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

Purpose
The distance education program leading to the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (D.N.P.) at Wilkes University is linked to the mission statements of the University and the Passan School of Nursing. The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (AACN, 2006) are applied to the curriculum. The doctoral program focuses on two primary elements: applied research and clinical practice. These elements are embedded in courses throughout the program leading to the final D.N.P. Project where students integrate acquired knowledge to clinical practice in their preferred specialty area.

D.N.P. Program Outcomes
The D.N.P. Program at Wilkes University prepares students to:
1. Apply scientific inquiry and information technology to become leaders in advancing nursing practice.
2. Demonstrate application of scholarship and research for solving the nation’s complex health problems.
3. Translate evidence-based research into clinical practice.
4. Integrate and disseminate knowledge for improving patient and population health outcomes.
5. Engage in health care policy.

D.N.P. Student Learning Outcomes
Students in the D.N.P. Program at Wilkes University will:
1. Synthesize nursing science to manage complex health problems and improve health outcomes in advanced nursing practice.
2. Develop knowledge and skills in healthcare organizational and systems leadership to improve evidence-based practice and policy.
3. Critically analyze information technology, research methodology, quality improvement methodology to implement the best evidence-based practice.
4. Design patient care technology and information systems to enhance quality of health care delivery.
5. Evaluate health care policies to improve health care policy outcomes at the local, state, and national levels.
6. Employ specialized knowledge and leadership skills when collaborating and leading other inter-professional health care teams in complex health care delivery systems.
7. Analyze health disparities, cultural diversity, environmental and societal needs in the care of individuals, aggregates, and populations.
8. Demonstrate advanced levels of clinical judgment using systems thinking to implement and evaluate evidence-based care.

Admission Requirements
Admission Criteria
- Master of Science in Nursing degree or post graduate/APRN certificate - advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), nurse executive/leadership, nursing informatics, clinical nurse leader, or health policy concentrations
- GPA of 3.0 or higher from a master’s in nursing degree granting institution which is programatically (ACEN, NLNAC, or CCNE) and regionally accredited
- Official transcripts from master’s degree and post-graduate/APRN certificate granting institutions, as appropriate
- RN license; and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license and national board certification, as appropriate
- Completed online application
- Curriculum vitae
- Validation of completed, supervised clinical practice hours during master’s and/or post-graduate/APRN certificate programs. Verification must be provided by the nursing program where the clinical hours were completed
- Evidence of completion for advanced health assessment, advanced pharmacology, and advanced pathophysiology by APRN students (Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Anesthetists and Nurse Midwives) who do not hold current national certification.

The Curriculum
M.S. to D.N.P. Core (30 Credits)

8 week courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[NSG-600]</td>
<td>Nursing Informatics</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>[NSG-601]</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>[NSG-602]</td>
<td>Ethical Principles for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>[NSG-603]</td>
<td>Application of Nursing Research</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>[NSG-604]</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Environmental Health</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>[NSG-605]</td>
<td>Collaboration in Health Care Delivery</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>[NSG-606]</td>
<td>Diversity and Social Issues</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>[NSG-607]</td>
<td>Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>[NSG-608a]</td>
<td>D.N.P. Project</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>[NSG-608b]</td>
<td>D.N.P. Project</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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*NSG 608 a and b are completed over the last 2 courses (32 weeks) in the D.N.P. program.

E elective practicum courses are available for students entering the D.N.P. program with less than 400 hours from their master’s degree and post-graduate/APRN certificate programs. These courses provide students with additional time to complete the required 1000 hours for the D.N.P. degree, prior to the start of the DNP Project. ([NSG-609]: DNP Program Practicum; 250 clinical hours; 3 credits)

Degree Requirements
D.N.P. students are required to complete the 30 credit D.N.P. core.

