Doctor of Nursing Practice

Post-Master's DNP

Cohort: DNP 36

Rocky Mountain University

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Program Description

The post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at RMUoHP is designed to prepare graduates for leadership in advanced clinical practice. Graduates will process the skills necessary to assume a broad range of roles in both direct and indirect health care settings. Consistent with the recommendation in the 2002 Institute of Medicine report on Health Professions Education, graduates will become proficient in leadership skills and abilities in the areas of delivering patient-centered care, working as part of interdisciplinary teams, practicing evidence-based care, implementing quality improvements and effectively using information technology.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Outcomes
The DNP Program is committed to the development of the nursing professional who can:

- Design and implement integrated care delivery models based on clinical evidence and best practice literature.
- Demonstrate analytical methodologies for the evaluation of clinical practice and the application of scientific evidence.
- Initiate evidence-based practice and policy strategies that optimize access to care and clinical outcomes.
- Apply ethical theories and legal standards to decision-making regarding healthcare issues for individuals and or populations.
- Collaborate with interprofessional teams necessary to improve clinical care for individuals and or populations of clients.
- Introduce and manage technologies that improve communication, foster collaboration, and support integrated approaches to care management.

Schedule and content subject to change.

- Integrate leadership expertise with clinical perspective and sound business practices to help transform the evolving healthcare system at local, regional, national, and international levels.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Post-Master's Curriculum

The 47-credit curriculum of the post-master's DNP program is taught online. Nationally recognized standards and competencies were used to develop the curriculum which will integrating online learning with carefully selected experiences in areas close to where students reside. A required scholarly project, with a focus on applying best current evidence to transform systems, culminates the student's application of doctoral level thinking.

The degree requires 1000 post-baccalaureate hours of clinical experience. Supervised clinical hours, completed in a Master of Science program or a Post-Master's certificate program, may be applied toward the 1000-hour requirement. The curriculum contains opportunities, including experiences in the completion of the Scholarly Project, to accrue the needed clinical hours.

The post-master's DNP program helps prepare nurses to assume greater leadership roles within a healthcare organization. The *Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice for DNP programs* (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 2009) and the Practice Doctorate NP Competencies (NONPF, 2012) are the underpinnings for the requirements of the post-master's program. The courses are designed to prepare the graduate to influence health and social policy for diverse populations in a variety of settings. A higher level of clinical skill and knowledge provided by the degree can advance clinical nursing practice and help keep pace with demands for clinical leaders and advanced practice educators.

Program Outline

Course Code & Title	Credits
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Core Courses *(11 courses, 38 credits required)*:	
DNP 650 Epidemiology & Population Health	3
DNP 718 Statistics & Evidence-Based Practice II	3
DNP 725 Scholarly Project I: Project Formation	4
DNP 745 Advanced Scientific Underpinnings	3
DNP 750 Scholarly Project II: Project Implementation	4
DNP 775 Scholarly Project III: Project Evaluation & Publication	4
DNP 811 Scholarly Project IV: Project Continuation *(Non-required Course)***	(3)
NUR 570 Health Policy & Finance*	3
NUR 710 Quality Improvement & Evidence Based Practice I*	4
NUR 720 Organizational Behavior Management & Informatics*	4
NUR 730 Health Promotion & Prevention in Populations*	3
NUR 740 Roles, Leadership, & Ethics*	3
DNP Core Required Credits:	**38**
Leadership Focus Courses *(students choose one focus, 3 courses, 9 credits/60-120 hours required)*:	

	Course	Credits
Clinical Leadership Focus	DNP 665 Clinical Leadership I: Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
	DNP 715 Clinical Leadership II: Clinical Focus *(60 practicum hours)*	3
	DNP 765 Clinical Leadership III: Internship in the Clinical Setting *(60 practicum hours)*	3
Executive Leadership Focus	DNP 666 Executive Leadership I: Regulatory	3
	DNP 716 Executive Leadership II: Fundamentals of Leadership	3
	DNP 766 Executive Leadership III: Internship in the Executive Setting *(60 practicum hours)*	3
Leadership Focus Required Credits:		**9**
Total Program Required Credits:		**47**

*Courses included in RMUoHP MSN program, may carry over from that program, or be transferred in from other institutions

**Non-required course, only if needed for scholarly project residency.

Schedule and content subject to change.

