



VANDERBILT
School of Nursing

Seamless Progression from MSN to the Doctor of Nursing Practice

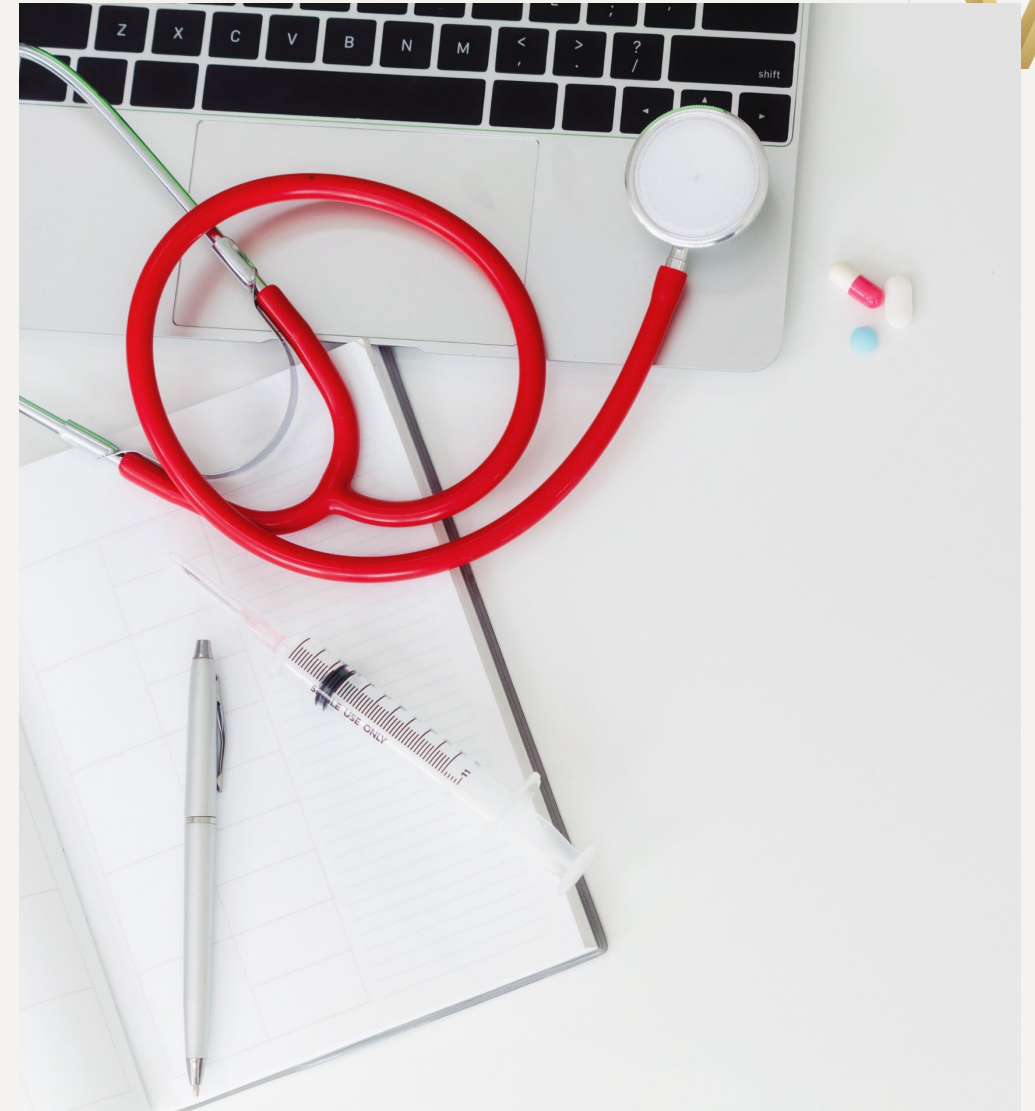


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Assistant Dean for Academics, Doctoral Nursing Practice

Why Earn a Doctorate?

- ▶ Nursing as a practice profession requires both practice experts and nurse scientists to expand scientific basis for patient care
- ▶ The changing demands of the nation's complex healthcare environment requires the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes



The DNP

Greater emphasis on practice



Less emphasis on theory, meta -theory,
research methodology and statistics

Includes integrative practice experiences
and a practice immersion experience

Practice application -oriented DNP project

Benefits of the DNP



- ▶ Development of needed advanced competencies for increasingly complex practice, faculty and leadership roles
- ▶ Enhanced knowledge to improve nursing practice and patient outcomes
- ▶ Enhanced leadership skills to strengthen practice and health care delivery



MSN to DNP Seamless Transition



- Must enroll in the DNP program within 2 years of MSN graduation or PMC completion
 - Post-masters DNP program is Fall start only
- May 2025 → Fall 2025, Fall 2026
- December 2025 → Fall 2026, Fall 2027
- August 2025 → Fall 2025, Fall 2026, Fall 2027





MSN or PMC to DNP Seamless Transition



- Only valid for the first two years after MSN or PMC graduation
- VUSN graduates are encouraged to apply to the DNP program
 - The full DNP application will be required > two years after MSN graduation

