

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree: A Practical Resource

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In October 2004, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) approved a recommendation for the adoption of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) as the appropriate level of education for advanced practice in nursing (Brown-Benedict, 2008). The target date for implementation of the DNP as the minimum practice level degree for advanced practice nurses is 2015.

Significant debate and published position statements, in addition to ongoing concerns subsequent to the 2004 recommendation, are found consistently throughout current nursing literature (Brown-Benedict, 2008). The majority of debate focuses on both the perceived necessity for the degree and its impact on advanced nursing practice (Waxman, 2010; Brar, Boschma, & McCuaig, 2010; Fulton & Lyon, 2005; Mundinger, 2005; Chism, 2009; Edwardson, 2010). Individual state board recognition and scope of practice continue to be additional issues for debate, but programs to prepare advanced practitioners with a DNP are now in place at many major universities.

The purpose of this article is (1) to provide the reader with the resources to access current information regarding this initiative, available through the AACN and (2) to communicate infor-

mation regarding available DNP programs, with an eye toward comparison between programs (institution, learning format, cost, and credit requirements).

The AACN website contains a section that provides an exhaustive amount of information on the DNP—from frequently asked questions to a list of talking points to slide presentations given at recent meetings. This section contains current information behind both the catalyst for the recommendation and the ongoing development of programs and support of organizations pertaining to the DNP.

In 2006, a group called Doctors of Nursing Practice (www.doctorsofnursingpractice.org) was formed by a cohort of DNP students from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, College of Nursing. This group's website provides information for DNP students, graduates, and those with an interest in pursuing the degree. The Doctors of Nursing Practice website also provides an extensive bibliography on the development and growth of the DNP as a terminal nursing degree for advanced practice nurses.

More than 135 DNP programs are currently in existence throughout the US, with more

programs planned for the future. Table 1 provides a partial listing of programs by state; a maximum of three programs have been included for each state, so be aware that additional programs may be available in certain states. Due to space constraints, a truncated version of Table 1 appears here in the print journal, but a complete version can be accessed on the *JADPRO* website at www.advancedpractitioner.com. Smartphone users can access the full table directly by using the barcode below.

Tuition rates seen in the full version of Table 1 were compiled based on website listings for the 2010–2011 school year. The rates are provided solely as a guide to the variability among programs and should not be considered inclusive of all costs associated with the program. Table 1 is also limited to credit hour information for MSN-prepared advanced practice nurses. Any RN wishing to progress from BSN to DNP should contact the university of interest for the additional program specific requirements. Please also note that the clini-



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Use your smartphone to access the American Association of Colleges of Nursing DNP resource, the Doctors of Nursing Practice website, and the expanded version of Table 1.

