

# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONSORTIUM

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

*a collaborative program between Fresno State and San Jose State University*

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a practice-focused doctoral degree, such as the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), Doctor of Medicine (MD), or Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), in contrast to the research-focused Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The purpose of the DNP is to develop advanced competencies for increasingly complex practice, teaching, and leadership roles in nursing, and provide an advanced educational credential for those in practice. The changing demands of this nation's complex health care environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recommends that the DNP should be the terminal degree for nursing practice. In addition to meeting requirements of the Essentials of Doctoral Nursing Practice outlined by AACN, students complete coursework in teaching strategies, curriculum development, and may elect to complete a nursing education practicum to prepare for faculty roles.



### **What are the unique components of our DNP program?**

The California State University, Northern California Consortium Doctor of Nursing Practice program is a post-master's, joint degree program between Fresno State and San Jose State University. The curriculum allows the student to continue working full-time if desired. The format is completely online with minimal campus meeting requirements throughout the program.



The program follows a cohort model, with no part-time option. It is 21 months long, 5 semesters including one summer session program. The curriculum may be found on the website. Practicum is a requirement, although the amount varies based on the number of practicum hours documented as eligible through the original post-baccalaureate education. Documentation of prior practicum hours in a master's degree program will be reviewed for acceptance toward the required 1000 practicum hours.

*The DNP program is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).*

## What are the DNP admission requirements?

- Meet admission requirements to California State University, Fresno
- MSN from an accredited institution OR a master's degree in a health-related field with additional post-baccalaureate courses in nursing theories, research methods, transcultural nursing and informatics required
- Overall GPA of 3.0 or greater
- Current, unrestricted California RN license
- National certification or meet requirements for national certification in appropriate nursing specialty
- Sufficient preparation and experiences as an APN or nurse manager/ administrator/ executive/ educator/ experienced nurse



## What are the DNP program requirements?

- Maintain a GPA of 3.0
- Pass a Qualifying Assessment at the end of the first year
- Complete a doctoral project
- Following completion of the Doctoral Project, students must satisfactorily defend their project before being recommended for graduation

**Doctoral Project:** The doctoral project relates to an advanced practice issue and focuses on a potential or existing health problem or issue affecting a group or community, rather than an individual. The project is developed in the first year through course work and implemented and evaluated in the second year of the program with guidance from a Project Chair. Project completion and one article discussing the project submitted for publication are required for graduation.

Students are encouraged to gain support from their employer so that clinical and scholarship activities may be conducted at the student's work site.

## What is the cost of the DNP program?

Tuition is \$7,635 per semester plus other university fees, cost of books, supplies and occasional transportation. Out-of-state tuition applies for non-California residents. International students are not being accepted at this time.

## Is Financial Aid available?

Nursing students are eligible for all scholarships, grants or loans available to the general student body. Students must be accepted into the program prior to applying for financial aid.

# Applications are accepted October 1, 2017- June 1, 2018

Complete applications must be received by the **June 1st** deadline. Applications are considered on a rolling basis as they are received. Once the cohort is filled, applicants are placed on a waiting list. **Early submission is encouraged.**

### Application Process:

**Step 1:** Apply online to the **DNP program**

**Step 2:** Apply online at **Cal State Apply**

Select Fresno State as program

[www.fresnostate.edu/dnp](http://www.fresnostate.edu/dnp)

[www.calstate.edu/apply](http://www.calstate.edu/apply)

After submitting a complete application to Fresno State, an applicant will be scheduled for an on-site campus interview. Following admission, a program advisor will be assigned to assist in formulating a study plan and selecting a chairperson for the doctoral project.

**For additional information and to APPLY, go to [www.fresnostate.edu/dnp](http://www.fresnostate.edu/dnp)**