DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (D.N.P.)

Overview

College: College of Science and Health
Department: Nursing and Health
Student Type: Doctorate Semester
Degree: Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) in Executive Leadership
Campus: Lisle Campus

Introduction:

Innovative and complex healthcare systems require nurses to shape the future of practice, lead organizational change, and operate at the highest levels of nursing expertise. To address the evolving demands and ensure cost-effective, safe, and high-quality care, Benedictine University's Department of Nursing and Health offers the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Executive Leadership. This program prepares graduate registered nurses to serve and lead in influential roles throughout the healthcare system.

Program description:

The Benedictine University Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in Executive Leadership provides an innovative curriculum designed for working professionals seeking to assume positions of leadership focused on the transformation of healthcare across the nation. Foundational to the program is the model of caring within the context of community which is fostered through engaging dialogue and meaningful interactions with faculty, colleagues, and clinical partners. Students advance their knowledge and leadership expertise through focused coursework, clinical practice experiences, and completion of a DNP project. The program facilitates the shaping of DNP students into visionary nurse leaders prepared to drive innovation and serve in leadership roles that impact the future of nursing and healthcare delivery. The postgraduate degree program can be completed in 24-26 months. Courses run eight weeks in duration and are taken one at a time in a laddered sequence. .

Clinical Learning Experiences:

The Department of Nursing and Health provides DNP students with the necessary resources and support to secure and prepare for their planned clinical practice experiences. Students may request a clinical site and preceptor including placement at their place of employment. Students are required to fulfill the Department of Nursing and Health and all site-specific preparatory requirements in accordance with established deadlines.

Degree Requirements Curriculum

The DNP program requires 40 semester credit hours of graduate coursework, which consists of 4 semester credit hours of NRHL 7000 Graduate Clinical Immersion Practicum or 500 hours of planned clinical nursing practicum experience completed in a graduate nursing program, 24 semester credit hours of coursework delivered online, and 12 semester credit hours of on-ground clinical practice experiences. A total of 500 hours of planned clinical practice experiences are completed during the final four courses allowing for the development of doctoral level clinical nursing practice competence. A culminating DNP project affords

students the opportunity to synthesize and apply their knowledge to demonstrate advanced nursing competence and improve patient/client outcomes. The eight DNP foundation courses and four practicum courses are required for program completion. Courses include:

Code	Title	Hours
NRHL 7000	Graduate Clinical Immersion Practicum [1]	4
NRHL 7700	Advanced Knowledge for Innovative Nursing Practice	3
NRHL 7702	Appraisal and Translation of Scholarly Evidence into Nursing Practice	3
NRHL 7704	Information Management and Healthcare Technologies	3
NRHL 7706	Leading a Culture of Quality and Safety	3
NRHL 7720	Advanced Financial Management and Economics of Healthcare Systems	3
NRHL 7722	Advocacy and Accountability for Person-Centered Care	3
NRHL 7724	Engagement in Interprofessional Partnerships to Support Population Health	3
NRHL 7726	Transformative Nursing Leadership and Professionalism	3
NRHL 8800	DNP Project Proposal and Development/Practicum	3
NRHL 8802	DNP Project Implementation/Practicum	3
NRHL 8804	DNP Project Evaluation/Practicum	3
NRHL 8806	DNP Project Dissemination/Practicum	3
Total Hours		**40**

[1] Prior to admission, students are required to provide evidence of 500 hours of supervised clinical practice experiences at the graduate level, which will be verified by the director of the DNP program. A one semester credit hour of prior learning assessment is granted for every previously earned 125 hours of graduate level supervised clinical practice experiences. Students who do not have a minimum of 500 hours will work with the director of the DNP program to complete the requirement through enrollment in NRHL 7000 Graduate Clinical Immersion Practicum.

Academic Progression

In order for students to progress in the DNP program a grade of a "B" or better is required in all courses. If a student does not earn a grade of a "B" or better in any course it may be repeated no more than two times. No additional credit hours will be earned.

