

## Information Specifically for DNP Students

### I. Overview of Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP)

The Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) in the College of Nursing was inaugurated in the 2007-2008 academic year after final Board of Regents approval in June, 2007. The DNP program at Iowa grew from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) mandate that all advanced nurse practitioners be prepared at the practice doctorate level by the year 2015. Faculty at the College worked on the proposal for several years and developed a program designed initially for post MSN Nurse Practitioners. The purpose and vision of the DNP program at Iowa is to:

- Prepare the next generation of nursing leaders
- Position graduates to be national leaders in the discovery and application of nursing knowledge
- Engage in strategic partnerships with the nursing and health care communities in Iowa, nationally and globally

The post-BSN to DNP program is 72-78 semester hours depending on the clinical specialization. The post-master's ARNP will add an additional 26-32 semester hours. The plan of study reflects the national educational standards developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). The courses will deepen the knowledge and skills of persons preparing for an advanced practice role with an emphasis on evidenced-based practice and the evaluation of practice to improve health care outcomes and cultivate expertise in health policy and organizational and systems leadership.

### II. DNP Admission Requirements

- Completed [Graduate College application form](#) and fee
- Completed UI [College of Nursing application form](#)
- Graduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Complete transcripts for work done in all undergraduate and graduate schools
- Three professional [recommendations](#) (U Iowa recommendation forms required) in sealed business-size envelope with appraisers signature across the flap
- Copy of RN/ARNP license which includes expiration date
- Goal statement and Self-Assessment (2-3 pages)
  - (Briefly describe your goals and how you will use this academic opportunity to impact on your practice. Please include an assessment of your strengths as a nurse practitioner and what special interests you have.)
- CV or resume

- Graduates from advance practice programs other than University of Iowa must provide verification on clinical hours from the NP Program Director
- Verification of certification as ARNP if entering as post-MSN-ARNP.
- [Supplemental Information](#) form

### **Requirements for International Students**

Due to the level of internet-based coursework in the program, international students in this program of study are not eligible to receive an I-20 form for F-1 (student) visas/immigration status. Many international students, though, will be able to receive documentation to qualify for J-1 (exchange visitors) visas/status. Questions regarding visas and immigration documentation should be addressed to the Office of International Students and Scholars; e-mail [oiiss@uiowa.edu](mailto:oiiss@uiowa.edu).

A minimum score of 550 paper-based, 213 computer-based or 81 iBT on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or 7.0 with no subscore lower than 6.0 on the IELTS for students whose first language is not English.

### **III. Advising**

All DNP students are assigned a faculty advisor. The role of the faculty advisor is to mentor and provide career guidance to students. Advisors may help identify their clinical practicum interests and also serve on the student's project committee. Additional advising by graduate office staff will help students enroll in courses and assist students in meeting important deadlines and complying with College requirements such as licensure, HIPPA, or criminal background check.

### **IV. Plan of Study**

Part-time and full-time plans of study may be found at the site below.

[http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/academic\\_programs/graduate/dnp/programs.htm](http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/academic_programs/graduate/dnp/programs.htm)

The DNP plan of study is developed in accordance with national standards that reflect the area of specialization. Clinical hours for persons with an advanced clinical practice focus total 1000; post-MSN-ARNPs clinical hours are determined through verification of previous clinical requirements and consultation with the DNP Director. Clinical hours support clinical specialization and the capstone project. Students may not change their plan of study without consulting and permission from their advisor and student services staff.

### **V. Academic Residence Requirement**

As students of the Graduate College, students must meet the academic residence requirement (See Graduate College Handbook <http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/graduate-college-manual>). Post-MSN-ARNP students must complete a sequence of 3 consecutive semesters within their plan of study in a 6 semester hours, 6 semester hours, 5 semester hours schedule.

## VI. Capstone Project (96:308 Clinical/Leadership Project)

The Clinical Leadership Project provides the student the opportunity for in-depth analysis and synthesis of a chosen topic that contributes to some aspect of advanced nursing practice. The student will develop their project within the evidence based practice/translational science courses and /or the DNP: Advanced Role Development I & II courses. The project will be awarded a total of 5 semester credits, 3 credits for completion of the project as described in the accompanying table and 2 credits supporting the clinical hours. [Approximately 370 clinical hours are devoted solely to the capstone project.] The nature of the clinical hours are mutually agreed upon between the student, the advisor and cooperating agencies.

[An IRB Tracking Form must be completed before registering or starting any portion of the Clinical Leadership Project. This form can be found at the Office of Student Services MSN, DNP, PhD ICON site under DNP Information.]

