The Northern California State University Doctor of Nursing Practice Program
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 purposes of the D.N.P. are to develop advanced competencies for increasingly complex practice, teaching, and leadership roles in nursing, and to 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 2-3 days per semester “intensive” class sessions on one of the two campuses.

The program follows the cohort model, and there is no part-time option. The program is 21 months in length, 5 semesters including one summer session. A complete sequencing of our 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 Fall 2013.
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 Licensure.
- 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 the project before being recommended for graduation.

Applications are found on the D.N.P. website.

Once you have submitted an application packet, you will receive confirmation that it has been received. During the month of January you may be contacted for an interview. Interviews will be completed during February/March. With admission, the student will be assigned a faculty advisor, who will meet with you to formulate a study plan and advise on selection of 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 consists of three interrelated scholarly manuscripts which are developed in conjunction with the student’s Project Committee. The project will relate to an advance practice issue and focus on a potential or existing health problem or issue affecting a group or community, rather than an individual. The project is developed, implemented and evaluated in the second year of the program with guidance from a Project Committee in a public forum. The final paper will be submitted for publication to an appropriate peer reviewed journal.

Cost/What financial assistance is available?

The cost for this 5 semester program is $7170 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.csufresno.edu/jointnp/