Introductions:

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Graduate Nursing Programs:

- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- Post Graduate APRN Certificate
**PENDING:**
Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

- The College of Nursing has submitted a proposal for a MSN with focus in Healthcare Systems Leadership to the University Faculty Senate. Information will be shared when the proposal has completed the University review/approval process.
- Leadership will be the only MSN focus. Nurse practitioner specialties will remain in the DNP program.
Doctor of Philosophy of Science in Nursing (PhD) Overview:

The goal of the PhD Program, which is ranked among the top eight programs in the U.S. by the National Research Council, is to prepare students to conduct clinical research that generates new knowledge applicable to nursing practice.

A foundation of research and scholarship gained at the bachelor and master's level is further enhanced at the doctoral level. Our students are prepared to assume roles in a variety of settings, from private industry to community colleges to top research-intensive nursing schools affiliated with major academic health centers.
• Doctoral students have the opportunity to participate in faculty members’ research programs, such as psychosocial and biobehavioral interventions for prevention and treatment of cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases, management of critically ill patients, promoting self-management of chronic illnesses, domestic and workplace violence, tobacco policy and smoking cessation, occupational health and safety, health disparities, and health risks in pregnant women.

• Appropriate match is key to PHD student success.
Graduates of the program will be able to:

• Establish a pattern of productive scholarship and participation in team science that results in the dissemination of scholarly work to lay and professional audiences

• Contribute to the development of science and the discipline of nursing through the ethical conduct of culturally competent, original clinical and translational research

• Demonstrate an understanding of the evolving roles and professional responsibilities of a nurse scholar through participation in professional and interprofessional teams and organizations and the provision of professional and research leadership and mentorship

• Use different science perspectives and an in-depth knowledge of a substantive area to develop and apply a conceptual knowledge base that enhances the link among theoretical advances, research and practice to improve health outcomes
PHD program format:

- Nursing courses in the PHD program are offered in a traditional format, meeting once per week on Wednesday, on the UK campus.
- Cognate courses (electives related to research focus) offered in other disciplines may meet on other dates.
- 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.
Degree Requirements

• Minimum of 48 credit hours of pre-qualifying course work
• Enrollment in at least five credit hours of course work per semester
• At least one term of research experience (10-20 hours per week)
• Prequalifying residency requirement: Students must complete the minimum 45 credit hours of course work within five years of entry into the doctoral program.
• Two consecutive full-time terms for the dissertation research residency
• Written and oral examinations to qualify as a candidate for the PhD degree
• Dissertation and final examination
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
• Graduate Records Exam (GRE) is optional but highly recommended; GRE scores are used for competitive funding opportunities, particularly those from the UK Graduate School
• Three references attesting to the potential of the student for a scholarly career; at least one should be from a doctorally prepared nurse
• Example of scholarly written work that demonstrates excellent writing skills and the ability to communicate clearly and logically; examples could include a publication or class paper
• Goal statement that addresses short- and long-term academic, research and career goals; a self-evaluation of motivation, initiative and the potential for independent learning with specific examples of each; and examples of leadership experiences where initiative and self-motivation were important to success
• Two faculty interviews arranged as part of the admission process
• Admission to the University of Kentucky Graduate School
Application:

• ALL applicants are required to complete the Graduate School online application.

• The University of Kentucky Graduate School utilizes Hobson’s ApplyYourself. All application requirements submitted via an online system. This includes an electronic process for letters of recommendation and uploading copies of unofficial transcripts.

• The system allows candidates to monitor their application status and view receipt of supplemental materials.

• A non-refundable fee is required for each application to the University of Kentucky Graduate School. The application cannot be submitted without payment of this fee.
Application Deadlines:

• Preferred application deadline is February 15th for Fall admission or September 15th for Spring admission.

• Applicant Interviews - Applicants will be contacted by the College of Nursing to schedule interviews with two graduate faculty members once all required application materials and fees have been submitted.