Common Inquiries



DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE
DNP AND THE
PHD

SEAMLESS
TRANSITION OR
APPLY IN THE
FUTURE

DUAL SPECIALTY
ENROLLMENT

SPECIALTY APRN
CERTIFICATION

EMPLOYMENT

500 PRACTICE
HOURS

DNP Curriculum at VUSN

- 5-Semester Plan = 37 credits
- Four elective credits
- Minimum 500 post -master's practice hours integrated across the curriculum
 - Most completed in the DNP project course and in advanced practice employment site



Electives

- ▶ Education
- ▶ LEAN Methodology
- ▶ LGBTI Health in Inter-professional Practice (even years)
- ▶ Innovation and Design Thinking
- ▶ Independent Study



DNP Plus Post Master's Certificate



Nurses with an MSN
who want to add
another specialty

Apply early for DNP
+PMC due to
limited number of
PMC spaces
available

Program of study
individualized

20-30 semester
credit hours over 3
semesters added
to the DNP
curriculum

Post-master's
courses can count
as DNP elective
credit hours

Additional
application
requirements

One letter of
reference from
person who holds
doctoral degree

Integrated plan of study in development

Cost



Financial aid



Scholarships



Nurse Faculty Loan
Repayment

2 education electives required



Nursing Education Courses

| Options | Courses |
|--|--|
| Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) | Core Courses: N8066 & N8067 (6 credit hours) |
| National League for Nursing (NLN) Nurse Educator Certification Eligibility | Core Courses + one additional educator course (9 credit hours) |
| Nursing Education Post -Master's Certificate | Core Courses + two additional educator courses (12 credit hours) |

Nursing education courses meet DNP elective requirement and taken simultaneous with DNP curriculum

DNP Intensives



Three day intensive at the start of each semester



Anticipated Dates:

Last week of August
Face to Face

Mid-January
Hybrid

Mid-May
Virtual

Fall Enrollment Options

- August 2025
 - Apply by June 30, 2025
- August 2026
 - Apply after September 1, 2025
- August 2027
 - Apply after September 1, 2026
- Adding a post -master's certificate:
apply by October 15 priority review
deadline





As a Returning User, create a **NEW** application

- <https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/>

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

VANDERBILT HOME COLLEGES & SCHOOLS SCHOOL CATALOGS HELP & FAQs

Graduate and Professional Admissions

Application Management

Returning users: **First-time users:**

[Log in](#) to continue an application. [Create an account](#) to start a new application.

Note: To protect the privacy and security of your application, you must register your email address. Once created, you may access your account at any time, using your registered email and self-selected password.



Program to which you are applying

Area of Study ▼

Program ▼

Degree ▼

Term ▼

Indicate You are a Current VUSN Student or Graduated Last 24 months



DNP Track of Interest

Advanced clinical practice ▼

Are you currently a VUSN student or have you completed your MSN degree, Post-Master's Certificate or Master of Nursing at Vanderbilt School of Nursing within the last 24 months?

Yes ▼

Type of VUSN Student

Currently Enrolled ▼

OR

Type of VUSN Student

Graduated ▼

Year Graduated?

▼

Update your Information in Slate



- Academic history to include attendance at VU
 - **Request VU transcript!**
- Use personal email
 - VU email address will expire after graduation
- RN licensure
 - Add certification if taking a gap year(s)
- Indicate 5 semesters
 - Considered full-time for financial aid



Request a Free Transcript from YES



<https://registrar.vanderbilt.edu/transcripts/>



Request for the transcript
to be sent to:

cdm@vanderbilt.edu

Application in Slate

- If applying only for DNP, Do **NOT** need:
 - Application fee
 - Letters of recommendation
 - Experiences
 - Resume/CV
 - Statement of purpose
- DNP application reviewed by Admissions Committee
- Matriculation fee waived





Quick Review of Steps to Apply

- Open the application for Fall 2025 at <https://apply.vanderbilt.edu/apply/>
- Select "nursing" as your program and degree of "DNP." The application will be prepopulated with your prior information.
- Update your demographic, licensure, and academic history to include your attendance at VUSN.
- Request an official VU transcript through the transcript portal in YES. Have it sent to cdm@vanderbilt.edu. Do not provide any other transcripts unless education obtained at another university since VU enrollment.
- Answer "yes" to "Are you a current VUSN student or have you completed your MSN degree or post -master's certificate within the last 24 months?" The correct application will then appear.
- Do not include references or pay the application fee.
- Submit the Fall 2025 DNP application.

Admission Email

- Priority review decisions sent December - February and then on a rolling basis until June 30
- Must accept or refuse the admission offer
 - \$1000 deposit waived
 - If offer accepted, but plans change, notify Admissions Office





Application for the DNP Plus Post Master's Certificate

- Apply to “ *nursing practice (DNP)*” program

Do you also wish to seek a Post-Master's Certificate?

Yes ▾

Select a Post-Master's Certificate in the following specialty:

Family Nurse Practitioner ▾

- Application requires:
 - 3 Essay questions
 - Statement of professional goals
 - Why you want a post-master's certificate
 - Understanding of the advanced practice role in your post-master's certificate specialty
 - 1 Reference letter
- Priority review deadline for DNP + PMC admission is October 15

The DNP Essentials

- ▶ American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2021). *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education*.

www.aacn.nche.edu





Questions

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