

Doctor of Nursing Practice

As of August 2008 The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing will offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. This joint program is a collaboration among The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing, University of Alabama at Birmingham, the College of Nursing at the University of Alabama Huntsville, and the School of Health Professions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The DNP is a practice-focused degree to prepare graduates to practice at the highest level in specialty practice or to assume leadership positions in health care. Graduates of the DNP program focus on providing care to populations and communities with an emphasis on improving quality and access to underserved and diverse populations. Graduates employ abilities and skills in these areas to advocate for reasonable, rational and data driven health regulations, standards, and practices; sustain collaborative and strategic relationships, promote innovative, effective health care programs; and form partnerships with diverse groups to address health disparities.

For most students, the Post-Master's DNP curriculum is a minimum of 34 credits that includes the development of a practice or leadership focused project. This scholarly project is designed to synthesize scholarship in an advanced practice specialty or an area of healthcare leadership and serves as a capstone program experience. All courses are offered in a distance accessible format and students may develop the scholarly project under the direction of program faculty and onsite mentors.