

# DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP) MAJORS

- **Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree-Direct Care (DNP.D.C.DNP)**
- **Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree-Executive Leadership (DNPEXL.C.DNP)**
- **Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree-Educational Leadership (DNPEDL.C.DNP)**
- **School of Nursing Page (<https://catalog.alverno.edu/SON/#text>)**

## Overview of DNP Program

The Alverno College Doctor of Nursing (DNP) Program, available to women and men, carries on the College's tradition in the professional liberal arts with particular focus on integrative, experiential, and reflective approaches to learning. The DNP curriculum supports students' development of advanced knowledge and competence in the abilities that frame the undergraduate curriculum at Alverno College: namely, *Communication, Analysis, Problem Solving, Valuing in Decision Making, Social Interaction, Developing a Global Perspective, Effective Citizenship, and Aesthetic Engagement*. Practicum experiences and didactic courses are designed to support the learner in applying selected abilities with individuals, families, and groups across the developmental lifespan in diverse health care settings.

The DNP program is a post-master's program, meaning, it is designed for nurses, who have previously earned a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. Building on the essential elements of master's education in nursing, two innovative and evidence-based curricular tracks are offered: Direct Care and Leadership. The leadership track offers two specializations: *Educational Leadership and Executive Leadership*. The DNP program is delivered asynchronously online and offers flexibility for full or part-time study.

Students enrolled in the direct care track have previously graduated with an MSN degree from an accredited, graduate nursing education program focused in an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) role, as delineated by the *Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, & Education* (APRN Consensus Work Group & the National Council of State Boards of Nursing [NCSBN] APRN Advisory Committee, 2008). These APRN roles include clinical nurse specialist (CNS), certified nurse practitioner (NP), certified nurse midwife (CNM), and certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA). Students in the direct care track must provide documented evidence of current CNS, NP, CNM, or CRNA national board certification upon entry to the program. Students in the direct care track are required to maintain national board certification and employment in their APRN role as conditions of their ongoing enrollment in the DNP program. Students in the direct care track complete a 30-credit hour curriculum along with 500-1,000 clinical practicum hours supervised by an appropriately credentialed clinical preceptor.

Students entering the leadership track have previously graduated with an MSN degree from an accredited graduate nursing education program that may or may not have been focused in an APRN role. The leadership track is ideal for students whose prior graduate nursing education and specialty role experience has been focused in health care administration and organizational leadership, health policy development and law, informatics, or nursing education. Students in the leadership track are required to maintain employment in their leadership role specialty as a condition of their ongoing enrollment in the DNP program. Students the

Executive Leadership and Educational Leadership specialties complete a 32-credit hour curriculum along with 500 - 1,000 clinical practicum hours.

## DNP Program Admission Requirements

- MSN degree conferred by a college or university accredited by a nursing accreditation agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education
- MSN degree program cumulative GPA 3.0
- Unencumbered WI registered nurse (RN) license or multi-state compact licensure
- Completion of an approved undergraduate or graduate-level inferential statistics course with a grade of "B" or better within 5 years of admission. Alternatively, the student may take DNP-650C at Alverno during the first semester of study.
- Minimum of 1-year of APRN practice or nursing leadership experience relevant to desired DNP specialty track
  - Documented evidence of the specific amount of supervised post-baccalaureate clinical practice hours completed at the graduate level, which will be used to determine the number of DNP clinical practicum hours that must be completed (500-1,000)
  - Evidence of current APRN national board certification, if desire is to enter the DNP Direct Care track
  - DEMSN program clinical hours are not transferrable to the DNP Program.
- Non-U.S. Applicants: minimum TOEFL score of 550
- Interview with the Director of the DNP Program may be required.
- Meet all JMSNHP Technical Standards for Nursing
- *Continued enrollment* after initial acceptance into the program is contingent upon successful completion of a caregiver background check with no bars to clinical placement and a clear urine drug screen

**Conditional Admission:** The JMSNHP may offer the opportunity for a conditional admission to an applicant who meets certain benchmarks but does not meet all of the criteria for admission to a particular track in the DNP program offered at Alverno College. The decision to extend an opportunity for conditional admission may be made by the Dean of the JMSNHP, Dean's designee, Chair of Graduate Nursing Programs, or Graduate Nursing Admissions and Advancement Committee (GNAA). Typically, a conditional admission involves stipulations that the student must meet during their first semester of enrollment in the DNP program to continue in the program. Except under very extraordinary circumstances, as determined by GNAA, if the student does not meet the conditions of their admission, they are dismissed from the program. If the student is successful in meeting the conditions, they progress in the program.

## Foundations of the DNP Program Curriculum

Three American Nurses Association (ANA) documents espouse the basis for all nursing practice, and Alverno nursing faculty use these documents to underpin the curriculum and structure its content and learning experiences:

- *Code of Ethics for Nurses* (ANA, 2025)
- *Guide to Nursing's Social Policy Statement: Understanding the Profession from Social Contract to Social Covenant* (Fowler, 2015)
- *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (ANA, 2021)

In addition, the following documents espouse standards, competencies, and criteria that specifically serve to ground the DNP curriculum:

- *IPEC Core Competencies for Interprofessional Education* (Interprofessional Education Collaborative, 2023)
- QSEN Competencies. Competencies | QSEN (<https://www.qsen.org/competencies/>)
- *Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs* (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education [CCNE], 2024)
- *The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education*. (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 2024)

DNP Program Learning Outcomes

The DNP program graduate:

- leads in the vision, development, implementation, and evaluation of patient-centered care delivery approaches that ensure ethical stewardship, accountability, quality, and patient safety.
- critically analyzes and creates innovative, evidence-based approaches to practice to optimize health care outcomes, reduce disparities, and improve health delivery theories and models.
- optimally selects, uses, evaluates, and designs information systems/technology for improvement and transformation of health care.
- spearheads the creation, implementation, and evaluation of health care policy to advance the nursing profession and advocate for social justice, equity, and ethical policies in all aspects of health care.
- exhibits mastery of communication skills in multiple modes to lead crucial interdisciplinary team efforts that promote collaboration to create and evaluate safe and effective outcomes within integrative health care delivery systems.
- demonstrates advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in designing, delivering, and evaluating care in complex situations.
- demonstrates expertise, advanced knowledge, and mastery in an area of specialized nursing practice.