D.N.P. Project
Students are required to complete a D.N.P. Project that demonstrates mastery of theoretical content through analysis and synthesis. The D.N.P. project in the program is a pilot study directed at generating new knowledge to support quality improvement through practice or policy change. Students should have a topic of interest prior to entering the program and will research the topic throughout their D.N.P. coursework. The expectation is for students to commit to this topic during their coursework. Students changing topics and not prepared for the start of the D.N.P. Project...
Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

The D.N.P. program requires completion of a total of 1000 hours of practice experience beyond the bachelor's level of nursing education. The hours will be conducted in the D.N.P. Project courses. Students who have completed practicum hours to satisfy past curriculum requirements may be credited with hours from their master's program and/or post master's graduate/ APRN certificate in nursing. Validation of those hours is required through a letter from the degree granting academic institution verifying the number of practicum hours as part of the enrollment process. Further details of clinical requirements are outlined in the graduate program student nursing handbook.

**NSG. NURSING**

**NSG-410. TRANSITION TO BACCALAUREATE NURSING FOR THE GRADUATE NURSING STUDENT**

*Credits: 7*

This course is designed to facilitate the transition of RN students from other educational routes to baccalaureate education and professional nursing practice. The course focuses on the integration of knowledge, skills and attitudes in the development of the professional role to enhance quality outcomes for individuals, families, and populations across all healthcare settings and in complex healthcare environments. Students will begin advancing their knowledge on the transformational concepts related to master’s education in nursing.

**NSG-500. ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

*Credits: 3*

This course presents an overview of the full and comprehensive health assessment of patients across the life span. Emphasis on multiple aspects of assessment including physical, functional, and mental health assessment along with transcultural variations, will prepare the student for advanced nursing practice. (Nurse Practitioner students are required to complete an onsite residency.)

**NSG-502. ADVANCED NURSING RESEARCH**

*Credits: 3*

This course builds on knowledge and skills developed in undergraduate research and statistics courses. Skills in the analysis and evaluation of nursing research are further developed. Students analyze the contributions of the empirical approach to the development of nursing science. Selected research designs and methodologies which are used to advance nursing knowledge are examined. Students are given the opportunity to critique and synthesize current research for its application to an identified problem in nursing practice.

**NSG-505. HEALTH POLICY AND POLITICS FOR ADVANCING NURSING PRACTICE**

*Credits: 3*

Complex and continuous changes in healthcare environments require that nursing professionals contribute to care delivery systems for improving population health outcomes. This course focuses on the role of the nurse advancing nursing practice through developing health policy, politics, and advocacy systems. Approaches to health issues for shaping policy on a local, state and federal level are analyzed in accordance with policy making processes, politics in healthcare and government, healthcare economics, and ethical frameworks.

**NSG-506. ADVANCED PRACTICE IN ADULT GERONTOLOGY CLINICAL I**

*Credits: 3*

Advance practice nursing students integrate theories from nursing and other sciences that are evidence-based and sensitive to cultural and ethical issues. Promoting quality outcomes in the adult-gerontology population across the spectrum of young adults, adults, and older adults is the focus of this clinical experience in primary care settings. Advanced health assessment, diagnostic reasoning, and development of therapeutic interventions for self-limiting conditions occurs. Opportunities for interdisciplinary experience and collaborative practice are provided. The seminar component of the course is designed to develop critical-thinking and clinical decision-making skills through case presentations. (Seminar, Residency and 250 clinical practice hours).

**Pre-Requisites**

[NSG-550]

**NSG-515. ADVANCED PRACTICE IN ADULT GERONTOLOGY CLINICAL II**

*Credits: 3*

Advanced Practice nursing students integrate theories from nursing and other sciences that are evidence-based and sensitive to cultural and ethical issues. Promoting quality outcomes in the adult and gerontology population across the spectrum of young adults, adults, and older adults is the focus of this clinical experience in primary care settings. Advanced health assessment, diagnostic reasoning and development of therapeutic interventions for complex health conditions occurs. Opportunities for interdisciplinary experience and collaborative practice are provided. The seminar component of the course is designed to develop critical-thinking and clinical decision-making skills through case presentations. (Seminar, Residency and 250 clinical practice hours)

**Pre-Requisites**

[NSG-550]

**NSG-530. ADVANCED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY**

*Credits: 3*

This course provides an overview of the normal physiologic and pathologic mechanisms of disease and serves as one primary component of the foundation for clinical assessment, decision-making, and management. The course prepares the advance practice nurse for interpreting changes in normal function that results in symptoms indicative of illness in patients across the lifespan.

