Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Focus
The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (DNP) has two options: Family Nurse Practitioner (https://www.montana.edu/nursing/graduate/dnpoption.html) and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (https://www.montana.edu/nursing/graduate/dnpoption.html). The DNP degree prepares the graduate for advanced practice nursing with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide clinical expertise, judgment, scholarship, and leadership at the highest level of nursing practice in the primary health care setting. Graduates will be eligible for national APRN certification and licensure specific to the population focus.

DNP Program Objectives
1. Integrate nursing science and theory, biophysical, psychosocial, ethical, analytical, and organizational sciences as the foundation for the highest level of nursing practice.
2. Analyze complex health care systems to assess strengths and weaknesses and facilitate organization-wide changes in practice delivery.
3. Synthesize, interpret, and apply knowledge from nursing practice, research, theory, and informatics to evaluate outcomes and sustain evidence-based advanced practice nursing.
4. Advocate for health care policy addressing issues of social justice and equality in the delivery of advanced practice nursing services.
5. Enact leadership and effective communication in inter- and intra-professional collaborator relationships to facilitate and improve outcomes for individuals, populations, and health care systems.
6. Assess epidemiological, financial, sociopolitical, occupational, and organizational forces in the development, implementation, and evaluation of clinical prevention and population health.
7. Integrate professional standards, values, accountability, and ongoing self-reflection into role acquisition as an advanced practice nurse.
8. Influence health outcomes by providing advanced independent comprehensive health care services including health promotion and counseling, health assessment and diagnosis, disease prevention, and management of health and illness of individuals and families throughout the lifespan.
9. Complete and successfully defend a scholarly project appropriate to the role and scope of the doctorally prepared advanced practice registered nurse.

BSN to DNP (Family Nurse Practitioner) Sample 3 Year, Full-Time Program of Study
A four-year plan is available for part-time students.

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<th>Year 1</th>
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Year Total: 11 9 8

Total Program Credits: 82

BSN to DNP (Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner) Sample 3 Year, Full-Time Program of Study *
A four-year plan is available for part-time students.

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NRSG 608 - Design H C Delivery Systems 3
NRSG 614 - Vulnerability and Health Care in Diverse Communities 4

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Total Program Credits: 82

* DNP applicants with prior graduate nursing education will submit transcripts for review of potential equivalent coursework. This gap analysis will inform an individualized Program of Study.

**Post-Master’s DNP**

The DNP Post-Master’s option is designed for nationally-certified, currently-practicing, master’s prepared Nurse Practitioners who do not wish to add a separate practice focus. Graduates generate new knowledge through innovation of practice change, the translation of evidence, and the implementation of quality improvement processes in specific practice settings, systems, or with specific populations to improve health or health outcomes.

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**Scholarly Project**

Each student completes and defends a scholarly project developed in collaboration with a faculty advisor and a committee conducted over two semesters during the final year of study. Examples of exciting and innovative student projects include: development of mental health outreach programs to the rural elderly; examination of alternative health practices for healing; and establishment of pediatric cancer support groups for the rural client.

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Total Program Credits: 39

* A complete gap analysis of transcripts is used to determine if prior master’s courses may be waived and the number of clinical hours to be credited towards the required 1,000 DNP hours. Full and part-time coursework is available.