	<b>DNP PROJECT (5 s.h.) Includes 100 clinical hours</b>
Purpose	Provide the opportunity for an in-depth analysis and synthesis of a chosen topic that contributes to some aspect of advanced nursing practice. The student will relate their project to the evidence based practice/translational science courses and/or the DNP Clinical I & II courses. 100 clinical practicum hours are incorporated into the project to support the clinical project.
Eligibility	All DNP students
Role of Advisor	Meet with student to identify an appropriate topic for the project early in the first semester of the program. The project should reflect the student's career goals. The advisor may also assist the student in selecting a chair for the Project Committee.
Chair	May be student's advisor or selected by student with advice and approval of advisor. May be clinical or tenure track CON faculty. Assists student in selecting committee, supervises and directs project progress and determines with student and committee the appropriate time for the proposal meeting and final project presentation.
Composition of the Committee	Minimum of three faculty (including chair) from clinical or tenure track, two of whom hold primary appointments in the College of Nursing. Chosen at the time DNP project topic is approved. Chosen by the student after consultation with chair based on expertise related to topic.
Role of Committee	Members chosen because of their expertise related to DNP project to give student guidance and direction throughout project.
Registration for Hours	Upon recommendation of project advisor, commensurate with objectives determined by student and project advisor. DNP Project Chair Approval Form must be submitted to Graduate Program Associate 444 NB at least a week before registering for final project.
Proposal	Upon approval of project chair, the student will submit a written proposal to be reviewed by the full committee prior to the proposal meeting. The proposal should describe the project purpose, rationale, goals and plan for completing the work. Upon approval of proposal the student must submit a signed project approval form to the Graduate Program Office. Students are required to complete the IRB Tracking Form and comply with IRB review as determined by committee.
Format	Project is described in a 15-20 page paper of publishable quality, using APA format (or format required for journal to which manuscript will be submitted), demonstrating writing competency as outlined by College of Nursing <u>Minimum Writing Competencies for Nursing Students</u> .
Final Examination (Project)	Project presentation meeting scheduled after final draft of project has been completed and approved by chair. Sufficient time (at least 7 days) must be allowed for the

Presentation)	committee to review the project before final examination (project presentation).
Approval	The project will be evaluated by the examining committee as satisfactory or unsatisfactory, with two unsatisfactory votes making the committee report unsatisfactory. The College of Nursing Report of Final Examination DNP Project must be signed and returned to the Graduate Program Office.
Project Deposit and Examination Deadlines	A copy of the final edited DNP Project is to be given to each member of the project committee at the discretion of the committee and one electronic copy to the Graduate Program Office.
Abstract	An abstract (500 word maximum) with the name of the student and project chair is to be submitted to the Office of Research (410NB) for inclusion in Research Resource Book.
Advantages	Experience in conducting an in-depth project and preparing and submitting a manuscript for publication.

## VII. Graduation Information

Students must be registered during the semester they plan to graduate. Students who have completed all coursework and continue work to complete the capstone project may register for Doctoral Continuous Registration. Please consult student services staff prior to doctoral continuous registration.

Upon graduation you will need to complete a Project Close Form through HawkIRB. If you are employed by the University of Iowa and plan to continue using your data, keep your project open but remember to file the Project Close form when you are done.

In order to facilitate your graduation we have listed the pertinent paperwork below. The links and documents can be found at the Office of Student Services MSN, DNP, PhD ICON site under DNP Information. Forms should be completed and returned to the Graduate Program Office. If you have any questions, please contact the Graduate Program Office at 319-335-7021 or 319-335-8929.

**All forms must be completed by the deadlines posted each semester. Final responsibility for meeting graduation requirements resides with the student.** If you have filed these forms previously, all must be refiled by the deadline listed except the Graduate College Plan of Study; a Graduate College Plan of Study should be refiled only if it has changed.

### Graduation Forms

APPLICATION FOR DEGREE - submitted to the Registrar, 1 Jessup Hall. This form must be signed by your advisor and logged into the Graduate Programs Office. It is available at: <http://www.registrar.uiowa.edu/forms/gradapplication.pdf>

The Plan of Study Summary Sheet, current grade report, current registration slip, and Request for Final Examination (for Clinical Leadership Project) must be submitted together. The Graduate Program Office will supply grade report and registration.

GRADUATE COLLEGE PLAN OF STUDY SUMMARY FORM - submitted to the Graduate College, 205 Gilmore Hall. Note that the prerequisites cannot be applied toward your degree. Any credit over 10 years old cannot be applied toward your degree

without consent of the Graduate College. A current grade report and a current registration slip must accompany this form. The Graduate Program Office will complete and submit the Summary Sheet and, if needed, the request for inclusion of courses over 10 years old.

REQUEST FOR FINAL EXAMINATION

(request for Clinical Leadership Project - submitted to the Graduate College, 205 Gilmore Hall. This form will be completed and submitted by the Graduate Program Office

REPORT OF FINAL EXAMINATION (report on Clinical Leadership Project, - submitted to the Graduate College, 205 Gilmore Hall, within 48 hours of the Project Presentation meeting. This form remains in your student file in 37NB until the day of Project Presentation. The committee chair or student should pick this form up prior to the Presentation.