

UK GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAMS

OVERVIEW, ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND
APPLICATION PROCESS



UK GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAMS

- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
 - BSN to DNP (6 options)
 - MSN to DNP (8 options)
- Post Graduate APRN Certificate
- Certificate in Teaching Nursing (*NEW*)

***All graduate nursing programs now offering
fall and spring admissions***

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN) – HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP

- Leadership is the only MSN focus. Nurse practitioner specialties remain in the DNP program.
- Students take a series of courses that prepare them to function as change agents in multi-dimensional roles in the organization and community.
- **MSN courses are offered 100% on-line with some scheduled synchronous on-line activities.**
- Faculty either assist to obtain or obtain preceptors for students
- Apply through the GRADUATE School at the Univ of Ky--Graduate School online application.

MSN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale*
- BSN from a CCNE or NLN accredited program
- Three references attesting to the applicant's expertise in nursing or health care (from a former nursing faculty member or advisor if available, one or two from a manager/director/leader from their work setting, and no more than one from a peer).
- Unencumbered licensure as a registered nurse in the state in which clinicals will occur (prerequisite to clinical experience)
- Current vita/resume
- Personal interview(s)

MSN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

CONTINUED....

Goal Statement

- Please write a one to two double-spaced page essay describing what you as a person would bring to our educational community, the advanced practice nursing profession, and the community you seek to serve.
- Include your short- and long-term professional goals. Identify and discuss a health system or organizational issue/problem you wish to expand your knowledge on during your MSN program

Scholarly written work: An example of scholarly written work, completed within three years of application, related to nursing that demonstrates excellent writing skills and the ability to communicate clearly and logically.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (PHD)

Overview

- Goal: Prepare students to conduct clinical research that generates new knowledge applicable to nursing practice.
- Students have the opportunity to participate in faculty members' research programs
- **Offered either in-person on campus (traditional format) or remotely via zoom** (on-line format). Individuals are to select one format upon admission.
- Students enrolled in the on-line format will participate in synchronous course offerings via zoom with the in-person students.
- PhD program can be completed in a minimum of 3 years of full time study or part time in 4 years. Additional time may be required for dissertation research.

PHD ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Undergraduate grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 grading scale
- A bachelor's degree in nursing from an NLN- or CCNE-accredited program
- Licensure as a registered nurse in Kentucky or in the state where research will take place
- Three references
- Example of scholarly written work that demonstrates excellent writing skills and the ability to communicate clearly and logically,
- Goal statement that addresses short- and long-term academic, research and career goals
- Two faculty interviews arranged as part of the admission process
- ALL applicants are required to complete the Graduate School online application.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM

DNP Overview (Full Time or Part Time)

“Practice-focused doctoral program designed to prepare experts in specialized advanced nursing practice.

- The UK College of Nursing DNP Program was the first program in the U.S
- Two entry points, Post-Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) for those with an MSN or Post-Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- DNP nursing courses are offered online but do require attendance on the Lexington campus for immersion activities up to six days each semester (1-3 days at start of term and 1-3 days at end of term). Leadership students only attend Immersion on Thursday.
- Faculty either obtain or assist to obtain preceptors for students

MSN-DNP OPTIONS

DNP Non Specialty Option (NEW Curriculum Plan)

MSN to DNP Non Specialty for MSN prepared students who do not wish to add a new specialty but want to complete a DNP program.

A GAP analysis is completed on all applicants to determine what course work/clinical hours can be accepted from MSN program.

Advanced national certification required

DNP SPECIALTY OPTIONS

Post MSN and Post BSN

Adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioners focus on assessment, diagnosis and management of acute health problems. Graduates are prepared to care for acutely and critically ill adults.

Family nurse practitioners provide primary care to patients of all ages and will become experts at diagnosing and treating common health problems, promoting wellness and helping patients learn effective self-care.

Pediatric nurse practitioners (Acute or Primary) specialize in health care for infants, children and adolescents. They practice in a range of settings, including children's hospitals, physicians' offices, schools and other acute and primary health care settings.

Psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners are experts at caring for clients with mental health needs and psychiatric disorders, which include schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, mood disorders such as bipolar disorder and depression, and substance abuse. They focus on the family across the lifespan.

DNP SPECIALTY OPTIONS

Post MSN and Post BSN

- **Executive leadership in health care** students will be prepared as effective leaders in complex organizations and community/public health settings and to respond to the challenges of health care today.
- Post MSN to DNP, also offers the clinical leadership in Healthcare

DNP ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Undergraduate or Graduate grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale*
- Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a CCNE or NLN-CNEA accredited program
- Three references attesting to the applicant's expertise in nursing or health care. References are preferred from the following:
 - A recent faculty advisor or nursing faculty member (doctorally prepared)
 - A current supervisor
 - No more than one from a peer
- Unencumbered licensure as a registered nurse in the state in which clinicals will occur (prerequisite to clinical experience)
- Personal interview(s)
- Goal Statement as discussed previously

DNP ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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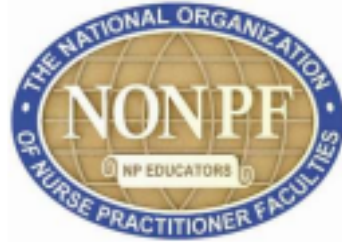
- Clinical nursing experience prior to the first DNP clinical course
- An example of scholarly written work
- Current vita/resume

The UK College of Nursing DNP program participates in Nursing's Centralized Application Service (NursingCAS), which provides an online application.

NursingCAS collects and processes your application documents and verifies your official transcripts. We receive your application information from NursingCAS and use it to make our admission decisions.

You can view the status of your application at any time via NursingCAS.

DNP applicants **DO NOT** apply to the UK Graduate School.



The leader in quality nurse practitioner education

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree: Entry to Nurse Practitioner Practice by 2025