DNPDC Req

Doctor of Nursing Practice - Direct Care (DNP.C.DNP) Major Requirements 25-26 Catalog

Code	Title	Credits
MSN-650	Statistics for Advanced Practice <sup>1</sup>	
DNP CORE COURSES		
DNP-800	Orientation to the DNP Program	0
DNP-810	Epidemiology & Biostatistics	3
DNP-820	Practice-Based Inquiry	3
DNP-830	Clinical Practicum I	1
DNP-835	Measurement, Instrumentation, Statistics For Translational Research	3
DNP-840	Information Technology and Data- Driven Inquiry	3
DNP-850	Translational Research	3
DNP-860	Scholarly Project I	3
DNP-910	Health Systems & Public Policy	2
DNP-920	Ethical Leadership in Health Care	2
DNP-930	Clinical Practicum II	1
DNP-960	Scholarly Project II	2
DIRECT CARE REQUIREMENT		

DNP-940	Genetics and Genomics in Health Care	4
Total Credits		30

<sup>1</sup> May be a pre-req; not required.

DNPDC Map

Doctor of Nursing Practice - Direct Care (DNP.C.DNP) Map 25-26 Catalog

First Year				
	Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
	DNP-800	0	DNP-830	1
	DNP-810	3	DNP-835	3
	DNP-820	3	DNP-840	3
			DNP-850	3
		6		10
Second Year				
Summer	Credits	Fall	Credits	
DNP-860	3	DNP-930	1	
DNP-910	2	DNP-940	4	
DNP-920	2	DNP-960	2	
	7		7	
Total Credits 30				

DNPEXL Req

Doctor of Nursing Practice - Executive Leadership (DNPEXL.C.DNP) Major Requirements 25-26 Catalog

Code	Title	Credits
DNP CORE COURSES		
DNP-800	Orientation to the DNP Program	0
DNP-810	Epidemiology & Biostatistics	3
DNP-820	Practice-Based Inquiry	3
DNP-830	Clinical Practicum I	1
DNP-835	Measurement, Instrumentation, Statistics For Translational Research	3
DNP-840	Information Technology and Data- Driven Inquiry	3
DNP-850	Translational Research	3
DNP-860	Scholarly Project I	3
DNP-910	Health Systems & Public Policy	2
DNP-920	Ethical Leadership in Health Care	2
DNP-930	Clinical Practicum II	1
DNP-960	Scholarly Project II	2
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP REQUIREMENTS		
DNP-845	Quality, Safety, and Regulatory Process in Health Care	2
DNP-855	Health Care Economics and Financial Management	2
DNP-945	Creating Agility in Dynamic Environments	2
Total Credits		38

## DNPEDL Req

### Doctor of Nursing Practice - Educational Leadership (DNPEDL.E.DNP) Major Requirements 25-26 Catalog

Code	Title	Credits
DNP CORE COURSES		
DNP-800	Orientation to the DNP Program	0
DNP-810	Epidemiology & Biostatistics	3
DNP-820	Practice-Based Inquiry	3
DNP-830	Clinical Practicum I	1
DNP-836	Higher Ed Roles, Resp, & Leadership	3
DNP-838	Instructional Design-Fundamentals	3
DNP-839	Teaching/Lrning in Diverse Ed Contexts	3
DNP-840	Information Technology and Data- Driven Inquiry	3
DNP-850	Translational Research	3
DNP-860	Scholarly Project I	3
DNP-910	Health Systems & Public Policy	2
DNP-920	Ethical Leadership in Health Care	2
DNP-930	Clinical Practicum II	1
DNP-960	Scholarly Project II	2
EDUCATIONAL NURSING LEADERSHIP REQUIREMENTS		
DNP-812	Equity in Diverse Educational Settings	3
DNP-831	Higher Education Legal Issues & Accreditation	3
DNP-832	Higher Education Curriculum & Assessment	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>47</b>

## DNPEXL Map

### Doctor of Nursing Practice - Executive Leadership (DNPEXL.C.DNP) Map

First Year			
	Fall	Credits	Spring
	DNP-800	0	DNP-835
	DNP-810	3	DNP-840
	DNP-820	3	DNP-850
		6	9
Second Year			
Summer	Credits	Fall	Credits
DNP-830	1	DNP-839	3
DNP-836	3	DNP-855	2
DNP-838	3	DNP-910	2
DNP-845	2	DNP-920	2
DNP-860	3		
	12	9	7
<b>Total Credits 43</b>			

## 25-26 Catalog

## DNPEDL Map

### Doctor of Nursing Practice - Educational Leadership (DNPEDL.E.DNP) Map 25-26 Catalog

First Year			
	Fall	Credits	Spring
	DNP-800	0	DNP-835
	DNP-810	3	DNP-840
	DNP-820	3	DNP-850
		6	9
Second Year			
Summer	Credits	Fall	Credits
DNP-830	1	DNP-910	2
DNP-860	3	DNP-920	2
DNP-812, 831, or 832 <sup>1</sup>	3	DNP-812, 831, or 832 <sup>1</sup>	3
	7	7	3-6
<b>Total Credits 32-35</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Can count each course only one time.