

Post- MSN Doctor of Nursing [DNP] Admission Requirements Updated May 18, 2009

This post-MSN DNP builds upon the foundation of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) role. The DNP program is directed toward Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP) and Community Health Clinical Nurse Specialists (CHCNS), closely associated specialty areas (i.e. Adult NP, Adult CNS, Public Health MSN preparation). Other specialty areas will be reviewed on an individual basis. All applicants' prior course work (including documented academic clinical hours and post-graduate practice experience) will be reviewed, and individual DNP programs of study will be developed. A DNP Admission Committee will review DNP portfolios and applications.

The Post-MSN on-line DNP is the only DNP offering at this time.

**The Post-BSN to DNP is under consideration. Further Information will be placed
on the website when this option is available.**

**Currently the MSN Is offered only as a hybrid program which uses a combination of
on-line and on-campus classes for course delivery.**

Admission criteria:

1. Education
 - a. Post-BSN: Bachelor's degree in the proposed field of study (BSN) or its equivalent from a college accredited by the appropriate accrediting association. (Note: post-BSN, and RN/BSN, RN/MSN students must complete all MSN courses prior to beginning the DNP curriculum.)
 - b. Post-MSN: Master's degree in the proposed field of study (MSN) or its equivalent from a college accredited by the appropriate accrediting association.
2. Minimum undergraduate or graduate GPA of 3.0 (on 4.0 scale)
3. Satisfactory GRE or MAT scores
 - Official scores from the GRE (General Test) or MAT (Miller Analogy Test), taken in the last five (5) years. An original copy of the test score, sent by the testing agency to the Office of Admissions, is required before any action is taken on an application. A copy of the score provided to the student and subsequently forwarded is not acceptable. The requirement for completion of a standardized test will be waived for those applicants who hold a doctoral degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
 - DNP applicants, who hold a terminal degree (doctorate) or who have a 3.0 GPA in doctoral program at a regionally accredited university, may be considered for admission without submission of official GRE or MAT scores.
 - All international applicants, including resident and non-resident aliens, whose native language is not English and who do not have an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university, are required to submit official TOEFL scores taken within the year immediately preceding the requested semester of admission. A minimum total score of 83, and minimum scores of 20 for each of the skills evaluated by the TOEFL: (Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing) An original copy of the test score, sent by the testing agency to the Office of Admissions is required before any action is taken on an application. The copy of the score provided to the student and subsequently forwarded is not acceptable.
4. DNP portfolio to include:
 - a. Vita to include
 - Personal rationale for seeking DNP
 - Future goals
 - Education
 - Research experience
 - Publications (identify refereed)
 - Professional presentations (identify refereed)

- Community service projects
 - b. Evidence of certification in a specialty area for all Nurse Practitioners (NPs). For all others, appropriate certification in specialty area, if available. For post-MSN students, evidence of certification in specialty area for all NPs, and for all others, appropriate certification in specialty area, if available.
 - c. Evidence of having completed a discrete graduate nursing in Epidemiology course or an approved equivalent.
 - d. A minimum of 500 documented academic clinical hours in MSN APN preparation. Evidence of post-graduation clinical experience in the advanced practice role unless continuing immediately into DNP course work as Post-MSN DNP student.
 - e. Current registered nursing (RN) licensure
 - For Post-MSN DNP, licensure in state of residence where clinical hours will be completed
 - For Post-BSN DNP, Georgia licensure
 - f. Current malpractice liability insurance
 - g. American Heart Association Level C (2 person-BLS) CPR certification
 - h. Three letters of recommendation from professional colleagues who can attest to academic and clinical acumen
 - i. Listing of current technological support for Internet based courses with summary of experience with on-line courses
6. Complete submission of documentation:
 - a. College of Graduate Studies Admission application and fee
 - b. Graduate Nursing Program Admission application
 - c. Georgia Southern University Health Services form (not required for Post-MSN DNP)
 - d. School of Nursing Health Appraisal forms
 7. Successful interview with faculty committee
- [Revised May, 2009]

Residency. The DNP requires a minimum of two consecutive terms of full-time continual enrollment.

