science and developing policy to improve patient and population-based care</td>
<td><strong>Program Outcome:</strong> Scientists prepared for a research career in research-intensive environments and health care. Nurses prepared for a faculty research role in academia.</td>
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A practice-application DNP project.  
Completion and defense of an original research study (dissertation).

Contact

Christopher P. Stutes, MLA  
Graduate Entry Program in Nursing Coordinator

Contact for applicants and enrolled students in the Graduate Entry Program in Nursing (GEPN).

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
2528 McCarthy Mall, Webster Hall 224  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone: (808) 956-0445  
Fax: (808) 956-5977  
Email: gepn@hawaii.edu
Raymond Jarman, PhD  
Associate Specialist, Master of Science and PhD Program Advisor  

Contact for applicants and enrolled students in the Master of Science and PhD programs.  

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
2528 McCarthy Mall, Webster Hall 201  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone: (808) 956-3519  
Fax: (808) 956-5977  
Email: gradnurs@hawaii.edu (For Master of Science program)  
phdnurs@hawaii.edu (For PhD program)  

Aeza Hafalia, M.Ed  
DNP Program Coordinator & NEXus Campus Staff Coordinator  

Contact for applicants and enrolled students in the DNP
program and the NEXus Program.

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawaii at Manoa
2528 McCarthy Mall, Webster Hall 201
Honolulu, HI 96822
Ph: 808-956-8401
Fax: 808-956-5977
Email: dnpnurs@hawaii.edu

For questions related to the UH Manoa Graduate Division application, please contact graduate.education@hawaii.edu or 808-956-8544.

For technical assistance with the NursingCAS application, please contact NursingCAS or 617-612-2880.

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