Accreditation

The DNP program received approval by the Higher Learning Commission in February 2022. The Department of Nursing and Health applied for new applicant status for the DNP Program with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

(CCNE is located at 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington D. C., 20001, (202) 887-6791

Courses

NRHL 7000 Graduate Clinical Immersion Practicum. Provides graduate level clinical immersion experiences for MSN prepared RNs to meet the required 500 hours. One semester credit hour equals 125 hours of planned clinical nursing practicum experiences. A one semester credit hour prior learning assessment is granted for every previously earned 125 hours of graduate level clinical nursing practicum experience. 1-4 semester credit hour/s. Course Repeatable. Maximum number of units allowed: 4.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, and Summer Terms)

NRHL 7700 Advanced Knowledge for Innovative Nursing Practice. "Provides the context for understanding nursing as a scientific discipline. Translates evidence from the discipline of nursing and other disciplines into practice. Students will collaborate with other disciplines to implement innovative approaches to the resolution of complex clinical issues. The course provides ten (10) hours of planned clinical practice experiences. Prerequisite: Admission to the DNP program. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

NRHL 7702 Appraisal and Translation of Scholarly Evidence into Nursing Practice. "Engages students in the translation of evidence and how its use can improve patient outcomes and population health. Students explore what evidence-based implementation strategies work for whom, in which settings, and why. The course provides ten (10) hours of planned clinical practice experiences. Prerequisite: Admission to the DNP program. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

NRHL 7704 Information Management and Healthcare Technologies. "Identifies best evidence and practices for the application of information and communication technologies to support care. Students have the opportunity to evaluate the use of information and communication technology to address needs, gaps, and inefficiencies in care. The course provides twenty (20) hours of planned clinical practice experiences. Prerequisite: Admission to the DNP program. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

NRHL 7706 Leading a Culture of Quality and Safety. "Leads team-based change initiatives grounded in quality and process improvement methods. Based on the integration of outcomes metrics students will initiate recommendations for policy change. Leading the dissemination of outcomes, students will have the opportunity to advance quality improvement practices. Students assume an advocacy role for initiatives that support a culture of work environment safety. The course provides twenty (20) hours of planned clinical practice experiences. Prerequisite: Admission to the DNP program. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

NRHL 7720 Advanced Financial Management and Economics of Healthcare Systems. "Analyzes relevant internal and external factors that drive healthcare costs and reimbursement. Based on data analysis students recommend system-wide strategies that potentially improve cost effectiveness considering structure, leadership, and workforce needs. The course provides twenty (20) hours of planned clinical practice experiences. Prerequisite: Admission to the DNP program. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

NRHL 7722 Advocacy and Accountability for Person-Centered Care. "Advocates for nursing's professional responsibility to ensure optimal care outcomes. As a servant leader the student fosters a practice environment that promotes social justice and health equity. Students model behaviors that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in their practice. The course provides ten (10) hours of planned clinical practice experiences. Prerequisite: Admission to the DNP program. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

NRHL 7724 Engagement in Interprofessional Partnerships to Support Population Health. "Collaborates with appropriate stakeholders to address population healthcare needs. Students create opportunities for individuals and organizations to improve population health as well as evaluate the effectiveness of partnerships for achieving health equity. Students contribute to system-level planning, decision-making, and evaluation for disasters and public health emergencies. Students analyze the interconnectedness of shared professional values, interdisciplinary expertise, and policy and advocacy to secure resources and optimize cost-effective healthcare for populations. The course provides twenty (20) hours of planned clinical practice experiences. Prerequisite: Admission to the DNP program. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

NRHL 7726 Transformative Nursing Leadership and Professionalism. "Utilizes self-reflection to develop one's self as a leader, proficient in asserting control, influence, and power in professional and personal contexts. Students lead in advancing the profession of nursing through mentoring of others, fostering activities that support a culture of life-long learning, and contributing to an environment that promotes personal health and wellbeing. The course provides fifteen (15) hours of planned clinical practice experiences. Prerequisite: Admission to the DNP program. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