• Upon submission of all required application materials/credentials and completion of interviews with graduate faculty the PhD Curriculum/Admissions Committee will review the applicant file and make an official recommendation regarding admission to the PhD program in nursing at the University of Kentucky. Admission decisions are made on a competitive basis.
Cost:

• PHD students are assessed tuition at Graduate school rates

• 2018-2019 rates:
  • Full time, instate: $6526.00 per semester (9+ credit hours)
  • Part time, instate: $693.00 per credit hour
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program overview:

- Profound changes in increasingly complex health care systems require advances to improve quality of care while reducing costs, broadening access, eliminating disparities and promoting safe practice. “Practice-focused doctoral programs are designed to prepare experts in specialized advanced nursing practice. They focus heavily on practice that is innovative and evidence-based, reflecting the application of credible research findings.” (AACN Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advance Nursing Practice, p. 3)

- The UK College of Nursing DNP Program, which was the first program of its kind in the U.S., focuses on development of advanced competencies for complex practice, and research utilization for the improvement of clinical care delivery, patient outcomes and system management. Graduates will be experts in designing, implementing, managing and evaluating health care delivery systems and will be prepared to lead at the highest clinical and executive ranks.

- There are two entry points to the DNP Program. Post-Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) entry option for those with an awarded master's degree in nursing who are already prepared in the role of the advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) and a Post-Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) entry option is offered as well, which builds on the BSN degree and prepares individuals for the advanced practice role. Both options culminate with the DNP degree.
Graduates of the program will be able to:

• Integrate nursing science and theory with knowledge from ethics, the biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, and organizational sciences as the basis for nursing practice (AACN Essential I: Scientific Underpinnings for Practice).

• Demonstrate advanced organizational and systems leadership that emphasizes practice and the ongoing improvement of health outcomes (AACN Essential II: Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Improvement and Systems Thinking).

• Generate, translate, apply and evaluate new science/evidence to guide improvements in practice and outcomes of care (AACN Essential III: Clinical Scholarship and Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Practice).

• Demonstrate proficient use of information systems/technology resources to implement quality improvement initiatives and support practice and administrative decision-making (AACN Essential IV: Information Systems/Technology and Patient Care Technology for the Improvement and Transformation of Health Care).

• Engage proactively in the analysis, development and implementation of health policy at the institutional, local, state, regional, federal, or international level (AACN Essential V: Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care).

• Employ consultative and leadership skills with intra- and inter-professional teams to create change in health care and complex healthcare delivery systems (AACN Essential VI: Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes).

• Analyze, synthesize and evaluate scientific data and concepts related to clinical prevention and population health, and gaps in care of individuals, aggregates, or populations (AACN Essential VII: Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation’s Health).

• Demonstrate foundational practice competencies that cut across specialties (AACN Essential VIII: Advanced Nursing Practice specialties).
DNP program format:

• DNP nursing courses are offered in a hybrid immersion format and require 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. Students are assigned a preceptor by faculty and then work with the preceptor to create schedule to complete required hours for the course/term. These hours are in addition to the immersion class meetings.

• Clinicals are completed a variety of inpatient and ambulatory facilities.
DNP Specialties:

• Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

• 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. As members of a multidisciplinary health care team, practitioners work in intensive care, progressive care, other hospital units, specialty clinics and specialty physicians’ offices.
DNP options:

• The Post-MSN Option requires a minimum of 38 credit hours and can be completed in two years of full time study.
• Post-BSN Option requires a minimum of 67-77 credit hours and can be completed in three years of full-time study.
• Part-time plans are also available.
MSN–DNP Specialties:

**Clinical Leadership in Health Care**
The MSN-DNP Clinical Leadership (CL) option will prepare APN’s to function as expert practitioners, clinical leaders and effective change agents in varied positions. The CL program is practice based and prepares students for multidimensional responsibilities in nursing practice and health care delivery. The curriculum emphasizes leadership effectiveness in meso and macro organizational/systems/settings, evidence-based practice, quality/safety, information management expertise, and strategies to make health care policy impacts. Graduates will identify actual and emerging problems and will design aggregate-level health interventions. They will work with diverse stakeholders for inter- or intra-organizational achievement of health care organizational and population health related goals. 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.

**Executive Leadership in Health Care**
The MSN-DNP Executive Leadership (EL) in Healthcare option is based on the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) Nurse Executive Competencies. The EL program is practice based and prepares nursing leaders for multidimensional responsibilities in nursing practice and health care delivery. The curriculum emphasizes strategic leadership, meso-macro organizational/systems practice, evidence-based management, financial, quality/safety, and information management expertise and strategies to make health care policy impacts. Graduates will identify actual and emerging problems and will design aggregate-level health interventions. They will work with diverse stakeholders for inter- or intra-organizational achievement of health care organizational and population health related goals. 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.
BSN-DNP Specialty options:

• **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. As members of a multidisciplinary health care team, practitioners work in intensive care, progressive care, other hospital units, specialty clinics and specialty physicians’ offices.