**NSG-536. ADVANCED PRACTICE IN PSYCHIATRIC/MENTAL HEALTH NURSING II**

*Credits: 3*

This clinical course focuses on refining assessment, diagnosis, and pharmacological and psychosocial management of individuals of all ages with mental illness. Individual, family, and group psychotherapies are refined. Students gain skills in identifying individuals/populations at risk for mental illness and primary prevention in mental health. Mental health needs of culturally diverse, rural, and underserved populations are explored. Leadership and advocacy roles of the advanced practice psychiatric nurse as an agent of healthcare policy change are emphasized. Students integrate theory and practice of the advanced practice psychiatric nurse in a supervised clinical practicum (Total: Residency and 250 practice hours).

**Pre-Requisites**

[NSG-550], [NSG-552]
Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

NSG-540. ROLE OF THE NURSE EDUCATOR AND CURRICULUM WORK IN NURSING EDUCATION
Credits: 3
Course content prepares the student to examine the nurse educator role, the concept of role change and its impact on the transition from nurse clinician to nurse educator. Curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation is analyzed with a focus on professional standards and criteria. Emphasis in on designing a curriculum that is grounded in evidence, aligned with current and projected contexts, and organized around specific curricular elements.

NSG-544. CLASSROOM PRACTICUM IN NURSING EDUCATION
Credits: 3
This practicum provides the student an opportunity to participate in a faculty or staff development role within an educational setting. Each student will develop an educational offering based upon an area of advanced nursing practice. The student is required to obtain a mentor who will provide classroom teaching learning experiences. (100 practicum hours required)

Pre-Requisites
[[NSG-540]], [[NSG-541]], or [[NSG-542]]

NSG-545. CLINICAL PRACTICUM IN NURSING EDUCATION
Credits: 3
This practicum provides the student and opportunity to actively participate in a faculty or staff development role within an educational setting. Each student will develop an educational offering based upon an area of advanced nursing practice. The student is required to obtain a mentor who will provide teaching learning experiences within a clinical environment. (100 practicum hours)

Pre-Requisites
[[NSG-540]], [[NSG-541]], or [[NSG-542]]

NSG-546. FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER I
Credits: 3
Family/Across the Lifespan Nurse Practitioner students integrate theories from nursing and other sciences that are evidence-based and sensitive to cultural and ethical issues. Promoting quality outcomes in the family population across the lifespan is the focus of this clinical experience in primary care settings. Advanced health assessment, diagnostic reasoning and development of therapeutic interventions for complex health conditions occurs. Opportunities for interdisciplinary experience and collaborative practice are provided. The seminar component of the course is designed to develop critical-thinking and clinical decision-making skills through case presentations. (Seminar, Residency and 250 clinical practice hours)

Pre-Requisites
[[NSG-500]], [[NSG-530]], [[NSG-533]], [[NSG-550]]

NSG-547. FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER II
Credits: 3
Family/Across the Lifespan Nurse Practitioner students integrate theories from nursing and other sciences that are evidence-based and sensitive to cultural and ethical issues. Promoting quality outcomes in the family population across the lifespan is the focus of this clinical experience in primary care settings. Advanced health assessment, diagnostic reasoning and development of therapeutic interventions for complex health conditions occurs. Opportunities for interdisciplinary experience and collaborative practice are provided. The seminar component of the course is designed to develop critical-thinking and clinical decision-making skills through case presentations. (Seminar, Residency and 250 clinical practice hours)

Pre-Requisites
[[NSG-500]], [[NSG-530]], [[NSG-533]], [[NSG-550]]

NSG-550. DIAGNOSTIC REASONING FOR NURSE PRACTITIONERS
Credits: 2
The nurse practitioner will develop processes for formulating differential diagnoses of acute and chronic physical and mental illnesses in the primary care setting across the life span. A case-study approach is integrated to prepare students for management of health status of patients through the implementation of strategies specific to the synthesis of data from multiple sources that promote quality of care outcomes for patients.