NRHL 8800 DNP Project Proposal and Development/Practicum. Focuses on the key aspects of proposal development and planning for the implementation of a comprehensive DNP project. The student is guided by a faculty mentor in the development of the project proposal and synthesis of course content throughout the DNP program. Upon completion of this course, the student will have developed and received all required approvals to implement the project. A minimum of 125 clinical practice hours is required for course completion. Prerequisites: NRHL 7700, NRHL 7702, NRHL 7704, NRHL 7706, NRHL 7720, NRHL 7722, NRHL 7724 and NRHL 7726. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

NRHL 8802 DNP Project Implementation/Practicum. Focuses on implementing a practicum project in the clinical setting, translating acquired knowledge into practice, improving systems and health outcomes, and demonstrating the ability to lead and practice at the highest level of clinical nursing practice. The student is guided by a faculty mentor in the implementation of the project and synthesis of course content throughout the DNP program. A minimum of 125 clinical practice hours is required for course completion. Prerequisite: NRHL 8800. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

NRHL 8804 DNP Project Evaluation/Practicum. Focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of the practicum project and the student's role in guiding and mentoring others in evidence-based interventions. The student is guided by a faculty mentor in the overall evaluation of the project and course content throughout the DNP program. A minimum of 125 clinical practice hours is required for course completion. Prerequisite: NRHL 8802. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

NRHL 8806 DNP Project Dissemination/Practicum. Focuses on the dissemination of the student's completed evidence-based project. The student completes a comprehensive DNP project that provides evidence of scholarly writing, advanced clinical expertise, systems analysis, and the generation of findings. Results are prepared for dissemination to either a local, regional, national, or global audience of healthcare providers. The student is guided by a faculty mentor in the final dissemination of the project and synthesis of course content throughout the DNP program. A minimum of 125 clinical practice hours is required for course completion. Prerequisite: NRHL 8804. 3 semester credit hour/s.
Campus: LISLE (Typically Offered: Periodically)

Faculty
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Deborah Jezuit (2010), Ph.D., M.S.N., RN
Department Chair, B.S.N. Program Director, M.S.N.
Associate Professor, Nursing and Health
Ph.D. 2001, Rush University
M.S. in Nursing 1988 Purdue University
B.S.N. 1975, Ball State University

Alison Ridge (2012), D.N.P., M.S.N., RN, CNE
Graduate Program Director, M.S.N.
Associate Professor, Nursing and Health
D.N.P. 2010, Rush University
M.S.N. 2004, Rush University
B.S.N. 1986, Rush University
B.A. 1985, North Central College

Lecturers

Mary Beth Billie, D.N.P, M.S.N., RN Lecturer, M.S.N.
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Patricia Brown, D.N.P., APRN, CNS, CCRN
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Mercy Chirpich, D.N.P., M.S.N., RN
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Cheryl Davis, D.N.P., M.S.N., RN, CNE
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Margaret Delaney, Ed.D., APRN, PPCNP-BC Lecturer, M.S.N.
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Marti Kessack, Ph.D., M.S.N./Ed., RN
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Camille McNicholas, Ph.D., M.S.N., RN, CRNA, APRN
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Sarah Mutschlecner, D.N.P., M.S.N., RN, FNP-BC
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Therese Shipps, D.N.Sc., M.S.N., RN
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Caroline Soyemi, D.N.P., M.S.N., RN, HFSN
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Sonja Spencer, D.N.P, M.S.N., RN Lecturer, M.S.N.
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Judith Treschuk, Ph.D., M.S.N., RN, CNS, CNE
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Jasmin Whitfield, D.N.P., M.S.N., M.P.H., RN
Lecturer, D.N.P.

Marilyn Wideman, D.N.P., M.S.N., RN
Lecturer, D.N.P.

The lecturers listed are individuals who have been employed as instructors on an as-needed basis, within the last several years, to teach courses at Benedictine University. Instructors listed may not currently be employed by Benedictine University. The University is fortunate to be able to provide our students with part-time faculty whose experience, credentials and commitment to education add to the high quality of our resident faculty.