• **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. They work in a variety of settings, including clinics, physician offices, urgent care and community health settings.
BSN-DNP Specialty options:

- **Pediatric nurse practitioners** 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. Applicants must select a primary care or acute care pediatric population focus.

- **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, with skills encompassing the full spectrum of psychiatric care, from independent practice to consulting on psychiatric conditions in a variety of health care settings.
BSN-DNP Specialty options:

- **Executive leadership in health care** (non direct care) graduates will identify actual and emerging problems and will design aggregate-level health interventions. They will work with diverse stakeholders for inter- or intra-organizational achievement of health care organizational and population health related goals. 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.
DNP admission requirements:

• Undergraduate or Graduate grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 grading scale
• Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a CCNE or NLN accredited program
• Three references (form will be provided) attesting to the applicant's expertise in nursing or health care. Faculty prefer professional references from a nursing faculty advisor if available or a nursing faculty member who knows the applicant, one from a doctorally prepared RN, and no more than one from a peer.
• Personal interview(s)
• Unencumbered licensure as a registered nurse in the state in which clinicals will occur (prerequisite to clinical experience)
• Clinical nursing experience prior to the first DNP clinical course
• Goal statement: In one to three double-spaced pages, discuss your reasons for seeking doctoral study, including your short- and long-term professional goals. Discuss a system or population you are interested in working with and identify/discuss a system or health problem in that population that you wish to study as capstone project.
• An example of scholarly written work, completed within two years of application, related to nursing that demonstrates excellent writing skills and the ability to communicate clearly and logically. Samples of scholarly work: formal research paper written in your BSN program; published article on a nursing issue; or paper written on a nursing issue of interest to you
• Current vita/resume
DNP Application:

• The UK College of Nursing DNP program participates in Nursing’s Centralized Application Service (NursingCAS), which provides you with an online application. NursingCAS collects and processes your application documents and verifies your 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.

• Do NOT apply to the UK Graduate School.
DNP application deadline:

• The application cycle opens September 15 and closes January 15 for Fall (August) admissions. The DNP program admits only for the fall term.

• Qualified, complete applicants will be contacted after the published application deadline to schedule interviews with graduate nursing faculty.

• Following interviews applications will be reviewed and decision letters mailed to all applicants by March 15.

• Admission is competitive based on the number of qualified applications received and the space available.

• We do not admit students from all states.
Cost:

• DNP students are assessed tuition at the professional practice doctoral tuition rate.

• 2018-2019 rates:
  • Full time: $8518.00 per semester (9+ credit hours)
  • Part time: $915.00 per credit hour
Postgraduate APRN Certificate:

• The primary objective of this option is to prepare advanced practice registered nurses for national certification eligibility and licensure in a new or additional specialty area of practice through a formal, organized curriculum that focuses on specialty courses in the student's area of interest.

• Individuals with a Master of Science in Nursing, Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing or Doctor of Nursing Practice degree are eligible to apply.
Certificate program format:

• Certificate and DNP nursing courses are offered in a hybrid immersion format and require 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. Students are assigned a preceptor by faculty and then work with the preceptor to create schedule to complete required hours for the course/ term. These hours are in addition to the immersion class meetings.

• Clinicals are completed a variety of inpatient and ambulatory facilities.
Certificate specialty options:

- Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Executive Nursing Leadership
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)

• Admission is competitive based on space availability and clinical
Certificate application:

- The UK College of Nursing DNP program participates in **Nursing’s Centralized Application Service** (NursingCAS), which provides you with an online application. NursingCAS collects and processes your application documents and verifies your 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.

- **Do NOT** apply to the UK Graduate School.
Certificate application deadline:

• The application cycle opens September 15 and closes January 15 for Fall (August) admissions.

• Qualified, complete applicants will be contacted after the published application deadline to schedule interviews with graduate nursing faculty.

• Following interviews applications will be reviewed and decision letters mailed to all applicants by March 15.

• Admission is competitive based on the number of qualified applications received and the space available.

• We do not admit students from all states.
Certificate cost:

- Certificate students are assessed tuition at the professional practice doctoral tuition rate.
- 2018-2019 rates:
  - Part time: $915.00 per credit hour
Questions
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Current program and application information can be found on the College of Nursing website:
http://www.uky.edu/nursing/