Pre-Requisites
[[NSG-530]], [[NSG-533]]

NSG-554. NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN PRIMARY CARE I
Credits: 3
This course is designed to prepare primary care nurse practitioner students to provide primary health care to the adult and older adult population during wellness and acute/episodic illness. The course integrates nursing theories that are evidence-based with health assessment and diagnostic reasoning of acute/episodic primary care health problems. Health promotion, protection and disease prevention interventions are provided with consideration of culturally diverse populations.

Pre-Requisites
[[NSG-550]]

NSG-555. NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN PRIMARY CARE II
Credits: 3
This course is designed to prepare primary care nurse practitioner students to provide chronic primary health care to the adult and older adult population. The course integrates nursing theories that are evidence-based with health assessment and diagnostic reasoning of chronic, primary health care problems. Health promotion, protection and disease prevention interventions are provided with consideration of culturally diverse populations.

Pre-Requisites
[[NSG-550]]
NSG-566. HEALTH PERSPECTIVES OF CULTURALLY DIVERSE, RURAL, AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS
Credits: 2
This course is designed to introduce the advanced practice nursing student to the issues of culturally diverse, rural and underserved populations. The theory can be integrated into clinical practice for patients and families in primary care settings to promote understanding of differences and issues that impact comprehensive planning of health care services.

NSG-561. THE WORK OF NURSING LEADERS IN HEALTHCARE
Credits: 3
The student will explore the work of a nurse leader in American healthcare. American healthcare is amid tumultuous change with nurse leaders compelled to adapt and develop new skills sets. Nurses now play active roles in change management processes, conflict resolution, quality assurance projects, interprofessional collaboration, human resource management, financial management and strategic planning. These functions will be explored in this course.

NSG-562. ADVANCED TOPICS IN NURSING LEADERSHIP
Credits: 3
Proficiency in nursing leadership and management develops from accumulated work experience combined with formalized education. This course will introduce theoretical constructs not found in prelicensure education to facilitate the complex work of nurse leaders. Systems thinking, complexity theory, nursing scholarship and the use of Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) techniques, the role of healthcare in the community and the transition to outpatient services and community-based care will be covered.

NSG-563. NURSE EXECUTIVE PRACTICUM I
Credits: 3
By applying theories from other sciences and utilizing interdisciplinary experiences and collaborative opportunities, students will further enhance the skills necessary to excel as a health care executive in an evidence-based, culturally sensitive environment. The seminar component of this course is designed to supplement previous theoretical applications and stimulate critical-thinking and decision-making to further develop the student’s leadership abilities (100 practicum hours)

Pre-Requisites
[[NSG-560]], [[NSG-561]], or [[NSG-562]]

NSG-564. NURSE EXECUTIVE PRACTICUM II
Credits: 3
By applying theories from other sciences and utilizing interdisciplinary experiences and collaborative opportunities, the student will further enhance the skills necessary to excel as a health care executive in an evidence-based, culturally sensitive environment. The completion of an organizational needs assessment within this course is designed to supplement previous theoretical applications and stimulate critical-thinking and decision-making to further develop the student’s administrative abilities. (100 practicum hours)

Pre-Requisites
[[NSG-560]], [[NSG-561]], or [[NSG-562]]

NSG-568. NURSING INFORMATICS PRACTICUM I
Credits: 3
This course requires students to perform in the role of an informatics nurse specialist in a healthcare organization. In collaboration with a preceptor students will apply nursing informatics theory and models in developing a project which improves the quality of nursing care delivered in a healthcare setting. (Clinical Practicum Hours: 100)

Pre-Requisites
[[NSG-565]], [[NSG-566]], or [[NSG-567]]

NSG-600. NURSING INFORMATICS
Credits: 3
Students use information systems to analyze patient data, perform research, and evaluate project outcomes. The course will include applications in computer-based patient records, data-base management systems, e-health, distance education, and research. Legal and ethical issues associated with computer use are examined.

