



California State University Northern California Consortium Doctor of Nursing Practice

A Joint DNP Program through California State University, Fresno and San Jose State University

Why pursue the Doctor of Nursing Practice at California State University?

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) is a practice-focused doctoral degree, such as the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), or Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.), in contrast to the research-focused Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). The purpose of the D.N.P. 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) has recommended the necessary level of preparation for advanced nursing practice be moved from the master's degree to the doctoral level by 2015. In addition to meeting requirements of the Essentials of Doctoral Nursing Practice outlined by AACN, students will complete additional 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 Doctor of Nursing Practice program?

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program is a post-master's degree program. This curriculum allows the student to continue working full-time if desired. The format is completely online with 1-4 days of "intensive" class sessions per semester at one of the two campuses.

The program follows the cohort model, and there is no part-time option. The program is 21 months long, 5 semesters including one summer session. A complete sequencing of the curriculum may be found on the website. Clinical practice is a requirement, although the amount will vary based on the number of clinical 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 clinical hours.

Is the D.N.P. program accredited?

The D.N.P. program is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The program will host a planned accreditation visit from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in Spring 2014.

What are the D.N.P. admission requirements?

- Meet requirements for admission to California State University, Fresno.
- Have earned an acceptable Master’s degree with a GPA of ≥ 3.0 .
- Maintain an active California Registered Nurse License.
- Meet requirements for certification in appropriate nursing specialty area.
- Demonstrate sufficient preparation and experience as an APN or nurse administrator/manager/executive.
- Complete an interview and on-site writing sample, as requested.

We strongly encourage students to gain support from their employer so that clinical and scholarship activities may be conducted at the student’s worksite.

Following completion of the doctoral project, students must satisfactorily defend their project before being recommended for graduation.

Applications are being accepted October 1, 2013 - April 1, 2014 or until the cohort is filled.

The application is available on the CSUNCCDNP website.

<http://www.fresnostate.edu/chhs/nursing/degrees-programs/dnp.html>

Once you have submitted an application packet, you will receive confirmation that the application has been received. Upon review, you will be contacted for an on-site interview and then notified of acceptance. With admission, the student will be assigned a faculty advisor who will assist in formulating a study plan and selecting a chairperson for the doctoral project.

Program Requirements

Students are required to

- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 and
- Pass a Qualifying Assessment at the end of the first year.

The 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.

Cost/What financial assistance is available?

The tuition is \$7,170 per semester plus cost of books, supplies and occasional transportation. Nursing students are eligible for all scholarships, grants or loans available to the general student body. You must be accepted into the program prior to applying for financial aid.

Website

To learn more about this program of study and download an application visit <http://www.fresnostate.edu/chhs/nursing/degrees-programs/dnp.html>