Objectives

Students in the DNP program will achieve the following student learning outcomes (SLO):

Student Learning Outcome 1: Integrate nursing knowledge and science and relevant science-based theories as the basis for the highest level of nursing practice.
• University SLO: 1. Disciplinary Competence and Skills

Student Learning Outcome 2: Critically appraise existing research to determine and implement the best evidence to advance the scholarship of nursing.
• University SLO 5: Analytical Skills

Student Learning Outcome 3: Use systems thinking and current leadership practices to develop healthcare policy intended to promote a culture of safety and deliver quality cost-effective care.
• University SLO: 8. Stewardship

Student Learning Outcome 4: Conduct informed decision-making based on relevant data and information technology to effectively communicate strategic initiatives that support nursing practice.
• University SLO: 4. Information Fluency

Student Learning Outcome 5: Lead interprofessional partnerships and teams focused on the improvement of patient and population health outcomes in an ethical, legal, and fiscally responsible manner.
• University SLO: 7. Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility

Student Learning Outcome 6: Prepare for a position of nursing leadership along the continuum of professional socialization through mentorship and development of others.
• University SLO: 1. Disciplinary Competence and Skills

Student Learning Outcome 7: Advocate for person-centered caring relationships in collaboration with clinical partners to enhance health and well-being of persons.

• University SLO: 3. Communication Skills

Student Learning Outcome 8: Engage in partnerships to support and improve equitable population health outcomes.
• University SLO: 6. Global Awareness and Cultural Competence

Student Learning Outcome 9: Complete a systems-based DNP practice project that demonstrates synthesis of coursework and clinical experiences that contributes to system effectiveness, innovation, and evidence-based nursing practice.
• University SLO: 2. Critical and Creative Thinking Skills

Student Learning Outcome 10: Demonstrate the ability to function independently in a nursing leadership role within a complex healthcare system.
• University SLO: 9. Personal Development

Admissions
Starting the Program

Applicants must have:
• a Master of Science or higher degree in Nursing from a regionally accredited college or university.
• earned a GPA of 3.000 or higher (on a 4.000 scale) calculated for master's and/or higher degree in nursing program coursework.
• official sealed transcripts from the institution where the highest degree in nursing was conferred.
• proof of unencumbered license as a registered nurse in the U.S.
• a minimum of two years of full-time work experience as a registered nurse in a healthcare setting.
• Two letters of recommendation from persons who hold a doctoral degree (preferred) or M.S.N. degree and can address the academic, communication, and professional skills of the applicant.
• current curriculum vitae or resume.
• completion of a purpose statement which reflects scholarly professional writing, prior leadership experience, and the identification of a potential practice project (500 words).
• an interview with the graduate program director or designated faculty.
• completion of the clinical practice verification form.

Prior to admission students are required to provide evidence of the clinical nursing practice hours they completed at the master's level which will be verified by the graduate program director. Students who do not have the required 500 hours of clinical nursing practice at the graduate level will work with the graduate program director and their faculty advisor to plan completion through enrollment in NRHL 7000 (https://catalog.ben.edu/search/?P=NRHL%207000) Graduate Clinical Immersion Practicum (1-4). The total 500 hours must be completed prior to enrollment in NRHL 8800 (https://catalog.ben.edu/search/?P=NRHL %208800) DNP Project Proposal and Development/Practicum.

Students are admitted as a cohort and progress through the program in a lock-step fashion. In the event students must step out of their original cohort group, options for re-entering the program with the same or a subsequent cohort group will be provided. The option to enroll in the eight foundation courses in any sequence provides flexibility for the returning student. All foundation courses however, must be completed prior to entering the clinical practicum experience beginning with NRHL 8800 DNP Project Proposal and Development/Practicum. Students are required to complete all DNP coursework and graduate requirements within six years from initial enrollment in the DNP program.

Accepted students must meet health and safety requirements including selected immunizations and screening tests, CPR certification, flu shot, COVID-19 vaccine, health insurance, and professional liability insurance. Additional requirements may be necessary as specified by the agency at which the clinical experiences are conducted. Documentation is submitted to a Department of Nursing and Health designated vendor. A one-time fee is paid by the student upon activation of the document tracking account. Submission and approval of required documentation must be completed in accordance with established dates.