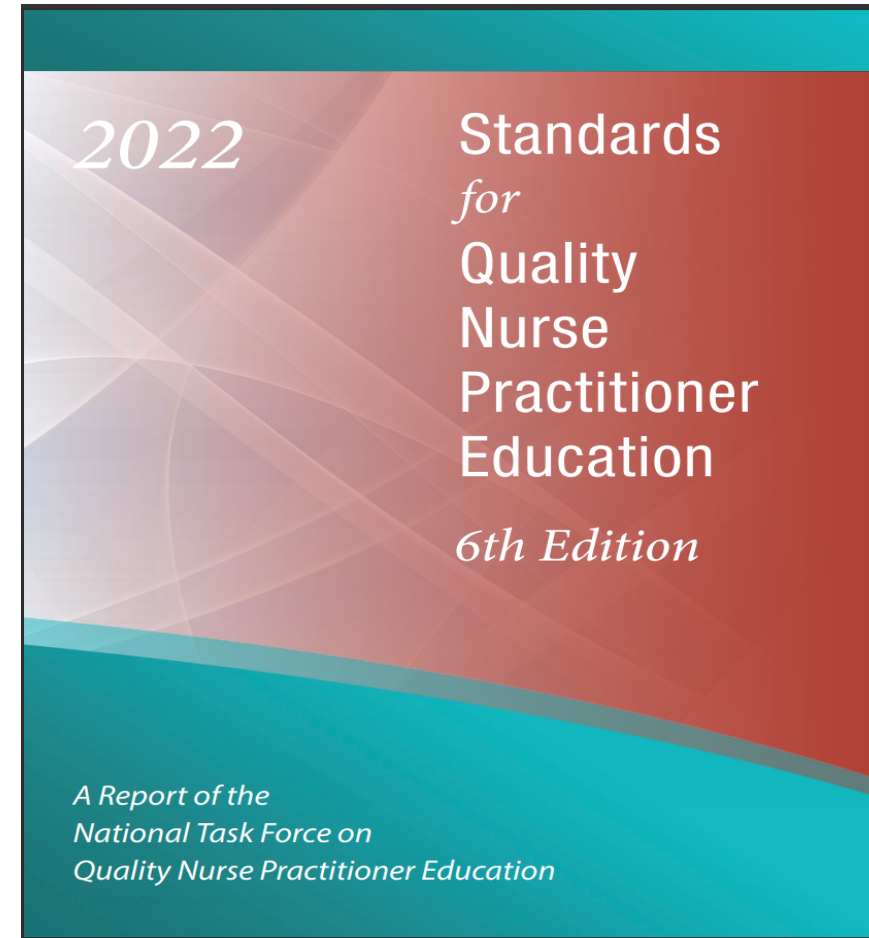
May 2018

On April 20, 2018, the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) made the commitment **to move all entry-level nurse practitioner (NP) education to the DNP degree by 2025**. Today, there are more than 300 DNP programs throughout the United States (US) (AACN, 2018), and NONPF has led the evolution of NP educational preparation to the DNP degree level (NONPF, 2015). NONPF maintains its dedication to all currently credentialed NPs and faculty members; however, we recognize that as the health care delivery system has grown increasingly complex, the role of NPs has evolved. The DNP degree reflects the rigorous education that NPs receive to lead and deliver quality health care.

NONPF supports a seamless, integrated DNP curriculum without a master's exit point as preparation for entry to the NP role (NONPF, 2015; NONPF, 2016). The DNP NP curriculum is not an add-on to the master's curriculum; instead, the curriculum integrates objectives and learning opportunities for students to achieve the NP core and population-focused competencies that are written for doctoral-level education (NONPF, 2013; NONPF, 2017a; NONPF and AACN, 2016). There are currently 187 post-baccalaureate DNP NP programs in the US, a 24% increase since 2015 (AACN, 2018). NONPF is committed to providing resources and support for faculty members as they embrace curricular changes (NONPF 2016).

NEW NP EDUCATION STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO ALL NP PROGRAMS

- Minimums of 750 direct patient care clinical
- Direct patient care clinical hours may include student provision of care delivered to the patient through telehealth and global health experiences
- Simulation is not direct patient care, and these hours may not be included in the 750 direct patient care total
- Program of study includes a concentrated/immersive clinical practice experience near the end of the program



POSTGRADUATE APRN CERTIFICATE

- Prepares nurses for APRN national certification eligibility and licensure **in a new or additional** specialty area of practice (6 options)
- Individuals with a Master of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing or Doctor of Nursing Practice degree are eligible to apply.
- Certificate and DNP nursing courses are offered in a hybrid immersion format and requires attendance on the Lexington campus up to six days each semester (up to three days at start of term and up to 3 days at end of term).
- Clinicals are offered in a preceptor format. Faculty either assist to obtain or obtain preceptors for students
- Apply per the [Nursing's Centralized Application Service \(NursingCAS\)](#)

CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING NURSING

- **Certificate in Teaching Nursing:** designed for nurses who are seeking to enhance their teaching/pedagogical skills, including those who are interested in an academic career in nursing education or a clinical educator in a hospital/healthcare setting.
- All courses are fully online except for practicum course
- To be admitted to the Certificate in Teaching Nursing program students must be post MSN, DNP, or PhD in Nursing, or currently be enrolled in an MSN, DNP, or PhD program in nursing.
- 3 Courses, one offered each semester (2 didactic and one clinical)
- Application is through the Graduate School

TEACHING NURSING CERTIFICATE - ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Master of Science or doctoral degree in nursing (preferred)
- Completed application to the UK College of Nursing Certificate Option (form is located on the "Applying" page)
- Minimum score of 550 (or 213 on computer-based test or 79 on iBT) on Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for all applicants whose native language is not English
- Unencumbered, unrestricted registered nurse licensure in the state where clinical work will take place
- Two references, one of which must be from your current supervisor, the other from your master's or doctoral degree program advisor (preferred) or other nursing faculty member
- Interview(s) with graduate faculty member(s)

OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS

The University of Kentucky works to provide distance learning courses and programs to students across the state of Kentucky, the country and abroad, but location matters when it comes to the availability of some courses and programs. Each state and territory have different requirements for distance learning. Out of state students who are interested in distance learning should read each section below and confirm that their **program of interest can be offered and/or lead to licensure or certification in their state or territory.**

- State Authorization is a type of consumer protection regulated by states and territories. Institutions are required to obtain state authorization when they offer online courses or programs outside of their home state. Visit the [State Authorization by Program](#) section to learn which programs are authorized in each state.
- States may have additional requirements for programs that lead to professional licensure or certification. Learn which programs can lead to [licensure and certification](#) in each state.
- Contact [Distance Learning](#) with questions or for more information

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION – UK EMPLOYEE EDUCATION PROGRAM (EEP)

- EEP program is a benefit provided by the University and administered by the HR Benefits Office. Open to all regular, full time UK employees.
 - Covers 6-8 credit hours per semester (Fall, Spring, and Summer)
 - Maximum of 18 hours per year (Fall, Spring & Summer combined)
- Employees are required to submit EEP form each semester to UK's HR office for tuition waiver. Employee pays course fees.
- Graduate level waivers in excess of \$5,250 per year are subject to tax as mandated by IRS section 127
 - For eligibility, visit the HR website www.uky.edu/hr
 - Please direct inquiries regarding the EEP program to edubenefits@uky.edu
 - Aneya Hardin-Carter, UK - EEP Program Coordinator

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION- CONTACTS: EEP AND UKHC NURSING

- Please direct additional inquiries about the Nursing Tuition Contract Program or UKHC Scholarships to hospitalpayments@uky.edu
 - Andrea Wright - Program Coordinator
- Please direct additional inquiries regarding the EEP program to edubenefits@uky.edu
 - Aneya Hardin-Carter - Program Coordinator

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS:

UK College of Nursing: Average awards of \$1000-2000 per year.

- Application deadline March 30th for next academic year
- Limited funds

Kentucky Board of Nursing Nurse Incentive Scholarship (NISF)

Specialty Organizations: AACN, ONS, STTI, ENA, NBNA

Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP)

- Percentage of loan funds can be forgiven for graduates once they take a position as nurse faculty upon degree completion. Up to 85% of funds forgiven after 4 years of employment as nursing faculty
- Requires 3 college teaching courses to be completed during degree program
- Repayment penalty is high for those who do not meet forgiveness criteria

APPLICATION TIPS

- Spend adequate time determining the correct program/specialty for you. This should include a patient population you enjoy working with now and 10-20 years from now.
- Reach out to those in a role you aspire to and ask how they came to be in that position and their educational preparation/path.
- Seek out shadowing opportunities; talk to CON graduate faculty regarding specialty areas
- Apply well in advance of application deadline once you have selected program
- Update resume/CV first as applications will ask you for schools attended and dates.
- Goal/Personal Statement: Follow prompts included with application and respond to all prompts. Do not rush this piece as this is the window for faculty to learn about you. Ask a colleague or friend who is a good writer to review and give feedback.
- Scholarly writing sample: update paper from your prior or current degree program
- Interview preparation: be prepared to articulate why you are applying to a particular program (degree/College/University/specialty). Learn the difference between the MSN and DNP degrees.

KENT BROUWER, DNP, AGACNP-BC, APRN



Professional Education:

2022 University of Kentucky

Doctor of Nursing Practice, Adult Gerontology
Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

2018 University of Kentucky

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

2015 Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

DEBRA HAMPTON, PHD, MSN, RN, FACHE, NEA-BC, CENP



Assistant Dean for MSN & DNP
Programs

Academic Coordinator of Graduate
Leadership Programs

Associate Professor

Questions?

Virtual Information Sessions

The UK college of nursing offers several virtual information sessions for prospective students to learn more about each of our graduate programs of study - MSN, DNP, PhD, and Graduate Certificate options.

During these virtual events, participants will learn about program requirements, potential plans of study, and have the opportunity to directly talk with and ask questions of our graduate faculty and advisors.



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