Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

For RNs who have a Bachelor’s or Higher Degree

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program offers the terminal degree in Nursing Practice and is designed as a post-baccalaureate or higher degree program to meet our statewide demand for a highly competent nursing workforce equipped with the skills to ensure the delivery of safe, quality nursing care in Hawaii. The program incorporates the AACN Essentials for Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (AACN, 2006) as the foundation for the curriculum, integrating evidence based practice, quality improvement, and systems leadership to prepare experts in specialized advanced nursing practice.

DNP Specialties

- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner – For RNs with a bachelor’s degree or higher
- Family Nurse Practitioner – For RNs with a bachelor’s degree or higher
- Post-Master’s in Organizational Leadership – For RNs with a master’s degree or higher

DNP Degree Entry Pathways

Students can enter the DNP program through one of five pathways.

- Bachelor’s to DNP – RNs with a bachelor’s degree in nursing
- RN to DNP – RNs with an associate degree in nursing and a non-nursing bachelor’s degree
- Master’s to DNP – RNs with a master’s degree
  - UH Manoa Shidler College of Business EMBA-HC to DNP – RNs with a master’s degree from UH Manoa Shidler College of Business
- Graduate Entry Program in Nursing – Non-nurses with a non-nursing bachelor’s degree

**Fast Facts**
- Admits registered nurses (RN) with a bachelor’s or higher degree.
- Students enter and progress in a learning cohort.
- Students participate in a mandatory summer intensive held 1-3 days on-campus.
- Courses are offered in face-to-face sessions, online, and/or blended delivery.
- Coursework includes developing, implementing, and evaluating a DNP project.
- Individual academic advising and support is provided throughout the program.
- Eligible to take a certification exam based on the DNP specialty.

**Program Outcomes / Competencies**

The AACN *Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice* provides the curricular elements and framework for the program (AACN, 2006). Copies or versions in other languages are available at the [AACN Essentials website](#).

**Doctor of Nursing Practice**

A competent advanced practice nurse:

1. demonstrates professional actions based on core nursing values, professional standards of practice, and the law.
2. develops insight through reflective practice, self-analysis, and self care through the understanding of the law.
3. engages in ongoing self-directed learning and provides care based on evidence supported by research.
4. demonstrates leadership in nursing and health care.
5. collaborates as part of a health care team.
6. practices within, utilizes, and contributes to the broader health care system.
7. practices client-centered care.
8. communicates effectively and uses technology to support the delivery of health services.
9. demonstrates clinical judgment and critical thinking in the delivery of care of clients while maintaining safety.

**DNP Project**

Graduates of the program meet the accreditation requirement of a minimum of 1,000 post-baccalaureate supervised practice hours. The required NURS 776 DNP Project hours will vary dependent on the student’s documented post-baccalaureate practicum hours; 1 credit hour = 3 hours per week or 45 hours per semester. Students may receive course credit by submitting a portfolio demonstrating achievement of the learning outcomes.

**Unofficial Transcript Review**

A free unofficial transcript review is available to prospective students to determine the possible length of study. The transcript review is unofficial and is offered as a guidance tool for prospective students. The official transcript review occurs once a prospective student applies to the program and submits all required documentation and fees.
Partnership in the Nursing Education Exchange

University of Hawaii at Manoa is a member of NEXus (The Nursing Education Exchange). NEXus is a collaboration between participating doctoral programs in nursing that allows doctoral students enrolled at member colleges and universities to take courses that may not be offered at his/her home institution for a common tuition price. Students may fulfill requirements by enrolling in NEXus courses.

Contact

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

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

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For the Graduate Entry Program in Nursing (GEPN) to DNP

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

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

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University of Hawaii at Manoa