

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Post-Baccalaureate Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Programs



The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is a terminal degree program that is designed to prepare post-baccalaureate registered nurses at an advanced level of practice to become a **Primary Care Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (A-GNP) or Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)**. This practice-focused doctoral program prepares post-baccalaureate nurses to function at the highest level of clinical nursing practice. The program of study emphasizes the knowledge and skills necessary to analyze and improve clinical environments, healthcare organizations and systems; translate evidence gained through nursing research to support improved practice; and meaningfully use clinical data to measure outcomes of patient groups, populations and communities. Graduates are prepared for roles in direct clinical care delivery systems, organizational leadership within a healthcare delivery system and the nursing academic workforce.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Nursing Department determines admission criteria for students with a BSN as follows:

- Official transcript(s) indicating that the applicant has earned a baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) from an ACEN- (formerly NLNAC) or CCNE-accredited program at a college or university.
- Minimum of a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale in a BSN program.
- Completion of an undergraduate statistics course with a grade of “C” or better within five years. If applicant has not taken a basic statistics course within the past five years with a grade of “C” or better or needs a refresher, a statistics course must be completed prior to enrollment in NUR 802 Applied Statistics for Evidence-Based Practice. Course approval by Program Director.
- Three recommendations (preferably from professional nurses with graduate degrees) regarding applicant’s practice and potential for graduate work in nursing.
- Current résumé or curriculum vitae.
- Short essay describing short- and long-term professional goals, following specific guidelines for both content and format (600 words maximum). Guidelines are available on the Alvernia University website.
- Photocopy of a valid license as a Registered Nurse.
- A meeting with the DNP Program Director after all required application materials have been received to review the A-GNP-DNP or FNP-DNP program curriculum and course schedule.
- Upon admission to the A-GNP-DNP or FNP-DNP program, students must comply with clinical practice clearances as required by Alvernia University and clinical practice partners.

Recommended deadline for application and supporting materials to begin coursework:

Fall Admission:	July 15th
Spring Admission:	November 15th
Summer Admission:	March 15th

CONVENIENCE

Courses are offered during the evening in a blended format, where content is delivered approximately 50% online and 50% face-to-face. Face-to-face sessions support the social dynamics of interacting with peers and faculty. Online sessions provide opportunities to learn and utilize new strategies.

AFFORDABLE

Alvernia offers tuition payment plans and financial aid options, as well as tuition deferment, which allows students to postpone payment until employer reimbursement is received at the end of each semester.

CONTACT INFORMATION

School of Graduate Studies

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Post-Baccalaureate nurses can choose from two tracks of study: Primary Care Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (A-GNP) or Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), and complete Clinical Leadership-related courses

TRACK 1

PRIMARY CARE ADULT-GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER

This program of study leading to a Doctor of Nursing Practice (A-GNP-DNP) is designed for a professional registered nurse with a baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN). Students eligible for admission can expect to complete the A-GNP-DNP program in approximately two and a half years of full-time study that requires 67 credits of theoretical and clinical coursework and 1,050 hours of required clinical experience. A part-time option is available, which is expected to take four to five years. The A-GNP-DNP and FNP-DNP programs do not provide an allowance for students who solely want to be a certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) at the master's level.

TRACK 2

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

The Family Nurse Practitioner program of study leading to a Doctor of Nursing Practice (FNP-DNP) is designed for a professional registered nurse with a BSN. Students eligible for admission can expect to complete the DNP program in three years of full-time study that requires 79 credits of theoretical and clinical coursework and 1,350 hours of required clinical experience. A part-time option is available, which is expected to take five to six years. The FNP-DNP program of study is designed for students to complete adult-gerontology nurse practitioner-related courses and then take additional family health nurse practitioner-related courses. The program of study culminates in DNP Clinical Leadership-related coursework.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

COURSES FOR BOTH A-GNP AND FNP TRACKS

Transitioning from RN to APRN (3 credits)*

Advanced Role Development: BSN to DNP

Advanced Practice (10 credits)*

Advanced Clinical Pathophysiology

Advanced Clinical Pharmacology

Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning

*Prerequisites for Advanced Practice Specialty Courses in Primary Care

*Advanced Practice Specialty Courses in Primary Care** (19 credits)*

A-GNP Primary Care Nurse Practitioner I: Health Promotion

A-GNP Primary Care Nurse Practitioner I Practicum: Health Promotion

A-GNP Primary Care Nurse Practitioner II: Adult Healthcare Issues

A-GNP Primary Care Nurse Practitioner II Practicum: Adult Healthcare Issues

A-GNP Primary Care Nurse Practitioner III: Older Adult Healthcare

A-GNP Primary Care Nurse Practitioner III Practicum: Older Adult Healthcare Issues

**These courses are designed to be taken sequentially. Students must successfully pass each course before progressing to the next course.

COURSES FOR FNP TRACK

Advanced Practice Specialty Courses in FNP Track (12 credits)

Health Assessment: Pediatric Population

Health Assessment Practicum: Pediatric Population

Family Nurse Practitioner I: Pediatric Population Healthcare Issues

Family Nurse Practitioner I Practicum: Pediatric Population Healthcare Issues

Family Nurse Practitioner II: Women's Healthcare Issues

Family Nurse Practitioner II Practicum: Women's Healthcare Issues

DNP CLINICAL LEADERSHIP COURSEWORK FOR BOTH TRACKS (35 CREDITS)

Practice Leadership (16 credits)

Immersion to the DNP Program*

Theoretical Foundations of DNP*

Ethics, Policy, and Advocacy in the Healthcare System

Using Informatics for Quality Improvement

Local and Global Population-Based Health

Leadership in Organizations and

Healthcare Systems

Clinical Leadership Practicum (4 Credits)

Evidence-Based Scholarly and Practice Inquiry (15 Credits)

Applied Statistics for Evidence-Based Practice
Translational Research

Evidence-Based Scholarly and Practice Inquiry I*

Evidence-Based Scholarly and Practice Inquiry II*

Evidence-Based Scholarly and Practice Inquiry III

* **Intensive course format**