Program Calendar

Semester	Course	Credits
Semester 1 **Summer 2025** *May 5- Aug. 22*	NUR 730 Health Promotion & Prevention in Populations*	3
	NUR 720 Organizational Behavior Management & Informatics*	4
	NUR 710 Quality Improvement & Evidence-Based Practice I*	4
	Semester Totals:	**11**
Semester 2 **Fall 2025** *Sept. 2-Dec. 19*	DNP 745 Advanced Scientific Underpinnings	3
	DNP 718 Statistics & Evidence-Based Practice II	3
	DNP 725 Scholarly Project I: Project Formation	4
	Leadership Focus Course 1	3
	Semester Totals:	**13**
Semester 3 **Winter 2026** *Jan. 5-Apr. 24*	NUR 570 Health Policy & Finance*	3
	DNP 750 Scholarly Project II: Project Implementation	4
	Leadership Focus Course 2	3
	Semester Totals:	**10**
Semester 4 **Summer 2026** *May 4-Aug. 21*	NUR 740 Roles, Leadership, & Ethics*	3
	DNP 650 Epidemiology & Population Health	3
	DNP 775 Scholarly Project III: Project Evaluation & Publication	4
	Leadership Focus Course 3	3
	Semester Totals:	**13**
Semester 5 to program completion	Semesters of Doctoral Residency for Scholarly Project DNP 811A, DNP 811B, etc. as needed (3 credits per course/semester, all online). *Continue with 3 credits per semester until degree completion. Not included in program tuition.*	
	Total Program Required Credits:	**47**
	Four-year deadline from start date of program.	

*Courses included in RMU MSN program, may carry over from that program, or be transferred in from other institutions.

Leadership Focus Courses

Course Sequence	Course Code & Title	Credits
Clinical Leadership Focus		
1	DNP 665 Clinical Leadership I: Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
2	DNP 715 Clinical Leadership II: Clinical Focus *(60 practicum hours)*	3
3	DNP 765 Clinical Leadership III: Internship in the Clinical Setting *(60 practicum hours)*	3
Executive Leadership Focus		
1	DNP 666 Executive Leadership I: Regulatory	3
2	DNP 716 Executive Leadership II: Fundamentals of Leadership	3
3	DNP 766 Executive Leadership III: Internship in the Executive Setting *(60 practicum hours)*	3

Schedule and content subject to change.

Course Descriptions

DNP Core Courses:

DNP 650   Epidemiology & Population Health   (3 credits; Online)
This course will provide an introduction to epidemiology that will prepare the advanced practice nurse with an understanding of epidemiological concepts as they relate to health and healthcare. Concepts that pertain to clinical practice and population health as well as implications for screening, prevention and disease control will be included.

DNP 718   Statistics & Evidence-Based Practice II   (3 credits; Online)
This course will focus on evaluating available literature for inclusion in Evidence-based Practice (EBP) within the healthcare system with emphasis on Evidence-based Management (EBM) in clinical and management decision making. The student will also understand and interpret statistics within current research and quality improvement projects to determine their application to practice.

DNP 725   Scholarly Project I: Project Formation   (4 credits; Online)
This course is the first of a 3-course series designed to assist students in the development of an evidence-based project. The scholarly project is the culminating learning experience in the DNP program. Learning focuses on project planning including emphasis on project management, gathering evidence, developing vision/goals/outcomes for the project, and applying theories/frameworks to structure the overall process. The IRB process will be independent of the SP courses.

DNP 745   Advanced Scientific Underpinnings   (3 credits; Online)
This course explores the theoretical foundations of practice, the conceptual models to implementation research, and strategies to implement evidence- based approaches to practice. Learning focuses on the application of theory-directed design, implementation, and evaluation while applying evidence to transform healthcare systems.

DNP 750   Scholarly Project II: Project Implementation   (4 credits; Online)
This course is the second of a 3-course series designed to integrate all previous course work and experiences into the development of an evidence-based practice (EBP) project. In addition, this course will provide key information about the Institutional Review Board process so that the student will be able to assure a safe and ethical environment for the project participants.

DNP 775   Scholarly Project III: Project Evaluation & Publication   (4 credits; Online)
This course is the third of a 3-course series to prepare and defend a system change project incorporating classwork from throughout the program. Students will demonstrate the knowledge of the DNP essentials through the planning, development and implementation of the scholarly project.

Schedule and content subject to change.

DNP 811   Scholarly Project IV: Project Continuation   (3 credits; Online)

This course is the third of a three series course to prepare and defend a system change project incorporating classwork from throughout the program. Students will demonstrate the knowledge of the DNP essentials through the planning, development and implementation of the scholarly project. *(Course can be repeated as A, B, C, etc. until completion)*

NUR 570   Health Policy & Finance   (3 credits; Online)

This course will explore the principles of healthcare policy and finance for the advanced practice nurse. Healthcare policy includes the impact of politics and legislative advocacy on healthcare and its delivery as it relates to access to care and diversity in populations in the US and globally. The course will also explore the principal ways US healthcare is structured and financed at the national, state, and local levels. Current and emerging issues and principles of business finance related to clinical care delivery will be analyzed using case studies and participative learning experiences. Implications for advanced practice leaders will be explored.

