

Doctor of Nursing Practice Core Courses

The DNP Program Core Curriculum was developed to include the essential content recommended by the American Association of Colleges for Nursing (AACN) in the document The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice (2006).

NUR 731: Philosophical, Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations. (3 credits). This required core course for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program provides an understanding of the use of theory and conceptual foundations to guide the complexity of specialty nursing practice at the doctoral level. The content is derived from the philosophical and scientific underpinnings of nursing, natural, and psycho-social sciences. **(Essential I)**

NUR 732: Design and Statistical Methods for Advanced Nursing Practice. (3 credits). This required course for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program provides the student with the basis to search, retrieve, and manipulate statistical data. The focus of this course is on quantitative methodologies, research design, and data analysis. The content provides essential knowledge for the evaluation of research to guide evidence-based nursing practice at the highest level. **(Essential III)**

NUR 733: Informatics for Advanced Practice Nursing. (3 credits). This required course focuses on the collection, organization, analysis, and dissemination of information in nursing and health care. Students are introduced to the specialty of nursing informatics, the information system life-cycle, telemedicine, and the use of technology to enhance nursing care delivery and patient safety. Also, students learn how to design, use, and manipulate large and small patient databases for the analysis of patient outcomes. **(Essential IV)**

NUR 735: Population Health in Advanced Practice. (3 credits). This required course for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepares the student to implement specialty population-based disease prevention and health promotion activities to achieve national and international goals of improving worldwide health status. The course focuses on a spectrum of issues affecting health, which include emerging infectious diseases, emergency preparedness, disparities in health and healthcare services, and the impact of behavior and lifestyle choices on health. **(Essentials V and VII)**

NUR 736: Application of Best Practices. (4 credits). This required course in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepares the student to evaluate interdisciplinary clinical and health systems for best practices and outcomes in the specialty area. Students acquire the knowledge, skills, and tools to support, promote, and implement evidence-based specialty practice in nursing and health care delivery systems to improve health outcomes. Emphasis will be placed upon the synthesis, critique, and application of evidence to support quality clinical and organizational practices. **(Essentials II, III, and IV)**

NUR 737: Interdisciplinary Leadership and Role Development for Practice Excellence. (3 credits). This required course in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepares students for organizational and systems leadership and knowledge and skills critical to role development in independent and inter and intra-disciplinary practice. Content includes communication, conflict resolution, collaboration and negotiation, leadership, and team functioning to maximize success in the establishment of safe, effective patient-centered care in complex environments. **(Essentials I, II, III and V)**

NUR 738: Scholarly Project Development Seminar. (2 credits). This required course is designed to assist the student in selecting an area of interest within a practice specialization, and in demonstrating professional competencies related to an area of interest. The student will document previously acquired abilities and competencies in a professional portfolio. Students will participate in the seminar to obtain guidance, be involved in discussion, and receive peer suggestions about the portfolio and practice plans. **(Essential I)**

NUR 739: Scholarly Practice Project. (3-7 credits). This required course is the capstone clinical course in all advanced practice tracks. The student presents evidence of achievements and competencies in a professional portfolio. The practice residency is completed in a specialty area of the student's choice. One credit hour of each semester of the residency is devoted to classroom seminar. The seminar focuses on the aspects of the final practice project and interventions that promote health, prevent illness and disability, and alleviate health disparities. Small group sessions are formed for students who are at similar stages of completion of the course requirements. The final project is selected and planned by the student and the advisor and is implemented during this course. The student completes the project, evaluates the outcomes, disseminates the findings, and makes a formal scholarly presentation to faculty and peers. **(Essentials I and VIII)**

NUR 740: Health Policy and Politics: Implications in Health Care. (3 credits). This required course in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program focuses on the basic principles of health policy and the influence of the political process as a systematic approach to health care in the United States and internationally. The course prepares students to assume complex leadership roles in order to advance specialty practice and health. This course focuses on the unique challenges of engaging and influencing health care policy in the U.S. and internationally. It is designed to develop skills, techniques, and approaches to the critical analysis of health policy proposals, health policies, and related issues from the perspective of consumers, nursing, other health professions, and other stakeholders in policy and public forums. The health policy framework is analyzed from a governmental, institutional, and organizational perspective. **(Essentials I, II, III and V)**