NSG-605. COLLABORATION IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY
Credits: 3
This course focused on the knowledge and skills needed to promote collaboration with all members of the interdisciplinary health care team. Content will include exploration of the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies for effective health care delivery.

NSG-606. DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES
Credits: 3
This course focuses on cultural and social issues affecting members of a global society. A critical appraisal of health care disparities is emphasized and strategies for quality improvement are analyzed.

NSG-607. LEADERSHIP IN ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE
Credits: 3
This course provides an opportunity for students to analyze theories of leadership and management as they relate to the multifaceted role in advanced nursing practice. The health care environment, with its ongoing changes in organization and financing, is impacted upon by changes in health policy, regulatory processes, and quality measures. The understanding of this content will prepare the student to provide quality cost-effective care, to participate in the design and implementation of care in a variety of health care systems, and to assume a leadership role in the managing of human, fiscal, and physical care resources.

NSG-608. A AND B. SCHOLARLY PROJECT
Credits: 6
Completed over the last 2 semesters of the D.N.P. program.

In this course the student under the guidance of a selected faculty member will analyze and synthesize theoretical and empirical research relevant to a clinical practice or health policy issue. Students will design, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive evidence based D.N.P. Project. Required clinical hours for the D.N.P. degree are dependent upon educational background.

Pre-Requisites
[[NSG-600]], [[NSG-601]], [[NSG-602]], [[NSG-603]], [[NSG-604]], [[NSG-605]], [[NSG-606]] and [[NSG-607]]
NSG-609. D.N.P. PROGRAM PRACTICUM I  
Credits: 2  
This course provides students pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree the opportunity for achieving additional clinical hours as required for meeting program outcomes. The focus will be on preparing students as experts in a specific area for advancing nursing practice, for the final scholarly project. The student will develop a PICO statement for the scholarly project which will guide this intense practice immersion experience. The student will collaborate with an identified clinical mentor. (Elective; Clinical hours total: 150 hours/ 8 weeks/2 credits)

Pre-Requisites  
[NSG-600], [NSG-601], [NSG-602], [NSG-603]

NSG-615. INTRODUCTORY SEMINAR  
Credits: 1  
This seminar is a weekend residency that focuses on the dissertation process and student orientation to the university and Ph.D. program.

Pre-Requisites  
Doctoral standing

NSG-618. HEALTH CARE ISSUES AND POLICY  
Credits: 3  
The nurse researcher contributes towards the development of healthcare policy and politics in local, state, national, and global healthcare markets. Application and analysis of evidence based research on policy and politics will impact population health outcomes and the future of nursing education, research and practice.

Pre-Requisites  
[NSG-615]

NSG-624. QUALITATIVE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS  
Credits: 3  
The focus of this course is on qualitative inquiry as an approach to the discovery of knowledge in the science of nursing. This course will focus on the scientific underpinnings, methodologies, and data analysis techniques in qualitative research for advancing nursing knowledge.

Pre-Requisites  
[NSG-619]

NSG-625. QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS II  
Credits: 3  
This course builds on the understanding of quantitative designs in nursing and health related topics. The course provides the opportunity for applied practice in quantitative methods using common statistical tests and SPSS.

Pre-Requisites  
[NSG-623]

NSG-626. MEASUREMENT AND DATA COLLECTION  
Credits: 3  
This course provides an overview of principles of measurement, instrument design, and data collection methods. Methods to critically evaluate and select theoretically congruent instruments are explored.

Pre-Requisites  
[NSG-621]

NSG-629. DISSERTATION SEMINAR  
Credits: 3  
This course focuses on completion of the first three chapters of the dissertation and submission of the proposal to the IRB committee(s) for approval. Students will then undertake proposal defense before continuing into dissertation implementation.

Pre-Requisites  
[NSG-628]