Foreign Language Requirement. There is no foreign language requirement.

Transfer Credit. A maximum of 6 credits of doctoral level nursing credits and 9 credits of graduate level electives may be applied toward the 40 credits required for the DNP upon approval by the Graduate Nursing Program. Transfer credits must also satisfy the same requirements as courses taught for doctoral education within the School of Nursing Graduate Program (e.g., minimum grade of B), be consistent with the student's approved program of study, and be from a regionally accredited college or university within a timely manner (to be evaluated on an individual basis). Thesis and dissertation credits cannot be transferred. The student must provide documentation in support of equivalence, such as a course syllabus, transcript, term paper, and/or instructor testimony. Equivalence is determined by the Faculty Advisor or Program Director. Credit reductions do not influence the residency or enrollment requirements or comprehensive examination procedures.

Course Time Limits. All requirements for the DNP must be completed within seven academic years from the date of the first enrollment for study following admission to the doctoral coursework. For transfer students, the seven year time limit commences with the semester during which the credit being transferred was earned at another institution.

Grades. Students in DNP coursework must maintain a 3.0 average (B or better) in course work to proceed in the doctoral program and be eligible to graduate. Grades in all courses applied toward the doctorate must be B or better. Students will become academically ineligible when any of the following occur in course work of an approved program of study: 1) a grade of D, F, or WF in any course; 2) a grade of C in any three courses; or 3) the minimum 3.0 average is not achieved within the minimum number of semester hours required for the degree.

Essentials Examination. The purpose of the Essentials Examination is to assess the student's knowledge and integration and application of knowledge to problems of advanced nursing practice obtained at the doctoral level of study. The Essentials Examination can be taken at the completion of 20 credits, but must be taken within one semester of completing all course work. The examination will be completed using Internet capability. The School of Nursing DNP Program Committee will determine the three questions that will comprise the examination. The reading committee members will hold graduate faculty status. The examination responses will be awarded a pass, a conditional pass, or a failure. With a pass of all examination components, the student may be approved for graduation upon successful completion of all degree requirements. A conditional pass on any component will require a repeat of that exam component in a format suggested by the DNP Program Committee. Failure of the Essentials Examination may result in additional coursework prior to a second examination. A second failure constitutes dismissal from the program and denial of continued course work to earn the DNP.

Clinical Immersion Project. Doctoral students are required to complete a clinical project at an advanced level. A dissertation is not required. The clinical project may take diverse forms (e.g., identification of a health care problem, development of an intervention and analysis of outcomes; an investigation of a health issue with development of health policy strategies to address the health problem; or the development of a complex programmatic strategy within a health care system to address a significant issue). Upon completion of the clinical project the student must present the project to faculty and peers in an appropriate venue determined by the faculty. Submission of the project to a refereed professional organization for presentation or peer reviewed journal for publication is required. It is expected that a minimum of one peer reviewed presentation or peer reviewed publication will be achieved on DNP related content prior to completion of course work. Failure to make satisfactory progress toward completion of the Clinical Immersion Project and/or completion of all requirements to be awarded the DNP within the seven year time limit can result in dismissal from the program. A student who fails to make satisfactory progress may appeal to continue study toward the degree. A student granted approval to continue to work toward the degree may be required to take additional course work and/or meet other school and college stated requirements.

Faculty Advisor. Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor upon admission. The role of the faculty advisor is to mentor the student, provide advice and academic support as needed, monitor progress, and to be available for student assistance as appropriate. The faculty advisor will advise the student with regard to electives and modifications to the program of study, which must be approved by the Graduate Program Director to assure that desired course offerings are available in the sequence desired to assure timely completion of all course work. The faculty advisor may act as the chair or member of the Clinical Project or Qualifying Examination committee.