Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Background
The mission of the School of Nursing is to prepare graduates to enhance the health of underserved and diverse populations. The School of Nursing promotes educational advancement through uniquely designed programs, community partnerships, scholarly activities and academic excellence. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is for RNs with a baccalaureate or entry level graduate degree in nursing who wish to expand their practice to include the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) role of the Family Nurse Practitioner.

Careers
Graduates of the DNP program will be able to influence health care in many ways by:

• Translating scientific knowledge into nursing practice.
• Leading practice initiatives that influence population health care outcomes with a focus on underserved populations.
• Utilizing information systems technology to improve patient care and health care systems.
• Facilitating interprofessional collaboration to ensure safe and effective health care.
• Practicing holistic, evidence-based advanced nursing care.
• Advocating for public policy to prevent illness and promote population health.

The Program
The BSN-DNP track is 80 credits and nine semesters long. The ELMSN-DNP track is 64 credits and seven semesters long. Both tracks require full-time study. The DNP program requires all students to complete courses in sequence within 6 years of beginning, demonstrating a minimum of 80% in each course to progress. Four semesters of clinical rotations include primary care across the lifespan. Students accumulate at least 1000 hours of experience through clinical practicum and scholarship work.

The curriculum consists of didactic and clinical course work structured around the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials of Doctoral Education and when appropriate, the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies. Didactic and clinical course work culminates in the completion of an evidence-based clinical capstone project during the Clinical Scholarship course sequence.

Admission Requirements
Applicants must submit a complete Metropolitan State University Graduate Program application form, located at: http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/explore/gradstudies/doctrinal/dnp/applying.html.

The following materials and information are also required:

• a transcript indicating completion of a BS, BA or entry level master's in nursing from a regionally accredited college or university, also accredited by either the National League for Nursing (NLN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Applicants whose nursing degrees are from a non-US college or university must have their degrees evaluated by a credentials evaluation service to determine equivalency to a U.S. baccalaureate degree.
• proof of a 3.0 cumulative GPA for all previous post-secondary study and degrees, including any courses completed that did not lead directly to a completed degree.
• ELMSN-DNP applicants must submit evidence of completion of a graduate level statistics course taken within the last five years with a grade of B or better.
• evidence of current unencumbered registered nurse license in at least one state with eligibility of licensure in Minnesota.
• three letters of reference from: a former faculty member, a supervisor/employer and/or a professional peer or colleague.
• an official copy of TOEFL score if he or she is an international student.

Degree Requirements
To earn the DNP degree, students must successfully complete all course and track-specific requirements and an evidence-based Capstone Project. Curriculum requirements for each track are listed below.
Research/Theory Core Requirements
(31 credits)
- Ethical Dimensions for Nursing Practice*
- Foundations of Integrative Care*
- Research Methodology*
- Family Health Nursing
- Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice
- Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice
- Advanced Biostatistics in Health Research#
- Nursing Informatics*
- Advanced Nursing Science
- Evidence-based Practice
- Epidemiology and Population Health

DNP students must complete an upper division or graduate level statistics course with a grade of B or better within 5 years of taking this course.

Leadership Core Requirements (12 credits)
- Leadership in Health Care Systems*
- Designing for Quality in Health Care
- Resource Management and Finance for Health Care
- Health Policy and Advocacy

Clinical Core Requirements (25 credits)
- Advanced Health Assessment and Lab
- Primary Care Nursing I and Practicum
- Primary Care Nursing II and Practicum
- Primary Care Nursing III and Practicum
- Primary Care Nursing IV and Practicum
- Applied Pharmacology

Additional requirements for clinical rotations include:
- Minimum of 1000 hours of RN nursing experience.
- Evidence of malpractice insurance.
- Evidence of current immunizations.
- Background check.

*Completed in ELM SN program. Not in ELM SN to DNP progression.
#ELMSN to DNP application prerequisite.

Transfer Credits
A maximum of eight credits may be transferred into a plan of study. Per MNSCU regulations, a maximum of four doctoral level credits may be transferred. Doctoral transfer credits must have prior approval, and be taken following admission to the DNP program.

Faculty
Metropolitan State University prides itself on its outstanding faculty, which includes full-time resident faculty and a core of community faculty who are practicing professionals in their areas of expertise. The DNP program has faculty who have distinguished themselves in their nursing practice, as well as their academic careers.

Academic Advising
All SON programs are supported by the expertise of professional and faculty advisors, who help prospective students explore program options. Upon acceptance to the university, students will be assigned a professional advisor, faculty advisor or both, per program guidelines. Students are strongly encouraged to work with advisors to understand degree requirements and develop plans to achieve their educational and vocational goals. For more information, contact the SON Advising Center at 651-793-1375.

Accreditation and Program Approval
Metropolitan State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. The Doctor of Nursing Practice program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation).

For More Information
Visit the Web at:
http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/explore/graduate/doctoral/dnp/index.html. Free general information sessions conducted by an academic advisor are also available:
http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/explore/graduate/doctoral/dnp/info_sessions.html.
You may also contact an Academic Advisor at 651-793-1356 or the Director of Graduate Programs at 651-793-1370.