

California State University, Northern California Consortium
Doctor of Nursing Practice
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is the DNP needed?

- a. There are several factors that have created the need for advanced nursing education at the doctoral level. The changing demands of the nation's complex healthcare environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes.
- b. The DNP is a practice-oriented doctorate, such as the Doctor of Pharmacy, Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Optometry, or Doctor of Physical Therapy.

2. When will the DNP be required for practice?

- a. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has set a standard that the DNP will be the entry level for advanced practice nursing as of 2015. This is currently a recommendation and not a requirement.

3. The DNP program and the California State University; how are they connected?

- a. Assembly Bill 867 (AB867) authorized the California State University (CSU) system to offer the post-master's degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) as a pilot program at three locations state wide. The collaboration between Fresno State and San Jose State University (Northern California Consortium) is one of the three sites. The collaboration between CSU Fullerton, Long Beach, & Los Angeles (Southern Consortium) is the second location. The third location is San Diego State University.

4. What are the unique features of the California State University, Northern California Consortium – DNP?

- a. Inclusion of curriculum for faculty role preparation, including courses in curriculum development, teaching methods, assessment, as well as an elective opportunity for a teaching practicum.
- b. An online course format with "On-campus Intensives".
- c. Within the program a three-semester integrated course series that links the student's scholarly doctoral project (NURS 595, NURS 596, NURS 597).
- d. An embedded practicum course (NURS 295) that may be taken during the second – fifth semester as needed to complete the required 1000 hours of post-baccalaureate clinical hours. Practicum course hours are closely associated with the student's doctoral project and align with AACN's eight essentials of doctoral practice.

5. What campus will be offering the DNP program?

- a. The CSU Chancellor designated Fresno State as the lead campus for the Northern California Consortium; however, the program is a collaborative with San Jose State University and is one program with two campuses.

6. Will there be a distance education or online component?

- a. Yes, the entire program is a distance learning educational experience.
- b. Online components may use such methodologies as Collaborate, Skype, video/audio conferencing. Blackboard is the current Learning Management System.
- c. Synchronous and asynchronous learning methods are used.
- d. Technology training is part of orientation to the DNP program

7. Will I have to travel to Fresno and/or San Jose?

- a. Yes, at least one intensive will be schedule prior to each semester of the program.
- b. Dependent on each instructor, one or two other on-campus sessions may required.
- c. Intensives are held alternatively between Fresno State's and San Jose's campuses.

8. How long is the program?

- a. Five semesters (21 months)
- b. Fall, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Spring

9. Will there be a practicum component to the program?

- a. The DNP program requires documentation of at least 1000 hours clinical hours.
- b. Yes, practicum requirements vary based on the number of eligible post-baccalaureate clinical hours documented.
- c. Even if you have 1000 hours or more post-baccalaureate, you are still required to perform 270 hours during the DNP program. These hours are performed in conjunction with your doctoral project.

10. Am I required to complete a doctoral project?

- a. Yes, the doctoral project is the culminating experience
 - i. Systematic, rigorous research application on a significant professional issue.
 - ii. Expected to contribute to an improvement in professional practice or policy.
 - iii. Exhibits command of the research literature and demonstrates the student's mastery of evidence-based practice at the doctoral level.

11. Who teaches in the DNP program?

- a. Consortium faculties are comprised primarily of tenure, tenure-track faculty who teach within the CSU system. Faculties are not necessarily within the department of nursing. Each faculty member brings both practical and educational perspectives to their courses within the DNP program.

12. Can I work while attending the program?

- a. The program is designed so that the student can work full time and, with permission of employer, the doctoral project may be completed within the students' employment setting.
- b. There is only full-time status in the program.

13. Is the Program accredited?

- a. The program received the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation January 2012.
- b. The program is working closely with the accrediting organization, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- c. A planned accrediting visit by CCNE is scheduled for Spring 2014.

14. What will be the cost of the DNP program?

- a. Doctoral fees are set by the CSU Chancellor's office and are subject to fee increases. The current fee is \$7,170.00 plus university fees that can be another \$400.00 per semester.
- b. Please note financial aid is not guaranteed by the program. The program informs students of financial opportunities as they arise. Fresno State's Financial Aid Department is available to work with students.

15. What are the admission requirements for the program?

- a. Meet admission requirements – Graduate Division and Department of Nursing at Fresno State
- b. Acceptable Master's Degree
- c. Cumulative GPA of 3.0
- d. Active California RN licensure
- e. Meet credentialing or certification – nursing specialty
- f. Demonstrate sufficient preparation and experience

16. When are applications available?

- a. Applications are available each *fall semester* for the following academic year.
- b. Applications are accepted October – April of the academic year applying to.

17. How do I obtain an application?

- a. Applications are available on Fresno State's Department of Nursing – Doctor of Nursing Practice website:
www.fresnostate.edu/chhs/nursing/degrees-programs/dnp/html

18. How are students admitted to the program?

- a. Early applications are strongly advised. Please do not send any applications materials to San Jose State University since all applications are processed at Fresno State.
- b. Approximately 40-45 students are accepted into our program as a cohort. Two sections of each course are offered each semester. Once the quota of students accepted is reached, qualified applicants are placed on a waiting list.
- c. The application is a two-step process:
 - i. (1) Application to the Department of Nursing
 - ii. (2) Application to the University (Fresno State)