Table 1. List of DNP Programs Available in the United States^a

State	University	Hours required for completion	Instructional format ^b
Alabama	Samford University	37-39 CH	Hybrid
Alabama	University of Alabama	≤ 34 CH	Distance accessible format
Alabama	Troy University	≤ 35 CH	Online
Arizona	Arizona State University	44 CH	Hybrid
Arizona	University of Arizona	43 CH	Hybrid
California	Loma Linda University	63 quarter units (42 semester units)	Hybrid
California	Western University of Health Sciences	30 CH	Hybrid
California	University of San Diego	34 CH	Onsite
Colorado	University of Colorado at Colorado Springs	33 CH	Online
Colorado	University of Colorado Denver	Not specified ^c	Hybrid
Connecticut	Fairfield University	31-38 CH	Onsite
Connecticut	University of Connecticut	38 CH	Onsite ^c
Connecticut	Sacred Heart University	39 CH	Hybrid
DC	Catholic University of America	34-37 CH	Onsite ^c
DC	George Washington University	36 CH	Hybrid
Florida	Florida State University	90 CH postbaccalaureate ^d	Regional ^e
Florida	University of Florida	48 CH	Hybrid
Florida	Barry University	38 CH	Onsite ^c
Georgia	Georgia Southern University	40 CH	Online
Georgia	Medical College of Georgia	40 CH	Hybrid
Illinois	Loyola University Chicago	34-39 CH	Hybrid
Illinois	Rush University	40 quarter hours	Hybrid
Illinois	University of Illinois at Chicago	45 CH	Online
Indiana	Ball State University	90 CH postbaccalaureate ^f	Online
Indiana	Purdue University	43 CH	Onsite ^c
Indiana	University of Southern Indiana	36 CH	Hybrid
Iowa	University of Iowa	Not specified ^c	Hybrid
Kansas	University of Kansas	32 CH	Hybrid
Kentucky	Frontier School of Midwifery/Family Nursing	33 CH	Hybrid
Kentucky	University of Kentucky	40-43 CH	Hybrid
Louisiana	Loyola University New Orleans	38-41 CH	Online
Maryland	Johns Hopkins University	38 CH	Hybrid
Maryland	University of Maryland	38 CH	Hybrid
Massachusetts	Regis College	33 CH	Hybrid
Massachusetts	University of Massachusetts-Boston	39 CH	Online
Michigan	Madonna University	36 CH	Hybrid
Michigan	Wayne State University	44 CH	Not specified ^c
Minnesota	College of St. Scholastica	Not specified ^c	Online
Minnesota	University of Minnesota	Not specified ^c	Not specified ^c
Mississippi	University of Southern Mississippi	48 CH	Not specified ^c
Mississippi	University of Mississippi Medical Center	48 CH	Hybrid
Missouri	St. Louis University	28 CH	Online
Missouri	University of Missouri-Kansas City	31 CH	Online ^g
Missouri	Maryville University-St. Louis	30 CH	Not specified ^c
Nebraska	Creighton University	Not specified ^c	Not specified ^c
Nevada	Touro University	39 CH	Hybrid
Nevada	University of Nevada, Reno	39 CH	Hybrid
New Jersey	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	41 CH	Hybrid
New Jersey	Seton Hall University	36-45 CH	Not specified ^c
New Jersey	U of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey	40 CH	Onsite
New York	Columbia University	40 CH	Onsite
New York	New York University	40 CH	Hybrid
New York	University of Rochester	Not specified ^c	Not specified ^c

Note. CH = credit hours; DNP = Doctor of Nursing Practice.

^aSee www.advancedpractitioner.com for an expanded version of this table

^bHybrid designation denotes both online and on-site learning are required

^cSee website for details

^dFollowing transcript review, applicants with a MSN may be eligible to transfer in up to 42 CH

^eCourses are offered primarily via interactive video conferencing with some core courses offered completely online

^fAnd/or ≤ 48 CH completed at BSU

^gIn addition to students attending two 3-day meetings onsite at the UMKC campus during the program

^hWith two mandatory cohort meetings at initiation and conclusion of program

Table 1. List of DNP Programs Available in the United States^a (cont.)

State	University	Hours required for completion	Instructional format ^b
North Carolina	Duke University	35 CH	Hybrid
Ohio	Case Western Reserve University	34 CH	Hybrid
Ohio	The Ohio State University	Not specified ^c	Hybrid
Oregon	Oregon Health and Science University	Not specified ^c	Hybrid
Oregon	University of Portland	48-51 CH	Hybrid
Pennsylvania	Drexel University	48 quarter CH	Not specified ^c
Pennsylvania	Robert Morris University	30 CH	Hybrid
Pennsylvania	Chatham University	27 CH	Online
South Carolina	Medical University of South Carolina	42 CH	Online
South Carolina	University of South Carolina	33 CH	Online
South Dakota	South Dakota State University	31 CH	Hybrid
Tennessee	Union University	40 CH	Hybrid
Tennessee	U of Tennessee Health Science Center	42 CH	Hybrid
Tennessee	Vanderbilt University	35 CH	Hybrid
Texas	Texas Christian University	30 CH	Online
Texas	Texas Woman's University	43 CH	Not specified ^c
Texas	U of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	46 CH	Hybrid
Utah	Rocky Mountain U of Health Professions	38 CH	Not specified ^c
Utah	University of Utah	33-36 CH	Not specified ^c
Virginia	Old Dominion University	36 CH	Not specified ^c
Virginia	Radford University	30 CH	Online
Virginia	University of Virginia	39 CH	Hybrid
Washington	University of Washington	Not specified ^c	Varies per program
West Virginia	West Virginia University	40-44 CH	Not specified ^c
Wisconsin	Concordia University	35-37 CH	Online ^b
Wisconsin	Marquette University	27 CH	Primarily onsite
Wisconsin	University of Wisconsin-Madison	31 CH	Hybrid

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cally supervised program hour requirements were not included in the table. To access this and the most up-to-date complete

program information, please consult the specific university of interest for detailed program resources.

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