Doctor of Nursing Practice

Program information

College	Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing		
Department or school	Enter department or school		
Degree abbreviation	D.N.P.	**CIP code**	51.3818
Program website	www.fau.edu/nursing/academics/doctor-of-nursing-practice-program		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do, and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate, so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

The Doctor of Nursing Practice is the highest practice-focused degree in nursing. It prepares advanced practice nurses and nurse administrators for practice leadership grounded in caring.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The program supports the university's mission by advancing knowledge that creates meaningful impact. It prepares doctoral nurse leaders who turn research evidence into better care, with a focus on older adults.

About the program

The DNP program offers two points of entry:

1. BSN-to-DNP (Full-Time) – for nurses with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing who wish to pursue advanced practice certification. Students may choose a concentration in:
    a. Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
    b. Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP)
    c. Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
2. Post-Master's DNP (Part-Time) – for certified Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) who hold a master's degree and are seeking to expand their leadership and practice capabilities at the doctoral level.

The DNP equips nurses to apply research to clinical practice, lead innovation, and shape healthcare delivery across diverse populations and settings.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Declarative Knowledge: The DNP graduate student will be able to transform healthcare environments through the application of system data and safety benchmarks.

Research Skills: The DNP graduate student will be able to translate interdisciplinary knowledge to implement innovative care delivery models.

How students show it & Where it is Assessed

Declarative Skills: NGR7974 – 85% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 84% on the paper: Initial Draft of Project

Research Skills: NGR 7974 – 85% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 84% on the Annotated Bibliography Assignment

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☐ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☒ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☒ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Oral Communication: The DNP graduate student will be able to lead evidence-based transformation of healthcare delivery grounded in caring science.

Team/Collaborative Communication: The DNP graduate student will be able to translate interdisciplinary knowledge to implement innovative care delivery models.

How students show it & Where is it Assessed

Oral Communication: NGR 7768 – 85% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 84% on the Video-Recorded Personal Essay Assignment

Team/Collaborative Communication: NGR 7768 85% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 84% on the Healthy Policy Concern Group Presentation

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments

☐ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal

☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Practical Skills: The DNP graduate student will be able to lead advanced nursing practice grounded in caring science.

How students show it & Where it is Assessed

Practical Skills: NGR 7974 – 85% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 84% on the Networking/Identify and Discuss A DNP Problem(s) Assignment.
NGR 7768 – 85% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 84% on the Johns Hopkins Nursing Continuing Education Webinar assignment

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

DNP student learning will be assessed through multiple methods: written papers, individual and group oral presentations, literature reviews, discussion boards, webinar reviews, and a final poster presentation.

Assessment methods may change over time.