NUR 710   Quality Improvement & Evidence-Based Practice I   (4 credits; Online)

This course will focus on theory, methods and tools necessary for advanced practice leaders to facilitate quality improvement (QI) in the healthcare setting. Emphasis on the role of Evidence-based Practice (EBP) and Evidence-based Management (EBM) in clinical and management decision making within quality improvement programs will be included. Analysis of economic, social and political issues that affect quality in today's healthcare setting will be examined.

NUR 720   Organizational Behavior Management & Informatics   (4 credits; Online)

Health professionals operate within various formal and informal organizations. In order to develop and support initiatives that improve the nation's health, professionals must utilize a broad set of organizational, leadership, and business skills. This course will focus on concepts from organizational behavior and management that are essentials in meeting such initiatives. This course is also designed as a survey course for the advanced practice nurse to explore major existing and emerging technologies and their potential impact. Systems are addressed that support patient centered, safe, effective, timely, efficient and equitable care. An emphasis is placed on the role that information technology supports these systems and on development and use of technologies in 21st century healthcare. Electronic medical records (EMRs), patient safety systems and web-based patient and professional education are among the topics explored.

NUR 730   Health Promotion & Prevention in Populations   (3 credits; Online)

This course will direct the student in the examination of published guidelines designed to integrate and institute evidence-based clinical prevention and health services for individuals, aggregates, and populations across the lifespan.

NUR 740   Roles, Leadership, & Ethics   (3 credits; Online)

Schedule and content subject to change.

This course examines principles of leadership and role development of the advanced practice nurse and incorporates ethical decision-making, interprofessional collaboration, and navigating evidence-based system changes. The exploration of leadership models, styles, strategies, and roles will provide a foundation for establishing professional leadership goals. Examining practice regulations; professionalism and ethical practices; and interprofessional collaborations will provide a multi-dimensional view of the role and contributions of the advanced practice nurse to safe, high-quality, and cost-effective healthcare.

Clinical Leadership Focus Courses:

DNP 665   Clinical Leadership I: Advanced Clinical Pharmacology   (3 credits; Online)

This course is designed to build on Advanced Pharmacology with a focus on clinical applications of pharmacotherapeutics for special and vulnerable populations, including social, legal, and ethical considerations. Students will also explore the impact of pharmacogenetics and pharmacogenomics on prescribing in clinical practice, including concepts of genetics and application of genomics to individualizing pharmacotherapeutics.

DNP 715   Clinical Leadership II: Clinical Focus   (3 credits; Online)

This course explores the process of clinical leadership within the context of evaluating evidence-based practice, system processes, evaluating outcome measurements, interprofessional communication, and evaluation of patient outcomes. Students will participate in a practicum to investigate advanced levels of systems thinking, clinical judgement, healthcare deliverance, and improving patient outcomes. This course includes a 60 hours clinical leadership immersion residency designed to prepare the students for a career in clinical leadership. *(60 practicum hours)*

DNP 765   Clinical Leadership III: Internship in the Clinical Setting   (3 credits; Online)

This course explores the process of clinical leadership within the context of applying evidence-based practice, implementing practice change, evaluating outcome measurements, interprofessional collaboration, disseminating practice based scholarship, systems change, and patient outcome improvement'. Students will participate in a practicum to perform advanced levels of systems thinking, clinical judgement, healthcare deliverance, and improving patient outcomes. This course includes a 60 hours clinical leadership immersion residency designed to prepare the students for a career in clinical leadership. *(60 practicum hours)*

Executive Leadership Focus Courses:

DNP 666   Executive Leadership I: Regulatory   (3 credits; Online)

Schedule and content subject to change.

This course is designed to provide the advanced practice nurse with an understanding of state and federal political advocacy and its impact on practice regulation and healthcare delivery. Innovation and leadership are incorporated into the examination of the policy-making processes to influence state and federal regulatory changes. Students will explore state and federal legislative agendas; legislative bill interpretation and drafting; legislative monitoring and lobbying; and providing testimony for regulatory issues related to practice and healthcare delivery. Students will discuss the future of political advocacy for the advanced practice nurse through an examination of current issues that impact practice and healthcare both nationally and globally.

DNP 716 **Executive. Leadership II: Fundamentals of Leadership** **(3 credits; Online)**
This course explores the art and science of leadership. Each student will explore their current leadership skills and apply current theories. Through the coursework, the student will be exposed to multiple styles of leadership used within the healthcare setting and reframe their leadership style based on what fits into their value system and system structure.

DNP 766 **Executive Leadership III: Internship in the** **(3 credits; Online)**
Executive Setting
This course provides a 60 hour immersion residency with emphasis on advancing the knowledge, skills, and expertise required for the executive leader to influence change in complex healthcare systems and regulatory settings. This course further refines competencies related to evidence based practice, leadership, and advocacy to prepare students for executive leadership roles. *(60 practicum hours)*